

Williamsburg, Brooklyn, home to hipsters



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PRE-LISTENING

TASK 1:

a) Are you an expert on New York City? – PART 1

Match the five boroughs of New York with their corresponding names. There are some names that you do not need.



PIC 1

A) New Jersey	B) Harlem	C) Brooklyn	D) Staten Island
E) Queens	F) Williamsburg	G) Bronx	H) Manhattan

Number	1	2	3	4	5
NAME					

b) Are you an expert on New York City – PART 2
Combine the pictures (PIC 2 – PIC6) with the corresponding name of the borough.
Complete the grid below.



PIC 2



PIC 3



PIC 4



PIC 5



PIC 6

A) Brooklyn

B) Staten Island

C) Manhattan

D) Queens

E) Bronx

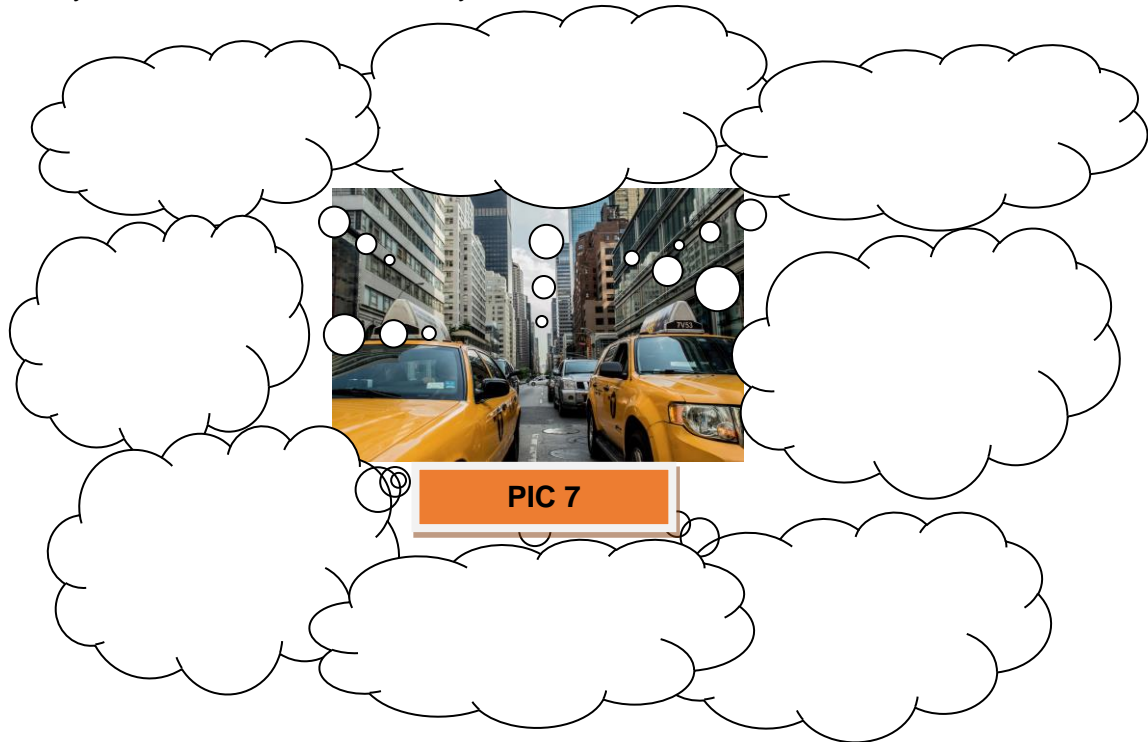
Number	2	3	4	5	6
NAME					

c) Discuss the following questions with your partner and then in class. Give reasons and explanations for your responses.

- Are you interested in New York?
- Would you like to travel there, or have you already been?
- Have you got favourite places in New York? If so, what are they?

