

# NEW YORK - A Brief History of Skyscrapers

Can you identify any of these buildings? What do they all have in common? Which one do you like best?



Read where architecture expert Paul Goldberg comments on the history of New York's famous skyscrapers. As you do so, complete the following tasks:

- In New York buildings are not only buildings, they become \_\_\_\_\_.
- New York took over Chicago as regards skyscrapers in \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Woolworth building was the tallest building worldwide for \_\_\_\_\_.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ defined the Manhattan skyline.
- They are trying to keep a memory of the people who were lost and also to show New York's \_\_\_\_\_.
- New York stands out from the other cities as the embodiment of \_\_\_\_\_.

Woolworth Building; Empire State Building; Chrysler Building; Flatiron; Hearst Tower

The **Woolworth Building**, at 57 stories (floors), is one of the oldest—and one of the most famous—skyscrapers in New York City. It was the world's tallest building for 17 years. More than 95 years after its construction, it is still one of the fifty tallest buildings in the United States as well as one of the twenty tallest buildings in New York City. The building is a National Historic Landmark, having been listed in 1966.

The **Empire State Building** is a 102-story landmark Art Deco skyscraper in New York City at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and West 34th Street. Like many New York building, it has become seen as a work of art. Its name is derived from the nickname for New York, The Empire State. It stood as the world's tallest building for more than 40 years, from its completion in 1931 until construction of the World Trade Center's North Tower was completed in 1972. It must be remembered that the 'Twin Towers' defined the skyline of Manhattan. However, following the terrorist bombing and destruction of the World Trade Center in 2001, the Empire State Building again became the tallest building in New York City.

The **Chrysler Building** is an Art Deco skyscraper in New York City, located on the east side of Manhattan in the Turtle Bay area at the intersection of 42nd Street and Lexington Avenue. Standing at 319 metres (1,047 ft),<sup>[4][5]</sup> it was the world's tallest building for 11 months before it was surpassed by the Empire State Building in 1931. After the destruction of the World Trade Center, it was again the second-tallest building in New York City until December 2007, when the spire was raised on the 365.8-metre (1,200 ft) Bank of America Tower, pushing the Chrysler Building into third position. In addition, The New York Times Building which opened in 2007, is exactly level with the Chrysler Building in height. With the new buildings being built in New York since 9/11, the city is trying to remember those who died in the attacks, but also show the city has big ambitions for the future.

The **Flatiron Building**, or **Fuller Building** as it was originally called, is located at 175 Fifth Avenue in the borough of Manhattan, and is considered to be one of the first skyscrapers ever built. Upon completion in 1902 it was one of the tallest buildings in New York City. From this time, New York became the 'capital' of skyscrapers, instead of Chicago. The building sits on a triangular island block at 23rd Street, Fifth Avenue, and Broadway, anchoring the south (downtown) end of Madison Square.

**Hearst Tower** in New York City, New York is located at 300 West 57th Street, 959 8th Avenue, near Columbus Circle in Midtown Manhattan. It is the world headquarters of the Hearst Corporation, bringing together for the first time their numerous publications and communications companies under one roof, including among others Cosmopolitan, Esquire, Marie Claire, Harper's Bazaar, Good Housekeeping, Seventeen, and the San Francisco Chronicle. Yet another famous sky-scraper in 'The Big Apple' - a city which is different to so many others around the world, due to the determination and will-power of its citizens.

Answers:

- In New York buildings are not only buildings, they become **WORKS OF ART**
- New York took over Chicago as regards skyscrapers in **THE EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY**.
- The Woolworth building was the tallest building worldwide for **17 YEARS**.
- The **TWIN TOWERS** defined the Manhattan skyline.
- They are trying to keep a memory of the people who were lost and also to show New York's **AMBITION**.
- New York stands out from the other cities as the embodiment of **SHEER WILL-POWER**.