San Francisco  Myths and heroes  What makes a city legendary?

LEGENDARY CITIES  What makes a city legendary?

The two cities are completely different / worlds apart. While one is on the East Coast, the other is in California. There are numerous high-rise buildings in New York, while San Francisco looks much more European / is essentially composed of semi-detached Victorian houses. To me, New York is the more interesting of the two. San Francisco is much more interesting than New York. I’d rather visit San Francisco.

What makes it legendary / amazing / incredible is... What I find / she finds fascinating / captivating / appealing about San Francisco is that it reminds her of the sixties.

The Golden Gate Bridge is an icon. It’s like the Eiffel Tower in Paris. It’s the foggiest city I have ever seen.

Pages d’ouverture  p. 20-21

Get ready!, p. 21 (CD 1&2)

Script
Boy: What makes a city legendary? Well, its buildings, its famous places, to me New York is legendary! Everything there seems gigantic, immense, huge, extraordinary! The skyscrapers, Times Square, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island...

Girl: I’d say a city is first and foremost known for its identity! For what characterizes it. Take San Francisco for example. When I think about San Francisco I think about California and its weather, always warm... Then I think about all the films that show car chases in the hills of San Francisco.

There are also the different districts in the city: the Hispanic area, the Mission or Chinatown, extraordinary Chinatown!

And then, there are the iconic landmarks that are world famous, like the Golden Gate Bridge! Everybody knows the Golden Gate Bridge. It was one of the longest steel bridges built at the time, it’s high, it’s beautiful, and it’s red! That’s what makes it unique! It looks quite mysterious. Often surrounded by fog, San Francisco is known as “Fog City”.

When I think about San Francisco, I associate it with past events: like the birth of the hippie movement at the end of the sixties and this song (sings): “If you’re going to San Francisco... be sure to wear, some flowers in your hair... If you’re going to San Francisco, you’re gonna meet, some gentle people there”. Everyone thinks of San Francisco when they think of hippies.

1. Selon la production des élèves.

2. One of the longest steel bridges built at the time / it’s red / often surrounded by fog / it’s high / it’s an iconic landmark / it’s world famous


Get ready!  3

1. Describe the picture and say what atmosphere it conveys.
2. Listen to the recording and find out more about the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.
3. Read the quotation and explain what San Francisco evokes for you.
4. Pairwork. Make a list of what makes a city legendary and think of other cities. Explain your choices to your partner.
Lonely planet guide worksheet

Tourisme : see the sights – have the time of one’s life – guidebook – holidaymaker – go on a trip / journey – go for a walk


Write a tweet about San Francisco saying what you would like to see or do there.

The birth of a city, p. 22

1848: beginning of the California Gold Rush (end: 1855).
49ers: name given to the 300,000 gold miners who came to California from America, Latin America, Europe, Australia and Asia.

January 1848-December 1849: growth of the population in San Francisco (from 1,000 to 25,000).
Until 1920: San Francisco was America’s largest city west of the Mississippi river (city planning, urbanisation, housing projects).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3IjvXqEHynQ
THE BIRTH OF A CITY

1- This is a picture of San Francisco in 1846; two years before the Californian Gold Rush of 1848. In the foreground there are ships, which probably transport people or goods into the port. San Francisco looks like a small village with a few houses which are not enclosed in the background, a natural environment (gardens, fields, prairies...) and probably few residents. Yerba Buena then became San Francisco.

3. Since many gold-seekers travelled from Europe and / or from the east coast to California, the population in San Francisco increased tremendously. The town became more and more populated and even bigger.

Extraordinary people and events 1

THE GOLD RUSH

Discovery / challenge / California / immigrants / successful / millionaires / rags to riches.

