

Being in San Francisco

The Golden Gate Bridge

One of the most famous and most beautiful bridges in the world is the Golden Gate Bridge – gateway to the Pacific Ocean. It was built from 1933 to 1937 and connects San Francisco and the Marina Peninsula County.

For years San Francisco Bay had to be crossed by ferries before the bridge was built. There weren't enough ferries, so they started building the 2,727-metre-long bridge, which is now one of the longest suspension bridges in the world.

When the miners came to San Francisco during the gold rush, San Francisco harbour got the name "Golden Gate", so the bridge was given this name too.

First the engineer, the German American Joseph Strauss, wanted to paint the bridge grey. But when the bridge was painted red-orange to protect it from rust, chief engineer Strauss decided that it should stay red-orange. The colour reminded him of the gold found during the gold rush and it was a superb contrast to the green landscape around. Today painting it is an ongoing job. There are 25 painters who do this work.

The bridge has got six lanes, three in each direction, one pedestrian walkway and a cycle path on each side.

These words will help you:

pedestrian	Fußgänger
rust	Rost
suspension bridge	Hängebrücke

The Golden Gate Bridge – worksheet

- 1 Read the text “The Golden Gate Bridge”.
- 2 Look up any unknown words in your dictionary. Write down the new words in your exercise book/ on a writing sheet.
- 3 Make a brochure about the Golden Gate Bridge. Collect pictures of the Golden Gate Bridge. Mention:
 - the date of building
 - the length
 - the lanes
 - the name of the chief engineer
 - the type of bridge
 - how it got its name
 - why the bridge is red-orange



Tip: Fold your piece of paper like a brochure – it will look much more professional.

Materials: dictionary, paper, worksheet, text

Hollywood

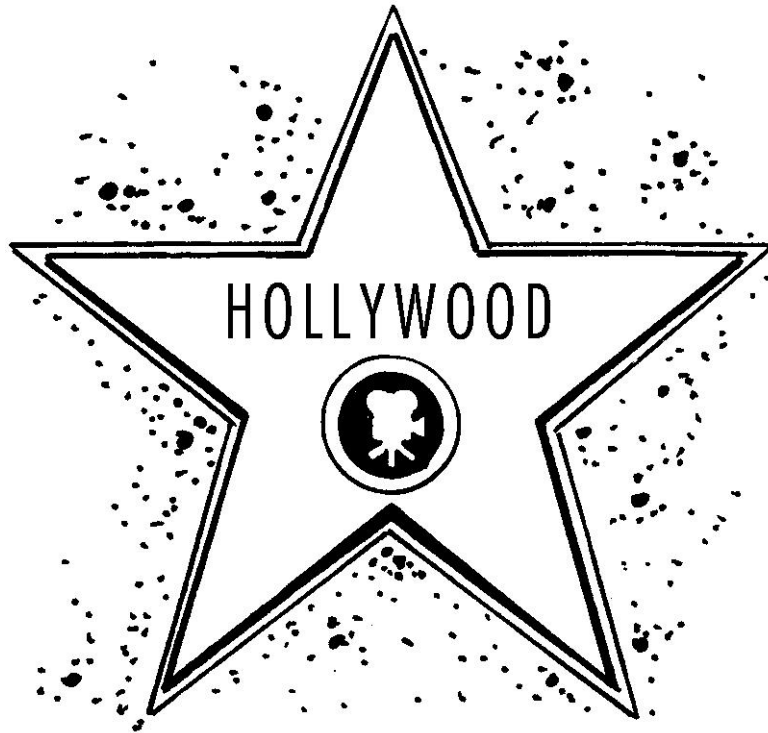
Most people think they just have to go to Hollywood – the “city of dreams” to become a star and make their fortune. But unfortunately this is not true – only very few people become stars.

Hollywood is part of Los Angeles (L.A.). Hollywood is the historic home of the old film studios. The first film studio was built in 1911. Charlie Chaplin made one of the first films, followed by others like Walt Disney. The first films were a series of moving pictures shown in cinemas and accompanied by piano players. But technical progress made it possible to produce the first film with pictures and sounds in 1927.

Hollywood’s golden era started in the 1950s when the first films were made showing a story with sound and music. At that time many stars moved to Los Angeles and settled in Beverley Hills. Later Beverley Hills also became famous because of the film “Pretty Woman” with Julia Roberts and Richard Gere.

On Sunset Boulevard every famous star gets a star with his or her name and a foot or handprint in the cement on the pavement. The so-called “Hollywood Walk of Fame” honours more than 2,000 stars.

Universal Studios are famous because of the films that were made there: King Kong, E.T., Starship Enterprise and Frankenstein. You will get an impression of film producing and entertainment by doing a Universal Studios tour. During such a tour you will get close up to King Kong and the Simpsons.



