New York in 1900

Reading
1 Read and listen.

What was New York like in 1900? It was very different to New York today. Let’s see!

In 1900 New York was a very big city. There were more than three million people. It was the biggest city in the USA. In New York today there are lots of very tall buildings, called skyscrapers. In 1900, there weren’t any very tall skyscrapers, but there were some big buildings. There was the Statue of Liberty in New York harbour. You can still see the Statue of Liberty in New York today.

The biggest houses had electric lights, but lots of houses and flats had candles. Some people had phones, but there weren’t any computers so people didn’t have email. There weren’t any microwaves. People had big cookers.

There were lots of theatres in New York, but there weren’t any cinemas. People didn’t have TVs, but they had books.

Lots of people had horses and carriages, but some people had cars. There were taxis in New York in 1900, and buses and even underground trains. There weren’t any planes and there wasn’t an airport. There were big boats that came to New York from Europe.

Comprehension
2 Tick (√) the things that New York had in 1900.

3 Read and (√) or (X).
   1 New York was a very big city in 1900.
   2 Some people had electric lights in their houses.
   3 There was a big airport.
   4 People had computers and TVs in their houses.
   5 Lots of people had horses and carriages.
   6 There were buses and taxis.

4 Write There was / were or There wasn’t / weren’t.
   1 There were ___________ theatres in New York in 1900.
   2 ___________ telephones in the houses.
   3 ___________ an airport.
   4 ___________ any cinemas in New York.
   5 ___________ underground trains.