It was a migration of people from all around the world to a place / area where gold was discovered. Gold-mining generally gave rise to / led to waves of immigration and boosted the economy of the area.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxekRM5-uMU

the start of the CA gold rush (6'57'') worksheet
RECAP:

Dates: 1839 - January 24, 1848 - Numbers: 12,000 head of cattle - hundreds of people two men - $12 billion of riches - a single penny - $900,000 - Facts: Arrival of John Sutter in America - James Marshall was sent to build a sawmill near J. Sutter’s fort where he found gold - Both men kept the secret - Contrary to Sutter who refused to capitalize on this discovery, Sam Brannan became the richest man in California selling tools to the gold-miners.

James Marshall was the one who gave impetus to the Gold Rush in California since he was at the origin of the discovery.

Both men are definitely associated with the Californian Gold Rush however, their role was different: contrary to Sam Brannan who used this discovery to create a business and become rich, John Sutter refused to make money on it.

Extraordinary people and events 2  ICONIC JEANS

1. Describe the picture and guess the content of the video.
2. Watch the first 38 seconds without the sound. Take notes. Imagine what you will hear, then listen and check.
3. Watch the rest of the video and pick out numbers, places, people and events. Say what they refer to.
4. Pick out information about Jacob Davis. Explain his invention.
5. Say how Levi Strauss helped Jacob Davis.
6. Use the keywords below to discuss how jeans have become “a metaphor for America itself”: rags to riches – success story – start from scratch – pioneer spirit – cowboys.

It’s a documentary about Levi’s, which is a trendy and worldwide famous label / brand. It shows that jeans have been worn by all sorts of people at all times. Jeans are ageless / timeless. A pair of jeans is essential to one’s wardrobe.

Suggestion : *It seems to be a promotional video. Levi’s is presented as a symbol of America / inherent to / intrinsically linked with the American spirit / style / values.*

Insister sur l’aspect indissociable, ce qui permettra peut-être de faire comprendre la métaphore “*woven into the fabric of America*”.

In 1853, Levi Strauss took advantage of the Gold Rush / he moved to the West to make a fortune. There were no trains at the time (“merely an idea”), so it must have been a long and perilous trip on horseback / with wagons / through Indian territories. He probably emigrated from Europe like many immigrants at the time.

Although the rivet was originally meant for people who had to work hard / outdoors, it is still what makes the brand specific / iconic / special today.

Suggestion : They benefited from the Gold Rush although they didn’t take an active part in it. Like Sam Brannan, they knew how to use the Gold Rush as a merchandising tool for their jeans.

3. **Numbers:** 49ers: name given to the gold-miners – 68: amount of money given by Levi to Davis – **Places:** America – the American West – California’s gold mines – San Francisco – West Coast – New York: place where Levi Strauss’s family had a dry goods business / where he came from – People: Jacob Davis and Levi Strauss: inventors of the first jeans – his family – Events: 1853: arrival of Levi Strauss in SF to make his fortune – May 20, 1873: they were granted the patent for the world’s first jeans – Civil War: ended a decade before the first jeans were invented.

4. **Jacob Davis** was a tailor who reinforced pants with metal rivets and rendered them more robust / functional. He invented modern jeans.
5. Jacob had no money to complete the patent application. Levi gave him the money he needed and they became partners.

6. The story of the iconic US jeans is first the story of two men who sought their fortune in the American West. It’s a success story: Jacob Davis went from rags to riches. He started from scratch and became rich. It’s the American Dream. Endowed with a pioneer spirit, both Davis and Levi Strauss developed their business and contributed to turning their jeans into a metaphor for America itself. The fact that cowboys often wore Levis jeans helped this brand become emblematic of America.

From trauma to art


There was a big earthquake in 1906. It is the biggest earthquake California has ever known. The photo must have been taken in April or May 1906, just after this earthquake. Numerous people were left homeless. In spite of the horror, this family is trying to live a normal life, they are dressed properly, the table is set as if they were still in their home.

California is riddled with faults / numerous faults crisscross the area of San Francisco / the ground is unstable.