Hollywood – worksheet

- 1 Read the text “Hollywood”.
- 2 Look up any unknown words in your dictionary. Write down the new words in your exercise book/ on a writing sheet.
- 3 Make correct sentences. Start your sentence with the underlined word:

Hollywood – of – Los Angeles – is – part

People – star – and – to make – they – Hollywood – fortune – think – have to go to – their
– a – become

Hollywood – the – the – studios – home – historic – old – is – of – film

The – 1911 – film – was – in – first – studio – built

The – was – film – 1927 – sounds – first – made – and – with – pictures – in

In – films – music – showing – the – with – were – 1950s – made – story – first – and – the – a – sound

On – star – handprint – cement – famous – a – a – star – foot – in – name – Sunset Boulevard – gets – with – his or her – every – and – or

Universal Studios – of – like – E.T. – Starship Enterprise – films – Frankenstein – are – because – King Kong – famous – and

- 4 Create an advertisement for a film studio sightseeing tour.

Levi Strauss and the blue jeans

Levi Strauss was born in Buttenheim, Bavaria in 1830. His father had died early and so his mother decided to move to the United States. They arrived in New York in 1850. Two of his elder brothers had a textile shop there.

When Levi heard about the gold rush in California, he wanted to make his fortune too. He loaded a wagon with goods he thought gold diggers would need: toothbrushes, buttons, brushes, soap and also a special cloth called "Serge de Nimes" which was called "denim" in America. Levi hoped to sell the denim as material for making tents and wagon covers. But when he arrived at Sacramento River, the gold diggers didn't ask him for denim to make tents but to make trousers. They couldn't get trousers that lasted for more than two weeks. So Levi took the strong denim to a tailor and ordered trousers. The first miners were very happy with the strong trousers so other miners ordered them too, and soon Levi had to open a shop, manufacturing trousers for the miners. But the miners were not the only ones who needed strong trousers. Farmers and cowboys all wanted trousers that were comfortable to ride, low cut so that they could bend over and that had a lot of strong pockets to store things. So Levi took some denim, coloured it blue so that the dirt could not be seen and put metal at the corners of the pockets to make them stronger.

Among the gold diggers were Frenchmen who knew that the seamen of Genoa* had blue trousers too. The French word for Genoa is "Genes", so the trousers were given the name "blue jeans".

Today, more than a hundred years later, Levi's trousers still exist as "Levi's blue jeans".



Levi Strauss and the blue jeans – worksheet

- 1 Read the text “Levi Strauss”.

- 2 Correct the following sentences on a writing sheet:
 - a. Levi invented blue jeans in 1830.
 - b. The miners put dollars in their pockets so they needed to be strong.
 - c. Levi invented the zipper at the corners of the pockets.
 - d. Levi’s first trousers were mostly sold to cowboys.
 - e. The trousers got their name from Levi’s nickname.
 - f. The miners ordered shorts for the work at Sacramento River.
 - g. The gold rush in California began in 1850.
 - h. Levi took denim to California to make curtains.
 - i. Levi Strauss was Austrian.

- j. Levi took goods with him because he wanted to dig for gold.
- k. He coloured the trousers blue so they were fashionable.
- l. Levi soon opened a store to sell digging goods.



Tip: Underline important words while reading.

Walt Disney

Walt Disney became famous with his cartoon films, his film production and his amusement parks. He was born in Chicago on December 5th, 1901. He grew up on his father's farm in Marceline, Missouri and loved nature and wildlife. He was interested in art and drawing. Therefore he studied art and photography. He started his career as a cartoon drawer and made cartoon films, but without any success.

So 22-year-old Walt went to Los Angeles. He wanted to start a new business with a partner. His partner invented a new figure – Mickey Mouse – and soon Walt Disney became famous. He made cartoons like Cinderella, Pinocchio and Dumbo, the flying elephant. Those cartoons filled a whole evening and became a success because everyone wanted to watch the films.

Walt Disney's film industry became more famous, and the film Jungle Book made cartoons more attractive. Walt Disney received 26 Oscars and over 800 prizes and medals for his work.

But he also became famous with his amusement parks in Anaheim and Orlando. There he was able to practise his philosophy: have fun whenever you can because life is sometimes sad and dark.

Walt Disney died in Los Angeles in 1966 and, although he wasn't born in California, he is a Californian legend – the folk hero of the twentieth century.

Walt Disney – worksheet

- 1 Read the text “Walt Disney”.
- 2 Write Walt Disney’s curriculum vitae (Lebenslauf).

Curriculum Vitae

Name:

Places of

living:

Date of

birth:

Place of

birth:

Nationality:

Education/Childhood:

Hobbies:

Awards:

Date of

death:

Place of

death:



Tip: Give short but important information.