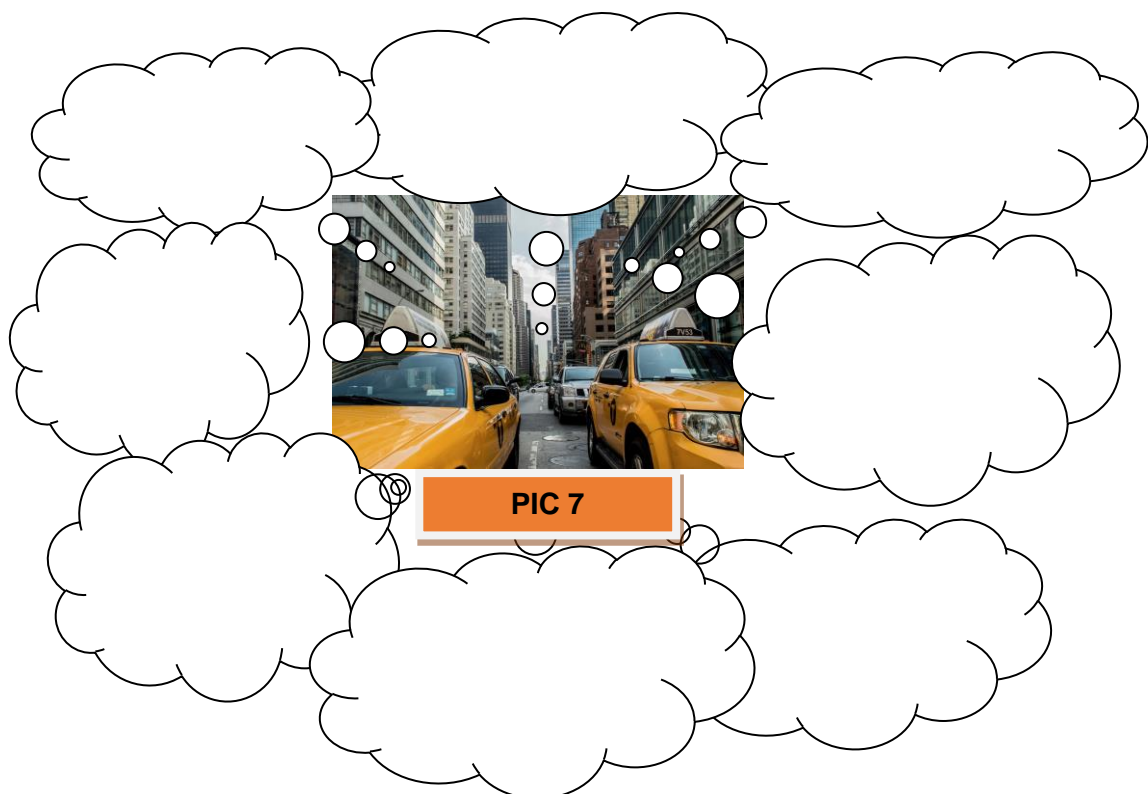
d) Read the questions below and create a mind map of your thoughts. Discuss your ideas in class. Create a ranking with the top-5 reasons.

What do you know about New York City?



PIC 7

Why would people like to live in New York City?



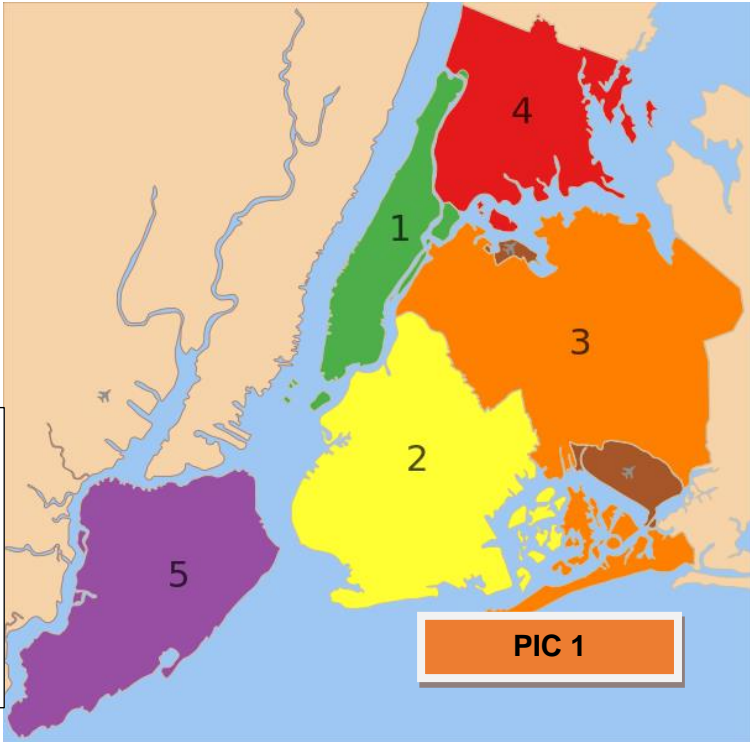
PIC 7

e) Ranking

What are the top-5 places you would like to visit in New York? Write them into the box below. Compare them with your partner's and then discuss them. What are the top-5 places of the class?

