

VIDEO SCRIPTS

UNIT 2

Page 29, Queens, New York: The Most Diverse Neighborhood in the World?

Narrator: In today's global village, multiculturalism is normal, but one neighborhood in particular claims to be one of the most diverse places in the world. Welcome to Queens, New York.

Man 1: How are you doing? What's happening? (*narrating*): We're all immigrants. Who understands an immigrant better than an immigrant?

Narrator: Almost half of the population of Queens was born in another country. Its residents come from 100 different nations, and they speak almost 150 different languages. No racial or ethnic group is a majority here. There may be other neighborhoods with even more foreign-born residents, but only here do we find so many different cultures, nationalities, and ethnicities all in one place.

Woman 1: I know that... you know, I'm from Madras in the southern part of India. My parents lived there, and my grandparents lived there.

Woman 2: My mom's from South Korea and, on my father's side, um, I am German, Irish, English, and I think a little bit of Native American, but that part I'm not sure.

Woman 3: My great-grandfather was Puerto Rican, and his parents were Puerto Rican, and so on and so forth. So, as far as I know we've always been Puerto Rican. And I... I feel connected to that. And I... when I look in the mirror I see that, and I see my grandmother and my great-grandmother. It's something that I cherish, and it's something that I am very protective of.

Woman 4: So, you have Eastern Europeans. You have Hispanics. You have Turkish, Arabic. I like that. I like that very much.

Narrator: A 2001 study measured diversity using a simple idea: How likely is it that two randomly selected people have different backgrounds? In their study, Queens scored highest in the United States. As the most diverse community in the most diverse country in the world, it's a fair claim. But, even if there is no way to prove that it's the most diverse place in the world, Queens, New York is a great example of a melting pot.

UNIT 4

Page 62, Death Valley

This is Death Valley National Park. It's in the Mojave Desert in California. Deserts are very hot and dry. Death Valley is the hottest, driest place in North America. It receives less than two inches of precipitation, or rain, every year. Death Valley also contains the lowest place in North America at 282 feet below sea level. In the summer, temperatures are often in the 90s at night, heating up to around 120 degrees Fahrenheit during the day.

You may think that plants and animals can't live in a place so hot and dry, but Death Valley is actually full of life. Kangaroo rats make nests in between rocks and eat mostly seeds and plants. They don't need to drink water to survive because they get

all the water they need from their food. Rattlesnakes also live in Death Valley, but it is rare to see one. During the day, they stay in the shade, but at night, they come out to look for food. Rattlesnakes hunt small birds and animals, like kangaroo rats. Death Valley also has plant life, including many kinds of cactuses. Sometimes, in the spring, wildflowers cover parts of Death Valley if the conditions are right. For wildflowers to grow, there has to be enough rain, warm temperatures, and not too much dry wind. Many tourists come in the spring in hopes of seeing the flowers.

Come visit Death Valley to learn more and see this beautiful place for yourself. Just remember to bring sunscreen, a hat, and a lot of water!

UNIT 8

Page 125, Getaway: Tiny Houses in the Woods

Jon: The housing we have doesn't work very well for the millennial generation. The form's wrong. The function's wrong. The social aspect's wrong. The geography is wrong. We all own all this stuff, or more accurately, all this stuff owns us. Tiny houses are one answer, in that they're small, they're simple, they're affordable. Sixty-eight percent of people who have a tiny house don't have a mortgage. They're an opportunity, personally, for people to find out what's really important and what makes them happy, which, I think, has a lot more to do with how you spend your time and a lot less to do with the stuff you own.

Patrick: Well, we start from the trailer, which is really the only thing that makes this different in construction from a normal house.

Jon: We place these really beautiful, handcrafted tiny houses a short drive from the city so people can go up there for a night, or two, or three, and rent this house, and really just disconnect and find themselves. They are powered by solar electricity. The heat comes from propane. And, we have a composting toilet. So, our tiny houses are completely off-grid.

Patrick: This house took us about a month to build, and then it's done.