

Kids' Guide: He Built This City

MUSEUM
OF THE
CITY
OF NEW YORK

Ages 5-12

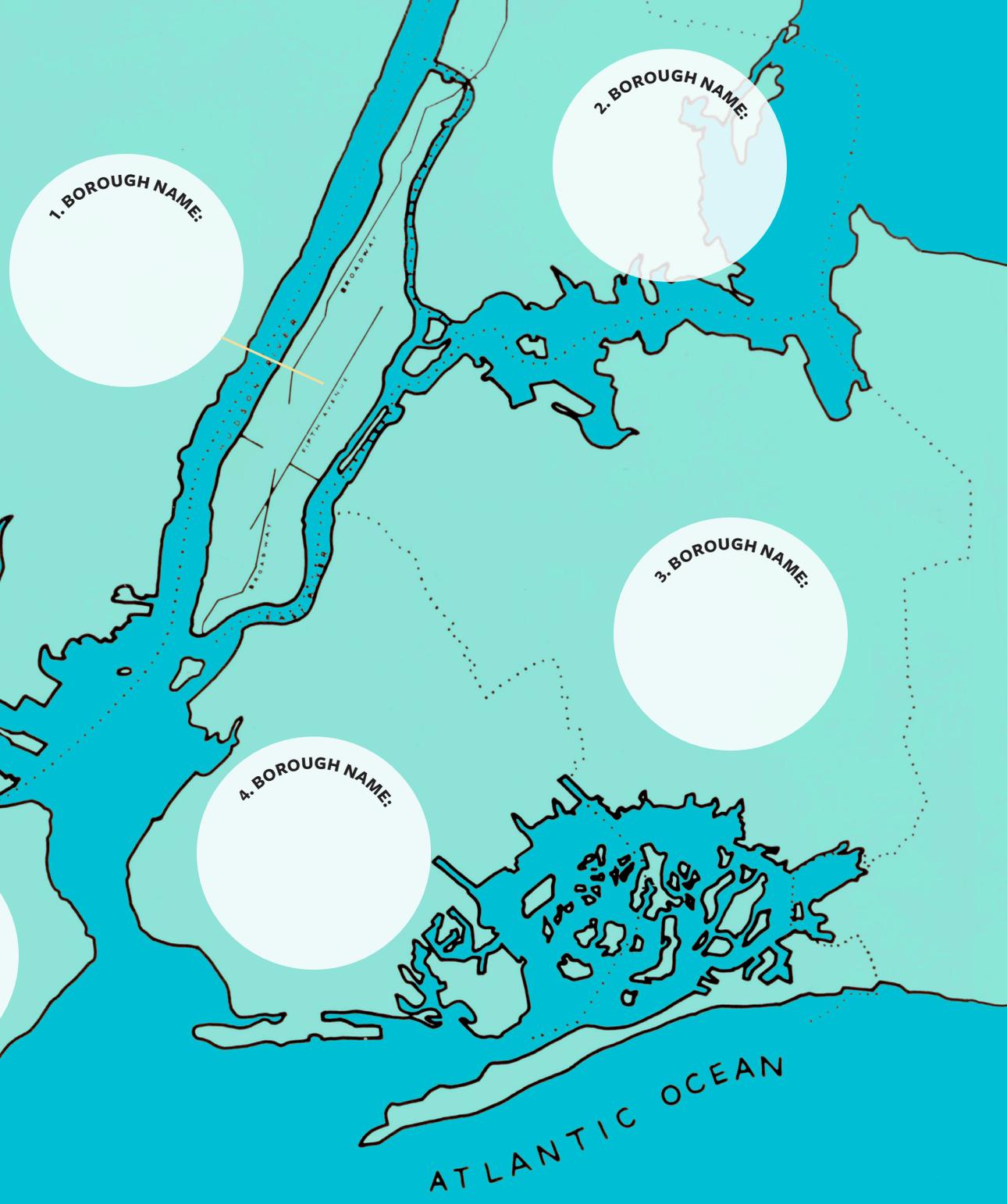
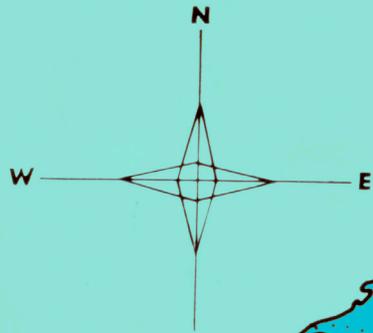
In-gallery &
Take-home
Activities



Joe Macken created this model to represent New York City, including the communities that we live, go to school, play, and work in. New York City has 5 boroughs:

MANHATTAN
THE BRONX
BROOKLYN
STATEN ISLAND
QUEENS

Fill in the blanks and use them as a guide to complete the activity on the next page.



Welcome to New York!

Welcome to *He Built this City: Joe Macken's Model*, an exhibition that features the work of an artist from Middle Village, Queens named Joe Macken.

Macken has carefully sculpted a miniature representation, or **model**, of the whole city with the exact same height and length, but in smaller form, which is called **scale**.