MY FIVE	
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____

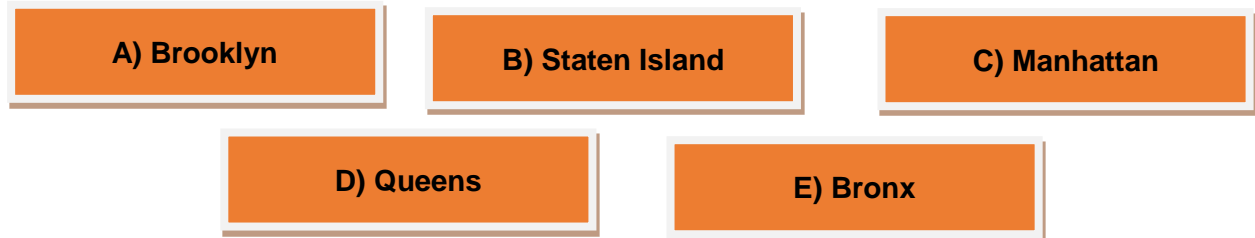
Mark them in the map below. In which borough are they located? Mark their locations in the map below. Have you got places in Staten Island, Queens or Bronx?

1 _____ _____ _____ _____		3 _____ _____ _____ _____
2 _____ _____ _____ _____		4 _____ _____ _____ _____
	5 _____ _____	



f) Presentations.

Divide your class into groups. Each group will then pick one of the following boroughs and create a presentation.



Include the following aspects:

- general facts
- history
- geography
- demography
- neighbourhoods
- culture
- sights
- any other interesting information

Create a PowerPoint presentation with pictures and videos.

Duration: 4-5 minutes. Try to talk as freely as possible.

g) Writing

You are asked to plan a 2-week vacation to New York City. You should include 3 places in each of the five boroughs. Give reasons for your decisions. Write about 300 words.

A large rectangular box with a black border, containing 15 horizontal lines for writing.



VOCABULARY

TASK 1: Word Salad

Read the definitions below and find the corresponding words in the grid.

M	S	S	F	O	R	M	E	R	I	V	N	E	D	G
W	I	S	O	E	E	D	T	T	X	G	A	L	R	K
Y	D	E	B	K	S	C	Q	W	M	K	R	V	J	O
R	E	N	H	A	I	G	G	Q	U	I	R	K	Y	V
V	W	J	H	C	D	L	N	C	S	A	O	K	H	S
D	A	M	U	S	E	M	E	N	T	J	W	Y	H	V
F	L	V	G	K	N	E	I	O	A	W	L	I	S	F
E	K	G	E	S	T	K	G	N	C	E	G	J	U	G
V	D	V	N	W	C	V	H	J	H	G	I	X	B	S
A	C	C	E	S	S	I	B	L	E	S	Q	Y	W	H
R	X	C	Y	D	R	W	O	U	R	I	K	N	A	E
I	W	E	O	P	P	O	R	T	U	N	I	T	Y	I
E	P	W	D	D	L	Y	H	M	L	K	T	J	M	E
T	V	Q	D	D	R	C	O	L	O	U	R	F	U	L
Y	Q	F	W	I	Q	K	O	J	L	J	I	E	E	M
N	R	A	F	F	O	R	D	A	B	L	E	L	B	Y

click: [key](#)

a district or an area of a town; the people who live there
a time when a particular situation makes it possible to do or achieve something
that can be reached, entered, used, seen, etc.
cheap enough that people can afford to buy it or pay it
full of bright colours or having a lot of different colours
the feeling that you have when something is funny or amusing, or it entertains you
a flat part at the side of a road for people to walk on
a line of hair that a man allows to grow on his upper lip
a person who lives in a particular place or who has their home there
several different sorts of the same thing
that existed in earlier times
(of an aspect of somebody's personality or behaviour) a little strange
an underground railway/railroad system in a city
measuring a short distance from one side to the other, especially in relation to length
extremely large in size or amount; great in degree
strange or unusual
a container with a handle and a lip, for holding and pouring liquids



