

Manhattan, in the centre of New York, has some of the tallest buildings in the world, all thanks to the Ice Age. Why? Watch this video and find out!

Do the preparation task first. Then, watch the video and do the exercises. Remember you can check the transcript at any time.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the number 1–8.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1..... to dip | a. a very tall building |
| 2..... to deposit | b. to move backwards |
| 3..... to retreat | c. to uncover |
| 4..... to expose | d. a hard layer of rock under the soil |
| 5..... soil | e. the base of a building |
| 6..... a skyscraper | f. to go down slightly |
| 7..... bedrock | g. to put something in a particular place |
| 8..... foundations | h. soft, loose earth on the Earth's surface |

1. Check your understanding: ordering

Write a number (1-6) to put these sentences in order.

- | | |
|-------|---|
| | Manhattan was covered by an ice sheet. |
| | The Ice Age began. |
| | Foundations of skyscrapers were built into this rock. |
| | The Ice Age ended, and the ice retreated. |
| | Manhattan's skyline was filled with skyscrapers. |
| | Hard bedrock was exposed. |

2. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best words to complete these sentences.

- The Ice Age **didn't affect / only affected / didn't only affect** remote mountain ranges.
- If you look at Manhattan's skyline, you see two areas with lots of skyscrapers and **more skyscrapers / lower buildings / ice** between them.
- 20,000 years ago, an ice sheet covered **most of the northern hemisphere / New York / Manhattan**.
- When the ice retreated, it **covered / exposed / deposited** a hard bedrock called schist.

5. The foundations of skyscrapers / Mines / Tunnels are built into this schist.
6. The Manhattan skyline dips in the middle because the ground there is schist / mud and soil / ice .

3. Check your vocabulary: gap fill

Complete the summary with words from the box.

bedrock	ice sheet	soft	support
low	solid	skyline	high

20,000 years ago, Manhattan was at the edge of a vast ¹_____. The ice was so ²_____ it would have towered over modern skyscrapers. When the Ice Age ended, the ice retreated and exposed a hard ³_____ called schist. Today, we can build skyscrapers on this schist because it is ⁴_____ enough for sinking deep foundations to ⁵_____ them. There is one area where the ⁶_____ dips and there are only ⁷_____ buildings, not skyscrapers. That's where the ice sheet deposited mud and soil, which is too ⁸_____ for building skyscrapers.

4. Check your grammar: ordering – relative clauses

Put these words in the correct order to make sentences by writing a number in the brackets.

- which is () Manhattan () is an island in New York () full of skyscrapers. ()
- has a distinctive skyline () by the Ice Age. () that was directly affected () Manhattan ()
- much of the northern hemisphere. () Manhattan () that covered () was at the edge of an ice sheet ()
- that was solid enough () for sinking () exposed a bedrock () deep foundations. ()
The ice ()
- is where () that dips () The part of the skyline () mud and soil () were deposited. ()
- that were smoothed and polished () were also left behind. () by the ice () Boulders ()

Discussion

Do you have many skyscrapers in your city? What's the tallest building you've ever seen?