Although the danger is still real / there has already been an enormous earthquake in 1906 / an ensuing fire ravaged the entire city / many buildings
A British environmentalist artist / produces site specific sculpture

Andy Goldsworthy probably wanted to make a discreet, almost imperceptible reference to the numerous faults that lie under the city. Visitors may think it is not intentional / that it is just a crack in the floor.

It shows that the danger always lurks under the surface. It’s the artist’s way of making us think about unpredictable / unforeseeable natural disasters and the fears they generate. + CO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Places</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Catastrophe</th>
<th>Figures</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>People</th>
<th>Feelings / attitude</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>April 18th, 1906•</td>
<td>devastating earthquake shook the city•</td>
<td>Thousands•</td>
<td>3 major earthquake shows•</td>
<td>San Franciscans•</td>
<td>ablaze with remembrances and warnings of future earthquakes•</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Art museums</td>
<td>one hundred years ago•</td>
<td>deadly•</td>
<td>3,000•</td>
<td>museums / photos / earthquake tours•</td>
<td>Jack London•</td>
<td>pride• fear not serious enough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Call Building</td>
<td>today</td>
<td>homeless•</td>
<td>490 million•</td>
<td>celebrating•</td>
<td>Annemarie Conroy•</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Golden Gate Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>live in tents•</td>
<td>a quarter of a million•</td>
<td>floral displays in parc</td>
<td>(director of emergency services)•</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>homes damaged / burned•</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>grandparents•</td>
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The 1906 earthquake: it was the most devastating earthquake San Franciscans had ever experienced. It left millions homeless.

Present day commemorations: Celebrations were organized for the anniversary of the earthquake in 2006 in several places, among which museums and Golden Gate Park.

Golden Gate Park served as a campground for homeless people after the 1906 earthquake.

People’s feelings / attitude: In spite of the certainty of a future earthquake, people seem unaware of the danger. They’d rather celebrate than stay at home / it’s no use being afraid, it won’t change anything.
A HISTORICAL DISASTER

3. Date: April 18, 1906 – Time: 5:13 a.m – Origin: the San Andreas Fault which was ruptured along 296 miles stretching from the north to the south of the city – Epicenter: offshore of San Francisco – Population of SF at the time: about 400,000 - Number of victims: more than 3,000 people died, 250,000 were made homeless – Number of buildings destroyed: 28,000 – Greatest damage: due to the fires that burned for several days after the quake. Reconstruction: San Francisco quickly recovered from the earthquake, planners created a new and improved city.

4. Jack London is both an eyewitness and an extremely famous writer. He is part of the history of San Francisco, since he was born there in 1876, so he was just 30 at the time of the earthquake. At that age, he had already participated in the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897 and written several short stories which he published in magazines and which allowed him to earn a living. In 1903 he became famous for his novel The Call of the Wild, and in 1904 he worked as a journalist for the San Francisco Examiner to cover the Russo-Japanese war.

5. Numbers: “hundreds of thousands of dollars’ worth” (l. 2), “hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth” (l. 4), “hundreds of millions” (l. 5-6), “a dozen different quarters” (l. 10), “tens of thousands of homeless ones” (l. 15), “tens of thousands of refugees” (l. 18) - Comparisons: “not in history” (l. 7), “like the crater of a volcano” (l. 17)
3. Andy Goldsworthy has created a crack in the floor that seems to lead people to the entrance of the museum. The fissure goes through the big stones that probably also serve as seats for the visitors. He may have intended to attract people’s attention to the numerous faults in this area and the ever-present danger of a new earthquake.

5. Factual information about the earthquake: April 18th, a hundred years ago (1906) - Way San Franciscans have of remembering the event: three major art museums have earthquake shows featuring photos / some taken by Jack London, earthquake tours for tourists, floral display in Golden Gate Park.

