



# Anaconda Society

## The United States of America

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### A. Listening Comprehension

1. Victoria and Reese go to the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School. They say it's a maritime school. What does that mean?
  - a. It's a school where you study History
  - b. It's a school where you study a lot about New York
  - c. It's a school where you study the ocean and the environment
2. What grade are Victoria and Reese in?
  - a. Grade 9
  - b. Grade 10
  - c. Grade 12
3. Victoria talks about the view from her window at home. What can she see?

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4. What are they proud of in New York?

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5. There is something special about the Urban Assembly New York Harbor High School. What is that?

- a. The students start very late in the mornings
- b. The students call their teachers by their first name
- c. The students get their own computer

6. Victoria and Reese are on the same sports team. Which team is that?

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7. They are soon going to take part in a competition. Where is that competition held?

- a. In Boston
- b. In Washington
- c. In New York

8. What do Victoria and Reese do on Friday and Saturday nights?

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9. Where is Logan Adam from?

- a. The west coast of the USA
- b. The east coast
- c. The south

10. What is a hipster, according to Logan?

- a. Someone who dresses up in the latest fashion
- b. Someone who dresses up in weird clothes
- c. Someone who dresses like cowboys



11. What does Logan say about music?

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12. When do you get your first driving licence in Oregon?

- a. At 16
- b. At 18
- c. At 15

## B. Discussion

- Which is easier to understand, British English or American English? Why?
- Do you think it would make a difference if you had to call your teachers by their last names? Why/Why not?
- Do you think Swedish teenagers should be allowed to drive a car earlier than now? Why/Why not?
- What are you proud of in your school/town/in Sweden? Why?

## C. Links for further development

### The Urban Assembly New York Harbor School

The school's homepage with mission statement, a video clip (25 min) with footage from classrooms and students and information about the school in general:

<http://www.nyharborschool.org/>

### American States

Quiz on the 50 states of the USA: <http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/usaquiz.html>

There are many more quizzes of different kinds to be found on the internet.

### American Culture and History

American culture and history on the US Government's official web portal:

<http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/History-Culture.shtml>

### The School System

The American School system explained in English on a German web site:

<http://www.justlanded.de/english/USA/USA-Guide/Education/The-American-school-system>

### Grunge

Grunge on Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grunge>

Grunge History: <http://www.silver-dragon-records.com/grunge.htm>



## D. Ideas and Projects

- *Compare your own school with the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School* Look at the information on the school's homepage and compare with your own school. Present your findings in a poster.
- *American Holidays* Find out about American holidays and make a comparison with Swedish holidays. Which holidays do we have in common? Explain the history behind the holidays that we don't have in Sweden. Make an oral presentation to your class.
- *The United States of America* Learn all the different states, where they are located, the capital cities and something else. Test yourself in a quiz from the internet.
- *Oceans and Rivers* Which oceans surround the US? Which big rivers are to be found in the US? Find out and present facts on oceans and rivers in an oral presentation.
- *Grunge* Explain what grunge really is, in music, fashion, lifestyle, etc. Present your research to your class.

## F. Key to Listening Comprehension

1. c
2. b
3. The Manhattan Skyline, the sunset
4. There are so many different cultures, there is always something new to do or see, interesting people to meet, you are not judged by your culture, everybody can go to the same school
5. c
6. the rowing team
7. a
8. Walk around the city, go to a friend's house, chilling at a friend's house, going to the movies, watching a movie at home
9. a
10. b
11. Grunge music is still alive, he knows a couple of bands in his neighborhood, they play heavy music, he loves Nirvana, he shares records with his friends
12. c