LISTENING COMPREHENSION

click: [key](#)

TASK 1:

Listen to the text and answer the following questions. You do not have to write complete sentences, but one word is not enough for an answer.

a) Who or what is a hipster?

b) What advantage did the Williamsburg Bridge have for people when it opened in 1903?

c) What can you find, see or do in many places in Williamsburg today?

d) Who or what is the Fette Sau?

TASK 2:

Listen to the text and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

		T	F
a)	Many hipsters live in Williamsburg.		
b)	Williamsburg has always been a cool and hip neighbourhood.		
c)	There are still huge factories located in Williamsburg.		
d)	The Williamsburg Bridge connects Brooklyn to Manhattan.		



e)	Today, many artists and creative people live in Williamsburg.		
f)	There is a huge vintage clothes and handmade arts and crafts market in Williamsburg.		
g)	There's a lot of traffic and it is quite noisy in Williamsburg.		
h)	It's nice to visit, because you can sit outside at various bars and restaurants.		

READING COMPREHENSION

click: [key](#)

TASK 1:

Some sentences have been removed from the text. Bring them back into their original position.

Williamsburg, Brooklyn, home to hipsters

By Siobhan Bruns

If you ask what the coolest neighborhood in New York City is, you'll receive the answer Williamsburg. This is because you can't think of Williamsburg without thinking of hipsters. [A] A hipster is someone who follows the latest fashions and trends, especially those which are considered a little quirky or odd. Before hipsters came, Williamsburg had quite a lot of manufacturing business. The people living in the neighborhood often worked at the factories located there. Those businesses closed down and some of the large factories were made into big apartment buildings for the hipsters to live in. But eventually, the hipsters themselves would bring business back to Williamsburg. Not manufacturing, but technology and media. These businesses are called startups. [B] And just as before, a lot of the people who live in Williamsburg work for those companies. The Williamsburg Bridge, which crosses over the East River, connects the Lower East Side in Manhattan to Williamsburg in Brooklyn. When it opened in 1903, it gave the people who were living crowded together in the Lower East Side the opportunity to move to Williamsburg, where they could get bigger apartments for less money. Almost 100 years later, Williamsburg would offer a new group of Lower East Side residents the same opportunity. Those residents were the artists and creative people living in the Lower East Side in Manhattan in the 1990s. [C] Williamsburg – just across the East River, and now accessible by subway as well as bridge – had larger and cheaper apartments. People from the Lower East Side began to move to Williamsburg. Those former Manhattan residents brought their love of creativity to Williamsburg. Now Williamsburg has many places to hear live music, attend poetry readings, see theater plays and look at art. And the city's biggest handmade arts and crafts and vintage clothes market is there. Additionally, Williamsburg has some things that today's hipsters think are cool, but you wouldn't have found in the Lower East Side, such as lots of colorful tattoo parlors, barber shops that specialize in cutting beards and mustaches, and places for amusement like bowling alleys. [D] So it's not as noisy. You can talk without difficulty when seated at a sidewalk table, because there are no honking cars or large trucks rumbling down the streets. The roads are narrower and the street blocks are shorter than in Manhattan so doing a pub crawl – going from one bar to another – is easier there. There are a variety of restaurants with different types of food, like the Fette Sau, which offers all kinds of barbecued meats and huge jugs of beer. A lot of places to eat and drink have outdoor seating or glass sides instead of walls which can be opened if the weather is warm enough. The indoor spaces of the restaurants and bars seem to flow outside onto the sidewalks. On summer nights the center of Williamsburg can feel like one big street party. However, Williamsburg is now too expensive for the type of people who came to it from Manhattan years ago. Artists and other creative people are starting to move to more affordable neighborhoods. [E]

It was the coolest neighborhood in New York City at the time, but the apartments in the neighborhood were very small and the rents were very high.	
--	--

Hipsters like to live in cool, or hip, places and Williamsburg is full with young hipsters.	
And when enough of them do so, New York City's coolest neighborhood will no longer be Williamsburg.	
The startup companies Vice Media and Livestream are located in Williamsburg.	
Although a million more people live in Brooklyn than Manhattan, Williamsburg feels less hectic. There is much less traffic in Williamsburg than in Manhattan.	