6. What seems paradoxical: It is the most devastating earthquake there has ever been in this area, and there are events all over the city to remind people of this tragedy and warn them of a possible future earthquake. And yet, it seems that people don’t take the risk of an earthquake seriously enough.
Extraordinary people and events 3

THE BEAT GENERATION


The photo was taken in at the end of the 60s. It’s more than ten years after the Beat Generation. Hippies believed in peace and love / make love, not war. It was the time of the Vietnam War in America. They believed in non-violence...

D. The Beat Generation, p. 24

Script

Journalist: San Francisco’s Beat poets from sixty years ago might not recognize their city today. Amid all the tech start-ups and all social media entrepreneurs though, one familiar face remains: Lawrence Ferlinghetti. He was the main publisher of Beat generation poets like Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg. Today he is still co-owner of City Lights, one of the most celebrated independent bookstores in America. At age ninety-six, Ferlinghetti is publishing three books this year. NPR’s Richard Gonzalez recently paid him a visit to talk about his latest work.

Richard Gonzalez: Lawrence Ferlinghetti lives in a modest second-story walk-up in San Francisco’s North Beach neighborhood. On his walls his doctorate from the Sorbonne, an unframed Gauguin print and posters of celebrated poetry readings dating back to the days when he personified a hip, literate and rebellious San Francisco. (00:53)

Ferlinghetti was a young bookstore owner in 1956 when he first published Allen Ginsberg’s iconic Beat-era poem, “Howl.”

Allen Ginsberg reading “Howl”: “I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving, hysterical, naked!”

Richard Gonzalez: Ginsberg’s poem is a critique of American materialism and sexually explicit, its publication landed Ferlinghetti and an associate in hot water. They were busted for selling obscene literature and their trial drew international attention. The “Howl” trial also brought national attention to what would be called the Beat Generation; it included writers like William S. Burroughs and Jack Kerouac.
It looks as though Haight-Ashbury still lived in the memory of the hippie-period / Although people haven't forgotten the hippie movement, it seems to have become... It used to be a place where people lived on peace and love. It has become a tourist trap today.

1. Numbers: 75,000 young people – between 15 and 30 – 50,000 to 100,000 more kids –

Facts: 75,000 young people gathered in the streets of San Francisco in 1967 for the Summer of Love. It was a celebration of love and utopianism. Selon la production des élèves.

A place of social progress


A place of gay activism

2. Places: (the streets of) San Francisco, California, city schools, French American (the narrator’s school), City Hall – People: Anita Bryant (l. 1, l. 6): anti-homosexuality activist from Florida – George Moscone (l. 20): Mayor of San Francisco, first mayor to appoint openly gay men and women – Gina Moscone (l. 42): his wife, Harvey Milk (l. 25) – Dianne Feinstein (l. 28), Dan White (l. 37): Supervisors (supervisors belong to the county board of Supervisors who also act as the city council in SF, work with the mayor) – gay men and women – the crowd – war reporters – Dates: June 1977: year when Newsweek published a cover with “Anita Bryant vs The Homosexuals” – 1975: G. Moscone’s election – August 2nd, 1977: Harvey Milk’s election (first openly gay man elected to public office in America) – on November 27th, 1977: G. Moscone and H. Milk were gunned down in their offices.

3. Harvey Milk: Member of the board of Supervisors under Mayor George Moscone, 1977. Only three months after his election, he was shot down in his office, along with the mayor, probably by another Supervisor (Dan White). He was “the first openly gay man (to be) elected to public office in California” (l. 24-25), that’s why he is still remembered today and has become a symbol of the fight for gay rights.

4. Anita Bryant’s campaign: Anita Bryant led a campaign against homosexuals in Florida. She won the campaign against an anti-discrimination ordinance in 1977.
5. Selon la production des élèves - When Anita Bryant won, the gay community demonstrated in San Francisco and in the rest of the country for five days. It triggered a sudden consciousness of the gay community and led to a greater unity between gay men and women, who used to lead separate fights. There was also a rise in the number of homosexuals living in San Francisco, which affected political life, since homosexuals now represented one out of five votes in San Francisco. Mayor George Moscone became known for the nomination of several openly gay men and women to government positions. Harvey Milk was elected Supervisor after several unsuccessful election campaigns, but both he and Mayor Moscone were killed by Supervisor Dan White the same year. After their assassination, protests became more violent, especially when the very light sentence for Dan White was announced.

