

Read the passage below and answer questions

The History of the Empire State Building

Built in 1931, the Empire State Building is a skyscraper in Manhattan, New York. Including its antenna, it stands 1,454 feet high. Its name came from "Empire State" which is the nickname of New York.

It is the 5th tallest skyscraper in the United States, and the 28th tallest in the world. It is located on the west side of 5th Avenue, between West 33rd and 34th Streets.

Other skyscrapers from its time period include the Pacific Telephone Building in San Francisco, California, the Dade County Courthouse in Miami, Florida, and the Foshay Tower in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Originally, it was part of an 18th-century farm. In the 1820s it came into possession of the prominent Astor family. John Jacob Astor's descendants built the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on the site in the 1890s. By the 1920s, the hotel was outdated so it was sold with the surrounding land.

The Empire State, Inc. bought the hotel and property. The company decided to tear down the hotel and build an office building from the ground up. At first, they wanted to build a 50-story building. They changed their minds and decided to build an 86-story, 1250-foot building with an airship mast on top. This ensured it would be the world's tallest building. It would beat the "Chrysler Building" and "40 Wall Street". These were two other Manhattan skyscrapers under construction at that time.

Construction on the building began March 17, 1930. They averaged one floor per day, and the outside structure of the building was complete by September 19th of that same year. The mast was completed by November 21st. The interior was complete by May 1, 1931.

Although there was plenty of publicity about the tall building, the company failed to make a profit until the early 1950s. However, it remained a popular tourist attraction with approximately 4 million visitors every year.

The Empire State Building remained the tallest building in New York City until the completion of the World Trade Center in the late 1970s.

1. Where did this building get its name?

- A. It is another name for Manhattan.
- B. It is a name from a previous owner.
- C. It is from a nickname of New York.
- D. It is from a Greek root meaning "tallest".

2. Where is the Foshay Tower located?

- A. Manhattan, New York
- B. San Francisco, California
- C. Miami, Florida
- D. Minneapolis, Minnesota

3. What information can be gained from Paragraph 4 about the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in the 1920s?

- A. It was very popular.
- B. It was old-fashioned.
- C. It was the tallest hotel in the world.
- D. It was located in Chicago, Illinois.

4. Why did the Empire State company decide to add an airship mast to the top of the building?

- A. so that the building could be seen during fog
- B. so that the building wouldn't interfere with air travel
- C. so that the building would become the tallest in the world
- D. so that the building would become a tribute to the navy

5. What is the author's purpose for writing this article?

- A. to persuade people to visit the Empire State Building.
- B. to provide information about the Empire State Building.
- C. to tell a funny story about the Empire State Building.
- D. to explain how to build the Empire State Building.

6. The highlighted paragraph above contains several dates. What do the dates help you understand?

- A. How quickly the tower was built.
- B. When the tower was taken down.
- C. How often towers are built in the city.
- D. How difficult it is to take down an old building.

7. What does the highlighted word "profit" mean in the passage above?

- A. to lose money
- B. to have visitors
- C. to make money
- D. to win

8. If someone wants to write an article on a similar topic, which Website would provide the BEST information?

- A. School Buildings in New York City
- B. The Introduction of the Internet in the 1990s
- C. Famous American Landmarks
- D. Important American Soldiers