TASK 2:

click: [key](#)

The text has been mixed up. Bring the parts into their correct order. The first paragraph is given.

Williamsburg, Brooklyn, home to hipsters

By Siobhan Bruns

The people living in the neighborhood often worked at the factories located there. Those businesses closed down and some of the large factories were made into big apartment buildings for the hipsters to live in. But eventually, the hipsters themselves would bring business back to Williamsburg. Not manufacturing, but technology and media. These businesses are called startups. The startup companies Vice Media and Livestream are located in Williamsburg.	
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Those residents were the artists and creative people living in the Lower East Side in Manhattan in the 1990s. It was the coolest neighborhood in New York City at the time, but the apartments in the neighborhood were very small and the rents were very high. Williamsburg – just across the East River, and now accessible by subway as well as bridge – had larger and cheaper apartments. People from the Lower East Side began to move to Williamsburg. Those former Manhattan residents brought their love of creativity to Williamsburg. Now Williamsburg has many places to hear live music, attend poetry readings, see theater plays and look at art.	
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The indoor spaces of the restaurants and bars seem to flow outside onto the sidewalks. On summer nights the center of Williamsburg can feel like one big street party. However, Williamsburg is now too expensive for the type of people who came to it from Manhattan years ago. Artists and other creative people are starting to move to more affordable neighborhoods. And when enough of them do so, New York City's coolest neighborhood will no longer be Williamsburg.

TASK 3: Guided writing

Write an article for your school newspaper about the boroughs of New York City. Include the following aspects:

- Describe the five boroughs
- Your two favourite boroughs in terms of sights
- Your two favourite boroughs in terms of living
- Your personal opinion about Williamsburg

Write about 200 words.

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[Full text:](#)

Williamsburg, Brooklyn, home to hipsters

ROUND THE US

New York City's coolest neighborhood is no longer in Manhattan.

By Siobhan Bruns

If you ask what the coolest neighborhood in New York City is, you'll receive the answer Williamsburg. This is because you can't think of Williamsburg without thinking of hipsters. Hipsters like to live in cool, or hip, places and Williamsburg is full with young hipsters. A hipster is someone who follows the latest fashions and trends, especially those which are considered a little quirky or odd. Before hipsters came, Williamsburg had quite a lot of manufacturing business. The people living in the neighborhood often worked at the factories located there. Those businesses closed down and some of the large factories were made into big apartment buildings for the hipsters to live in. But eventually, the hipsters themselves would bring business back to Williamsburg. Not manufacturing, but technology and media. These businesses are called startups. The startup companies Vice Media and Livestream are located in Williamsburg. And just as before, a lot of the people who live in Williamsburg work for those companies. The Williamsburg Bridge, which crosses over the East River, connects the Lower East Side in Manhattan to Williamsburg in Brooklyn. When it opened in 1903, it gave the people who were living crowded together in the Lower East Side the opportunity to move to Williamsburg, where they could get bigger apartments for less money. Almost 100 years later, Williamsburg would offer a new group of Lower East Side residents the same opportunity. Those residents were the artists and creative people living in the Lower East Side in Manhattan in the 1990s. It was the coolest neighborhood in New York City at the time, but the apartments in the neighborhood were very small and the rents were very high. Williamsburg – just across the East River, and now accessible by subway as well as bridge – had larger and cheaper apartments. People from the Lower East Side began to move to Williamsburg. Those former Manhattan residents brought their love of creativity to Williamsburg. Now Williamsburg has many places to hear live music, attend poetry readings, see theater plays and look at art. And the city's biggest handmade arts and crafts and vintage clothes market is there. Additionally, Williamsburg has some things that today's hipsters think are cool, but you wouldn't have found in the Lower East Side, such as lots of colorful tattoo parlors, barber shops that specialize in cutting beards and mustaches, and places for amusement like bowling alleys. Although a million more people live in Brooklyn than Manhattan, Williamsburg feels less hectic. There is much less traffic in Williamsburg than in Manhattan. So it's not as noisy. You can talk without difficulty when seated at a sidewalk table, because there are no honking cars or large trucks rumbling down the streets. The roads are narrower and the street blocks are shorter than in Manhattan so doing a pub crawl – going from one bar to another – is easier there. There are a variety of restaurants with different types of food, like the Fette Sau, which offers all kinds of barbecued meats and huge jugs of beer. A lot of places to eat and drink have outdoor seating or glass sides instead of walls which can be opened if the weather is warm enough. The indoor spaces of the restaurants and bars seem to flow outside onto the sidewalks. On summer nights the center of Williamsburg can feel like one big street party. However, Williamsburg is now too expensive for the type of people who came to it from Manhattan years ago. Artists and other creative people are starting to move to more affordable neighborhoods. And when enough of them do so, New York City's coolest neighborhood will no longer be Williamsburg.