Macken has worked on this model for 21 years using everyday materials, including balsa wood, cardboard, and glue. He started with Manhattan and worked his way out to represent the buildings, parks, rivers, and other structures that make up all of New York City.

This kids' guide features interactive activities for visitors of all ages to enjoy the exhibition through close looking, imagination, reflection, and collaborative discussion. Joe Macken's model presents an exciting opportunity to explore the role of memory and creativity in documenting the ever-evolving city.

Grab a pencil and a pair of binoculars in the gallery to explore Joe Macken's model!

Find the answer key on page 8 along with fun facts!

Around the City in a Gallery Visit

Grab a set of binoculars, look closely, and see if you can answer the following questions.



If you were **catching a plane**, which borough would you go to?



If you wanted to visit the **tallest building** in NYC, which borough would you go to?

Which borough has the **most skyscrapers**?

Which borough has the **most beaches**?

If you were standing in the **biggest park** in NYC, which borough would you be standing in?



Sound and Memory

“When I would lay in my bed as a kid in the summertime, we’d have the windows open because we never had air conditioning. We used to just lay there and roast and very faintly you could hear the tugboats in New York Harbor blowing their horns, like in the morning especially when everything is really quiet.”

– Joe Macken, *artist*



Wurts Bros. (New York, NY) X2010.7.1.16073

Close Your Eyes. Think about a sound you hear in New York City. Where are you when you hear this sound? Draw something from that place.

Guess that NYC Place

Put your thinking skills to the test by guessing which iconic NYC buildings and structure are described in the riddles below. **Draw a line to connect the riddle to its matching place.**



I'm a big boat that goes splash, splash, splash,
I carry people; across the river, I dash
I ride the water to and fro—
Which free orange NYC boat do you know?

I'm big and open with lots of green space to play,
Between 59th and 110th,
where bikes zoom past all day.
You can visit the zoo or stare at the sky—
Horses even go by; what park in the city am I?

“Three strikes, you’re out!”
The umpire did say,
At which ballpark,
Does the pinstripe baseball team play?

I'm a shiny ball that's big and round,
Standing tall where parks are found.
I look like Earth without a face—
What giant globe is in Queens' place?

I have rides that spin and treats galore,
A sandy beach for toes and feet to explore.
A Wonder Wheel that makes you whirl,
What fun place by the sea lets you go for a twirl?

**Yankee Stadium
(The Bronx)**

**Coney Island
(Brooklyn)**

**Unisphere
(Queens)**

**Staten Island
Ferry**

**Central Park
(Manhattan)**

Courage and the Model

“My biggest fear was when I did the Rockaway Peninsula, [getting right] the distance from that to Coney Island... I wanted it to be right, because I wanted the city to look exactly the way it really looks. It was unbelievable that it turned out to be perfect, so I was very happy.”

– Joe Macken, *artist*



This model of the city took Joe 21 years to make. How old are you? Can you imagine taking that much time to work on one project?!

Name a time when you did something that was hard and were proud to have tried or overcome a challenge.

ANSWER KEY

P 2 - Guess that NYC Borough

1. Manhattan
2. The Bronx
3. Queens
4. Brooklyn
5. Staten Island

P 4 - Around the City in a Gallery Visit

Queens is home to NYC's two airports, John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport and LaGuardia Airport (LGA).

One World Trade Center in **Manhattan** is the tallest building in the city and the 7th tallest building in the world!

Manhattan is dotted with multiple skyscrapers, particularly in the Midtown and lower Manhattan areas, giving the city its reputation for its world-renowned skyline.

Staten Island has four beaches, including Midland Beach, South Beach, Cedar Grove Beach and Wolfe's Pond Beach.

Pelham Bay Park (2,765 acres) in the **Bronx** is the largest park in NYC and is more than 3 times the size of Manhattan's Central Park (843 acres).

Keep Learning

Want to learn more about New York City and see other models of iconic symbols and buildings? Visit *New York at Its Core* where you'll find models of the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, and learn about what makes New York City the greatest city in the world.

Stay Connected!

Learn more about our family programs at mcny.org/education.

P 6 - Guess that NYC Place

The **Staten Island Ferry** hasn't always been free! In 1997, former mayor Rudy Giuliani ended the 50-cent fare to improve transit and gain the support of Staten Island voters.

Central Park is home to more than 18,000 trees that help to clean the air and keep the city cool on a hot summer day.

Yankee Stadium has had two homes in the Bronx! The Yankees moved from their original stadium (1923-2008) to a newly built stadium in 2009.

The **Unisphere** weighs 700,000 pounds making it the largest globe in size and weight in the world.

Coney Island is believed to be the first place in the country to sell hot dogs, started by German immigrant Charles Feltman in 1871.

He Built This City: Joe Macken's Model is made possible with lead support from Todd DeGarmo | STUDIOS Architecture. Additional support provided by Amazon, RUDIN, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with New York City Council, and other generous funders.

Museum of the City of New York's Family Programs are made possible, in part, by the Rochlis Family Foundation, The Eshe Fund, public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.