



City Works

An Inside Look at New York City

This curriculum for Senior High students focuses on the make-up and the inner workings of a city. It takes a look at how decisions about urban planning are made and how they affect the lives of the people who live in a city. The built environment of New York City's Manhattan is the center of the discussion and is used as the topic of research. It explores the history of New York City looking both backward to the first settlements on the island and then forward to the present day, all as it relates to the building of the built environment. This curriculum helps students:

- explore the history of New York City's built environment
- study the economics of urban planning
- analyze the human economics of urban planning
- weigh the value of the art of and in public spaces,
- use the past to project to the future

Overview

This multi-sensory/ cross-discipline curriculum for Senior High School students uses the Empire State Building and the built environment of New York City as original sources to teach students about the city's early history, especially about the Great Depression. Along the way students learn about all sorts of things that affect where and how people live --- zoning regulations, city planning, art in public places, preserving places that matter, geography, etc. They also learn the importance of considering different points of view. The curriculum explores the building design and historical events of Manhattan and compares them to students' home communities to help them understand how their own history fits into world events.

Many of the materials you will need are provide within the curriculum and are ready for downloading and copying. You'll find materials such as:

- Basic background information
- Student worksheets
- Links to primary sources --- buildings, photos, documents

The curriculum uses inquiry, analysis, research, observation, group discussion and conjecture. It is object-based. It presents and uses original sources and it attempts at every turn to make connections between New York City and its built environment and the students' own community and day-to-day world.

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You will find suggestions for activities for your students to complete before your visit to the NY SKYRIDE as well as activities to be completed on-site while you are in New York City. Then there are suggestions for follow-up activities to be completed back in your classroom. You won't be able to complete all of the suggested activities provided nor will all of them be appropriate for your students. You will find that not all of the suggested activities are presented with the same amount of detail. Some are just very easy to imagine and we're absolutely sure you'll know right way how to embellish them. Others, that we think are more complicated, do come with more detailed attached.

Our hope is that the activities we have presented will inspire you to create better and more interesting ones of your own!