



## A Guide for Educators and Parents *Where Was I?* New York

### Plot Synopsis

*Where Was I? New York!* is a delightful educational book, appropriate for children aged 3-8. The book is narrated by two children, a girl and a boy (Devon and D.J.), as they share their travels and visit various local New York attractions. It combines education, fun, socio-cultural values, and a sense of adventure to showcase America's largest city.

The *Where Was I?* book series – beginning with *Where Was I?* New York – is a fun way to educate children about U.S. cities and international countries, with secondary lessons of geographic landmarks, safety, currency exchange, cultural experiences, urban transportation, health and physical fitness.

*Where Was I?* books, with their engaging format, conversational style, and colorful illustrations, are kid-tested and parent approved.

Learn more by visiting [www.wherekids.com](http://www.wherekids.com).

### About This Guide

We suggest that educators and parents use this guide to teach children valuable lessons about travel, geography, historic landmarks, safety, health and fitness, and transportation. *Where Was I?* books can expand upon traditional school curriculum and enrich home-based education.

## Vocabulary

balloon	buzzing	carriage	favorite
illustrated	island	parade	safety
tallest	underneath	wicked	zipping

## New York City Landmarks

- 1) Statue of Liberty
- 2) Central Park
- 3) Grand Central Station
- 4) Chrysler Building
- 5) Empire State Building
- 6) Manhattan Island
- 7) Ellis Island

## General Historic Data

- 1) The Statue of Liberty is one of America's most popular landmarks.
- 2) With about twenty-five million visitors annually, Central Park is the most visited city park in the United States.
- 3) The Empire State Building is a 102-story skyscraper in New York City. Its name is derived from the nickname for the state of New York.
- 4) An average of 4.5 million passengers use the New York City subway every weekday.
- 5) There are 39 professional theatres on Broadway in New York City.
- 6) There are 13,087 taxis operating in New York City

## Geography

Involve the children by asking them to imagine being in a Big City like New York. "Close your eyes and imagine huge buildings called skyscrapers all around you and people walking around you and cabs honking on the street. Now imagine walking into the Empire State Building and it becomes a rocket ship that flies high above the city." Have the children imagine looking down. Now open your eyes and find where you just were on a map. Have the 5 children in the class use their *Where Was I* stickers? And place the sticker where they think New York is.

## Health and Physical Fitness

On Page 3 the children reference New York as the Big Apple. New York has fruit stands and hot dog stands. Which food is better for our bodies? If you had your choice between any type of fruit what would that fruit be?

On page 6-7 the boy is in the Park with Jasper the horse. There is a lady jogging and a man walking his dog. Ask the children to name two activities that help keep your body healthy.

## Transportation

There are several ways to get around in a big city. The means of transportation in the book include walking, the subway, and the horse and carriage. 1) Ask the children which they feel they would like the best. 2) Ask the children if they think there are other ways to get around in the city.

## Drama and the Arts

On page 9 the children go to Broadway “New York’s theatre district” and see a play on stage. Ask the children if they have ever been to a play.

Ask if they knew some of the best children’s stories are now plays on stage.

There’s Lion King  
Tarzan  
The Grinch  
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang  
Mary Poppins

Ask the Children to create their own play for the class.

## Safety

On page 4 the children see the fire fighters and the police officers. Often news media create an image of police officers arresting criminals and children get a negative connotation of these modern day heroes.

Highlight the fact that if they were to get lost from their parents in a big city like New

York a police officer will help. Awareness of traffic signals, crosswalks and looking both ways are also important lessons from this page.

### International Insight

Ask the children what Country they live in? Also ask them if they know two other countries that are mentioned in the book.

France – Page 3

Canada – Page 7

### Additional Discussion Questions

Have your parents ever gone away on a trip for work? How did you feel when they were gone? How did you feel when they came home?

Have you ever gone to New York?

Where else have you gone?

Are there any places you are going to visit this year with your family?

Have you always lived in your town or have you lived somewhere else?

Get children involved and have them do a classroom activity that encourages them to find the above places on a map.

### **A KIND NOTE TO TEACHERS, EDUCATORS, AND PARENTS**

If you have comments or suggestions about how we can improve this Teacher Guide, please let us know. We welcome input from educators, parents, and kids. Do you like the book? Are there any insights you would like to share? Are there any other writing exercises that we can incorporate into this guide?

We want to hear from you. Drop us a line at [info@wherekids.com](mailto:info@wherekids.com)