



Marvel Comics Walking Tour of New York City

This activity takes students on a tour of New York City to many of the sites featured in the Marvel Comic's Super Heroes series. Through this tour students get an idea of how stories are developed and how familiar people, places and things become part of even the most over-the-top fanciful stories. In addition students will be called on to use map reading, visual organization and planning skills to develop the route for their walk.

Activity

Present your students with maps of New York City and have them locate selected Marvel Comic sites from the list below that they would like to explore. The sites they select will become a tour of the City.

New York City Sites That Appear in Marvel Comics

The Bowery
City Hall
The East Village
Bleeker Street
187 Chrystie Street
666 Fifth Avenue
East Thirty-ninth Street and Second Avenue
Empire State University --- New York University
Yancy Street --- Delancey Street
Baxter Building/Four Freedoms Plaza (42nd Street and Madison Avenue)
Chrysler Building (405 Lexington Avenue and East Forty-second Street)
Empire State Building (350 Fifth Avenue between 33rd and 34th Streets)
United Nations Building (760 United Nations Plaza)
The Gem Theatre (42nd Street between Broad way and Eighth Avenue)
Hell's Kitchen
Madison Square Garden
Rockefeller Center
New York Public Library (5th Avenue and 42nd Street)
Times Square
Central Park
The Frick Collection
The Solomon Guggenheim Museum
The Metropolitan Museum of Art
American Museum of Natural History
Columbia University
Brooklyn Bridge
Statue of Liberty

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After the sites are selected, have students use street maps of New York City to plan the precise route of their tour. Don't forget to consider how you will get to each site --- via foot power, subway or bus.

Assign different students or student teams the responsibility of describing what happened in the different comics at each of these locations. When you arrive at each of the selected locations have the assigned students/student teams tell the story (stories) that took place at this location.

At each site have students decide if they think the location is a good one for the story that took place here and why they feel as they do.

Have students compare the actual site to the depiction of it in the Super Heroes comic and describe the differences.

Have your students decide if they agree or disagree with the following statement:

Super Heroes represent the potential within every individual to become extraordinary.

Peter Sanders, author of *The Marvel Comics Guide to New York City*.

Back In the Classroom

When you return to your classroom have students complete an outline or a storyboard for a Super Hero comic using sites and characters from their own lives

Materials Needed

Marvel Comics for your ride to New York Here is a site for the Marvel Comics catalogue

<http://www.marvel.com/catalog/>

Maps of New York City

Cameras