A place of tolerance

1. Purpose of the text: It’s a letter from Michael, who lives in San Francisco, to his mother and father who live in Florida. He has decided to tell them that he is gay / to come out.

2. Michael’s parents: They are involved in Anita Bryant’s Save Our Children campaign, which must be the anti-homosexual campaign she leads. They obviously don’t know that their own child is a homosexual. They must be very narrow-minded people who think homosexuals are intrinsically bad, since Michael feels it important to tell them that he wasn’t “recruited” by someone else (l. 16) and that homosexuals are neither “radicals” nor “weirdos” (l. 28). They must have kept their son in complete ignorance about the subject. The reference to “saving” probably shows they are also very religious and that they believe being homosexual is being sinful, which was probably the norm at the time.

3. In San Francisco, Michael discovered that there was a place where people did not judge you because of your sexuality (l. 26-27), that homosexuals and
people who respect them as “person(s)” (l. 32) were not necessarily outcasts, but ordinary people, such as “shop clerks” or “bankers” (l. 28-29). He feels at “home” (l. 24) in this city that helped him to accept himself as a normal human being (“brought me into the family of man”, l. 36). He probably decided to move because he had heard that there was a greater tolerance towards homosexuals at that time in the 1970s and because he felt ill-at-ease in Orlando.

He can live his life as he pleases. He doesn’t have to live according to other people’s idea of what is right or wrong.

Now that he lives in San Francisco, he must realize how bigoted / narrow-minded his parents are. Even though he tries to explain the situation, he realizes they cannot possibly understand what he went through. He probably feels estranged from his parents and their lifestyle. He needs to keep his distance from them to be able to live his own life.

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**Grammar, p. 30**

**Les modaux et équivalents**

1. capacité et permission
   *can* utilisé pour le présent – *could* pour le passé - l’équivalent (*be allowed to*) est utilisé pour le futur

2. Les deux expriment l’obligation.
   Les temps : phrase 1 au présent, phrase 2 au passé. En gras : le modal *must*, encadrés : *had to* = équivalent. Règle : *must* est possible au présent mais pas au passé.

3. **Structure 1** : *should* + *have* + pp : exprime un reproche. **Structure 2** : *should* + BV : exprime un conseil

4. *You don’t have to* = absence d’obligation / *You mustn’t* = interdiction

**Now your turn, p. 30**

(1) should – (2) don’t have to – (3) could – (4) be able to - (5) must
Il y a cinquante ans, trois hommes se sont évadés de la prison américaine d’Alcatraz dans les eaux glacées de la Baie de San Francisco à bord d’un radeau créé à partir d’imperméables. Il s’agit d’une des évasions les plus audacieuses dans l’histoire des États-Unis. La légende dit que si ces hommes ont survécu, ils reviendront le jour du cinquantième anniversaire de leur évasion. Cet anniversaire, c’était hier. Frank Morris et John et Clarence Anglin ont creusé un tunnel dans leur cellule, essentiellement avec des cuillères et se sont échappés. Ils n’ont jamais été revus. Marie Widner est la petite soeur de deux des fugitifs. Elle avait une vingtaine d’années au moment des faits et elle ne croira jamais à leur mort. Elle a appris leur évasion à la radio. Les enquêteurs ont fini par retrouver une pagaie, deux gilets de sauvetage, un sac en plastique scellé avec des lettres et adresses mais aucun signe des trois hommes.
How to understand a recording

Script (CD1:10)

Male journalist: Fifty years ago three men set out into the frigid waters of the San Francisco Bay in a raft made out of raincoats. They were taking part in one of the most daring prison escapes in US history.

