



Suggested Activities to Complete While In New York and at the NY SKYRIDE

Activities with a Focus on the Language Arts

Picture This

Words That Paint Pictures

Describing New York City

* Evaluating What You See and Hear Using the NY SKYRIDE

Exploring the Sounds of the Empire State Building



Picture This

The words and phrases we use to describe things are so important. They can open up new worlds and introduce us to new possibilities that we would not have thought of without them! The NY SKYRIDE does a good job of presenting words that describe. In this activity students are asked to focus on these words that describe visual and physical experiences. Then they are asked to try their hands at using words creatively on their own.

Activity

This activity involves the use of *puns*. A *pun* is defined as ---

A play on words, sometimes on different senses of the same word and sometimes on the similar sense or sound of different words.

Have students check out the following puns that they will hear and see while experiencing the NY SKYRIDE. The puns and visuals will come at them VERY **quickly** so they should be attentive! Have students listen for the phrase AND look for their accompanying visuals –

Here are the puns they should be on the look-out for:

*I'm blocked.
Anyone for a Fountain Drink?
Bear Right.
Picture that.
Watch out!*

After the NY SKYRIDE have students discuss what they saw when they heard these puns during the SKYRIDE. Ask each student what he/she noticed first, the visual or the words.

Encourage students to look for objects or situations around New York City that lend themselves to illustrated puns like the ones in the SKYRIDE.

Materials Needed

The NY SKYRIDE
Paper and pencil for recording personal NYC puns



Words That Paint Pictures

The purpose of this activity is to have students associate words, visions and motion. The NY SKYRIDE provides a rare opportunity to incorporate all three of these.

Activity

As soon as your class has completed the SKYRIDE experience, ask each student to come up with three (3) words that describe New York City! Don't wait to do this or you won't get the same, rich responses!

Record or note your students' responses and save them for use back in the classroom.

Materials Needed

A recording device for recording student responses or
Paper and pencil for noting student responses



Exploring the Sounds of the Empire State Building

This activity helps students listen to the world around them and focus on what the sounds, language and non-language, mean. The streets of New York provide the setting for this activity.

Activity

Before your class enters the Empire State Building for the NY SKYRIDE, gather students close to the building and require them to stand quietly. Then request that they listen for 40 seconds to the sounds on the street. Make sure they don't talk among themselves for this period of time.

After 40 seconds are up, ask who heard the following:

- A car
- A door open or close
- A different language
- Laughter
- The wind
- A paper or plastic bag
- Footsteps
- A conversation between two women
- A sound that came from the Empire State Building

It's important to not give your students any advance preparation for this activity.

Repeat the activity inside the Empire State Building. You can use the same list of sounds you used outside or present a totally new list of sounds.

Repeat this same activity once more during the day in a different location in New York City.

When you return to the classroom listen to old radio shows that relied heavily on sound affects.

Design sound affects for a class presentation about their visit to the NY SKYRIDE.

Materials Needed

- Timekeeping device
- Old radio shows



Good Resources for Old Time Radio Shows:

1. <http://www.radiolovers.com/pages/allshows.html> --- This is a link to a site that offers old time radio shows for listening on line.
2. <http://www.related-pages.com/oldtimeradio/> --- More radio shows for listening online.
3. <http://www.mtr.org/> --- This is the link to the Paley Center in New York City, formerly the Museum of Television and Radio.



Evaluating What You See and Hear Using the NY SKYRIDE

[See Student Worksheet J](#)

The NY SKYRIDE is a multi-sensory, media experience that provides information about the way New York City looks today. It presents a look at the shape of the city, both on the ground and in the air. It provides a snapshot of the people of the city and where they live, work and play. It also points out some of the city's history.

Thinking about the content and presentation of the NY SKYRIDE experience is a good way for students **to learn media literacy skills** --- questioning and analyzing what is presented to them through visual, auditory and motion media. In this activity students are asked to analyze and evaluate how the NY SKYRIDE presents information about New York City – both the content and the method.

Activity

We have created a **Student Worksheet: *Evaluating Your Experience*** to help students focus on some of the most important variables to consider when analyzing and evaluating their experience on the NY SKYRIDE. Print a copy of the worksheet for each student and bring them with you to the SkyRide experience.

After your students have experienced the SKYRIDE have them complete the worksheet as a way of recording their own thoughts and feelings about the SKYRIDE itself.

Then discuss the SKYRIDE as a class, based on the variables presented on the worksheet. Students should be encouraged to add to these variables. Use this discussion as a basis for other observation activities to be completed while in New York City.

Keep the completed Student Worksheet: *Evaluating Your Experience* for use later in the classroom. Work entered on this worksheet can be the basis for creating a documentation of your exploration in New York City.

Materials Needed:

Student Worksheet: *Evaluating Your Experience*

Good Websites About Media Literacy

1. <http://www.medialit.org/>
2. <http://themediaspot.org/>
3. <http://www.mtr.org/events/medialiteracy/index.htm>

Empire State Building • 350 Fifth Avenue • New York • NY • 10118
TEL: 212/279-9777 or 888/SKYRIDE • FAX 212/299-4932
Myron D. Baer, Director of Business Development, mbaer@skylinenyc.com
Direct 212/299-4901



Describing New York City

The NY SKYRIDE describes what New York City looks like today. But it is just one of many ways to tell about the city.

This activity requires students to come up with their own way of recording what New York City looks like today. The possibilities are endless!

Activity

After experiencing the NY SKYRIDE, tell each student that he/she must come up with his/her own way of describing New York City. To help students prepare for this activity, begin a discussion of the different ways they might go about presenting their own personal views. They might:

- Create a video
- Write a factual account
- Write a fictional story
- Create a mural
- Design wallpaper
- Write a poem, etc.

Regardless of the method chosen, here are some questions students will need to address before creating their presentation:

1. What is the message I want to send about New York City?
2. Why do I want to send this message?
3. Do I want to persuade, educate or entertain the audience?
4. Who is my audience?
5. What feeling do I want the audience to come away with?
6. What will I omit, on purpose? Why?
7. What techniques will I use to capture the attention of the audience?

Discuss the itinerary for the rest of your visit and have students think about the information they will need to gather at each site.

Help students decide how each wants to gather the information about New York City that he/she will need to create a personal view of the city --- video, photography, sketching, journal entries, etc.

Assist students in collecting information about New York City.

Don't forget to record your students as they go about completing this activity.



Materials Needed

Video equipment
Cameras
Paper and pencils
Drawing supplies
Street maps of New York City

Good Websites About Media Literacy

1. <http://www.medialit.org/>
2. <http://themediaspot.org/>
3. <http://www.mtr.org/events/medialiteracy/index.htm>