### Maturita Card 33: Cities in the USA

# **Bridge**

#### • Which US cities do you know?

Famous American cities include... / There are many well-known cities in America like... / The US has many cities, some of the major ones include...

New York City, Boston, Washington DC, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Miami.

#### • Why is New York such a popular city?

New York has the largest population of all American cities, and is known for its high-rise buildings / skyscrapers, museums, theatres and shops. The New York skyline can be admired from the tallest building in the city, the Empire State Building. Many tourists also like to visit Central Park, the theatre district on Broadway, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, where millions of immigrants entered the New World. Art lovers shouldn't miss the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) or the spiral-shaped Guggenheim.

## • What are some important things to see in the US capital, Washington DC?

You should first head to the White House and the Capitol. The White House is the seat of the American president and the Capitol building is where the American Congress resides and all the country's laws are made. The National Mall is a beautiful area filled with monuments, for example the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial, and the newest monument, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. Another place of interest in Washington is the Smithsonian, an institution made up of 19 different museums such as the Air and Space Museum.

#### • What should visitors see in Chicago?

Chicago is home to Willis Tower, formerly known as the Sears Tower. This 442-metre skyscraper was the world's tallest building until 1998. The Navy Pier is another popular place to go in Chicago; they have museums, theatres, a big Ferris wheel and boat cruises. Sports fans also might like to visit Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs baseball team. Chicago is also a city of jazz and blues clubs.

#### California has many popular cities. What do you know about them?

Los Angeles and San Francisco are the most visited cities in California, but other interesting ones include / are San Diego, San José and the state capital, Sacramento. Los Angeles is in the south and is known for Hollywood, the centre of the American film industry, beaches and shopping. Many visitors to LA like to see Universal Studios, Disneyland, the Hollywood Walk of Fame and other movie-related sites. Up north, San Francisco draws tourists to

landmarks such as the Golden Gate Bridge, historic cable cars, Fisherman's Wharf, a waterfront area with many tourist attractions, and the notorious Alcatraz Island with its former prison. San José is best known as the heart of Silicon Valley, where lots of tech companies like Google and Apple have their headquarters.

#### • What is there to do in one of the most visited American cities, Las Vegas?

Las Vegas in Nevada is the fastest growing city in the USA. It's famous for its huge casinos, which often look like top tourist attractions. For example, the Luxor is in the shape of a huge pyramid. Las Vegas is also well known for its wedding chapels and quick marriage ceremonies; there are even drive-through chapels.

#### I would like to visit the Northwest. Are there any interesting cities?

The northwestern part of the US is known for its beautiful mountains, rivers and parks. Two of the best-known cities are Seattle, in Washington state, and Portland, in Oregon. Seattle is located on Puget Sound, a narrow passage of the Pacific Ocean, so you can take a boat tour or visit a beach. Interesting architecture includes the Seattle Public Library and the Seattle Art Museum, and of course the Space Needle, a famous observation tower built in the 1960s. Seattle is also home to many bands such as Nirvana and Pearl Jam. Portland is south of Seattle and is known for its environmental friendliness.

#### • Texas has lots of cities; do you know anything about them?

Houston is home to NASA's Space Center and the largest fine arts museum in the Southwest. Dallas was known for its real-life cowboys, or ranchers, but now is famous for the Dallas Cowboys who play American football. When visiting the city, don't miss the Sixth Floor Museum, dedicated to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. San Antonio is probably one of Texas' prettiest cities; it has a beautiful River Walk filled with restaurants and shops.

#### Can you tell me about some interesting cities in the southern part of the US?

Miami, Atlanta and New Orleans are probably the three most well-known cities in the American South. New Orleans is synonymous with jazz music, Cajun food and a liberal attitude. Miami is famous for its parties, beaches, and Cuban food because there are many immigrants from Cuba. Atlanta is the largest city in the South and has unique attractions, such as a museum dedicated to Coca Cola. The state of Tennessee is known for its country music, particularly in cities like Nashville and Memphis, where Elvis grew up.