Most people assume the men have been at the bottom of the bay since the night they broke free from Alcatraz. But the legend has held that if they survive, the men would return on the 50th anniversary of their escape. Highly unlikely scenario but that anniversary was yesterday and NPR’s Laura Sullivan spent the day on Alcatraz, she wasn’t the only one.

Laura Sullivan: Exactly 50 years ago, Frank Morris and John and Clarence Anglin looked out at these exact same turbulent waters, and they knew that in just a few hours they would be heading out in their homemade raft, it was such a brilliant plan, a year in the making. They tunneled their way out of their cells using largely kitchen spoons. And they climbed up the plumbing to the roof of this large beige building behind me and shimmied down the drainpipe that’s still hugging the wall right now. They ran down to the water and right here set off and they were never seen again.

Marie Widner: I’ll never believe they’re dead; I don’t believe they’re dead.

Laura Sullivan: Marie Widner is John and Clarence Anglin’s little sister. She was in her 20s when she heard the news.

Marie Widner: I was listening to the radio when they told about it, and I cut my iron off and I run to my neighbors’ house and said, “Did you hear what was on the radio? My brothers escaped from Alcatraz.”

Investigators eventually found a paddle, a couple of life vests, a sealed plastic bag with letters and addresses, but no sign of the men.


Compte rendu en français

| En gras : | les mots accentués, faciles à comprendre, niveau A2 |
| Souligné : | explicite, ce qui relève du niveau B1 |
| En italique : | explicite et implicite relevant du niveau B2 |
| Sans enrichissement : | le détail / l’implicite |
A. Understand a recording [CD 1►12]

Script

A changing Mission

The story of the Mission district is a story of belonging. Who belongs in the Mission and who does the Mission belong to? As one of San Francisco’s oldest neighbourhoods, it has weathered waves of change over the centuries. But this wave is moving faster than any of the others. Some worry that their neighbourhood will be washed away.

New forces are reshaping the neighbourhood faster than ever. San Francisco’s latest tech boom has brought wealthy new residents to the Mission and housing prices and rents have never been higher.

From 1990 to 2012 there has been an 11% decrease in the number of Hispanic residents. Erick Arguello grew up near 24th Street. For two decades he’s been working to preserve the neighbourhood’s latino heritage.

Erick Arguello, community organizer: There is a lot of tension, there’s a lot of tension in the neighbourhood between the old and the new. I’ve had folks come in from out of town, who grew up in the neighbourhood, who haven’t been back in a while, and they’re shocked, they’re really shocked, they say: Where is the Latino community? They’re not here. This is a gold mine, you know, people are coming from all over the country, all over the world, coming to San Francisco, you know, it’s a Gold Rush. But for us, this is our little small town.

Compte rendu en français

En gras : les mots accentués, faciles à comprendre, niveau A2
Souillé : explicite, ce qui relève du niveau B1
En italique : explicite et implicite relevant du niveau B2
Sans enrichissement : le détail / l’implicite

Selon la production des élèves. L’histoire du quartier de Mission, l’un des plus anciens de San Francisco, est l’histoire d’un quartier en plein changement. C’est l’histoire d’une appartenance à un quartier. Ce quartier a toujours changé, mais change encore plus vite aujourd’hui surtout à cause des nouvelles technologies et ses conséquences : l’arrivée d’habitants plus riches dans le quartier qui ont fait exploser les prix de l’immobilier.

Entre 1990 et 2012, il y a eu une baisse de 11 % de la population hispanique. Erick Arquello a grandi près de la 24e Rue et se bat depuis vingt ans pour préserver l’héritage latino-américain du quartier. Son témoignage révèle de fortes tensions entre les anciens et les nouveaux habitants du quartier. Certains de ses amis sont choqués quand ils reviennent dans le quartier et se demandent où est passée la population hispanique. Il compare ce qui se passe dans le quartier à la ruée vers l’or. Les gens viennent du monde entier et transforment leur petite ville natale.