ANSWER KEY

PRE-LISTENING

PRE-LISTENING:

TASK 1a:

Number	1	2	3	4	5
NAME:	H	C	E	G	D

1b

Number	2	3	4	5	6
NAME:	C	A	D	E	B

VOCABULARY

TASK 1:

	S		F	O	R	M	E	R			N				
	I				E						A				
	D				S					M	R				
	E				I				Q	U	I	R	K	Y	
	W		H		D		N		S	O					
	A	M	U	S	E	M	E	N	T		W				
	L		G		N		I		A					S	
	K		E		T		G		C				J	U	G
V							H		H						B
A	C	C	E	S	S	I	B	L	E						W
R							O								A
I			O	P	P	O	R	T	U	N	I	T	Y		
E			D				H								
T			D				C	O	L	O	U	R	F	U	L
Y							O								
			A	F	F	O	R	D	A	B	L	E			



LISTENING COMPREHENSION

TASK 1:

- a) someone who follows the latest fashions and trends, especially those which are considered a little quirky or odd
- b) When it opened in 1903, it gave the people who were living crowded together in the Lower East Side the opportunity to move to Williamsburg, where they could get bigger apartments for less money.
- c) hear live music, attend poetry readings, see theater plays and look at art; the city's biggest handmade arts and crafts and vintage clothes market is there
- d) a restaurant that offers all kinds of barbequed meats and huge jugs of beer

TASK 2:

- a) T b) F c) F d) T e) T f) T g) F h) T

READING COMPREHENSION

TASK 1:

It was the coolest neighborhood in New York City at the time, but the apartments in the neighborhood were very small and the rents were very high.	C
Hipsters like to live in cool, or hip, places and Williamsburg is full with young hipsters.	A
And when enough of them do so, New York City's coolest neighborhood will no longer be Williamsburg.	E
The startup companies Vice Media and Livestream are located in Williamsburg.	B
Although a million more people live in Brooklyn than Manhattan, Williamsburg feels less hectic. There is much less traffic in Williamsburg than in Manhattan.	D

TASK 2:

The people living in the neighborhood often worked at the factories located there. Those businesses closed down and some of the large factories were made into big apartment buildings for the hipsters to live in. But eventually, the hipsters themselves would bring business back to Williamsburg. Not manufacturing, but technology and media. These businesses are called startups. The startup companies Vice Media and Livestream are located in Williamsburg.	2
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Those residents were the artists and creative people living in the Lower East Side in Manhattan in	4

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SOURCES:

PIC 1: Map

Vector adopted by User:NafsadhOriginal:Julius Schorzman [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/34/5_Boroughs_Labels_New_York_City_Map.svg

PIC 2: Manhattan

Anthony Quintano [CC BY 2.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b9/Above_Gotham.jpg

PIC 3: Brooklyn

Kgwo1972 at English Wikipedia [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d3/Greenpoint_Houses.JPG

PIC 4: Queens

<https://pixabay.com/de/unisphere-sonne-corona-park-natur-22971/>

PIC 5: Bronx

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Melrosebx1.JPG>

PIC 6: Staten Island

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Staten_Island_Borough_Hall_sign.jpg

PIC 7: New York

<https://pixabay.com/de/taxi-taxi-verkehr-fahrerhaus-381233/>