Los Angeles (CA)

Los Angeles is the largest city in the state of California (CA), and 2nd the whole of the USA, with 3.9 million people. LA covers an area of 503 square miles and is built on the west coast of the USA, by the Pacific Ocean.

The name Los Angeles is Spanish and translates as City of Angels. People from LA are called Angelenos, they are from 140 countries, and speak 86 different languages.

The city was officially founded in 1781, although Spanish people had been living there for centuries. LA was captured by Mexico in 1821, but the USA bought it back in 1848.

LA is the film and television capital of the USA, therefore it is nicknamed 'Tinseltown' because of the shiny and bright life of the Hollywood stars.

Tourists in LA can visit the Hollywood sign and the Walk of Fame. Many people go on tours to see the mansions that the stars live in.

New Orleans (LA)

New Orleans is the largest city in the state of Louisiana (LA) with 380,000 people. The city covers an area of 350 square miles and is built along the Mississippi River. New Orleans was founded by the French in 1718.

New Orleans is famous for jazz music, with stars such as Louis Armstrong playing in bars in the French Quarter of the city. It was nicknamed 'The Big Easy' after people found it easy to buy alcohol there even after it was made illegal in the USA in the 1930s.

New Orleans has tropical weather and is surrounded by swamps. It has had many hurricanes and tropical storms.

Every year a festival called Mardi Gras brings thousands of tourists to the city for a huge carnival. People dress up in colourful costumes and masks, and dance in the streets to celebrate.

Houston (TX)

Houston is the largest city in the state of Texas (TX), and 4th the whole of the USA, with 2.2 million people who call themselves Houstonians.

The city was officially founded in 1836, and named after Sam Houston (a former leader of Texas).

The city covers an area of 628 square miles and is built around a slow river called Buffalo Bayou.

Houston has the nickname 'Space City'. The NASA space centre is based in Houston and leads the way in space research and exploration. This is why in films you may hear astronauts say 'Houston can you hear me?' The Space Center has many exhibits including moon rocks and a shuttle simulator.

The names of Houston's sports teams are all after features of space: the Astros, the Aeros, and the Comets.

Chicago (IL)

Chicago is the 3rd largest city in the USA, and the largest city in the state of Illinois (IL). It has 2.7 million people who call themselves Chicagoans. Chicago officially became a city in 1837.

The city covers an area of 234 square miles and is on the edge of a huge freshwater lake called Lake Michigan. The Chicago and Calumet rivers run through the city.

Chicago's largest airport is called O'Hare, and it's the busiest airport in the whole world, with 70 million passengers every year!

Chicago is famously nicknamed 'The Windy City'. Many think that this is because of the windy weather that blows in from Lake Michigan, but it is actually because of its politicians who make promises that they don't keep.