



Compréhension de l'écrit et expression écrite

Le sujet porte sur l'axe 8 du programme : **Territoire et mémoire.**

Il s'organise en deux parties :

1. Compréhension de l'écrit

2. Expression écrite

Afin de respecter l'anonymat de votre copie, vous ne devez pas signer votre composition, ni citer votre nom, celui d'un camarade ou celui de votre établissement.

Texte

How Mohawk¹ 'Skywalkers' Help Build New York City's Tallest Skyscrapers

Native American riveting gangs² worked on the 'high steel' for iconic structures like the Chrysler Building, Empire State Building, Rockefeller Plaza and more.

Native Americans aren't often associated with New York City and its dense, vertical landscape. With so many Indian nations pushed to America's frontier in the 19th century, they usually appear in popular culture as denizens³ of the rural West, occupying wide open spaces replete with tipis, buffalo and pow wows. Yet the Mohawk Nation has deep roots in metropolitan New York City—where, beginning in the early 20th century [...] Mohawk ironworkers contributed to building many of the iconic skyscrapers that dominate the Manhattan skyline.

These "Skywalkers" have for generations travelled far and wide to work on the "high steel," bringing back good wages to support their home communities such as Kahnawake, Six Nations Reserve and Akwesasne in northern New York State and southeastern Canada.

"It became a rite of passage really," said Lynn Beauvais, a Kahnawake resident and grandmother from a fourth-generation ironworker family. [...] "The men were thrilled to

¹ a Native American tribe

² a group of workers whose job is to fix and secure a metallic structure

³ residents

Modèle CCYC : ©DNE

Nom de famille (naissance) :

(Suivi s'il y a lieu, du nom d'usage)

Prénom(s) :

N° candidat :

N° d'inscription :



Né(e) le :

(Les numéros figurent sur la convocation.)

1.1

15 be working away from home and seeing new sights. They were a band of brothers. But our men had always traveled—for the hunt, the fur trade or as lumber men.”

20 The Mohawk Skywalker tradition began in 1886 when some daring Mohawk men from Kahnawake took jobs helping build the Victoria Bridge across the St. Lawrence River, which borders their reserve near Montreal. Just as early European settlers had observed Mohawks walking fearlessly across rivers on narrow logs, early ironworkers showed an unusual aptitude for climbing and working on steel beams. Having once hunted, trapped and farmed throughout the northeast woodlands, the Mohawks of the Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois Confederacy, eventually took to the high steel in burgeoning metropolitan areas. These indigenous riveting gangs spoke their native languages on the job while helping to build the Chrysler Building, Empire State Building, Rockefeller Plaza and many other structures that shaped the New York City skyline in the 1920s and 1930s. [...]

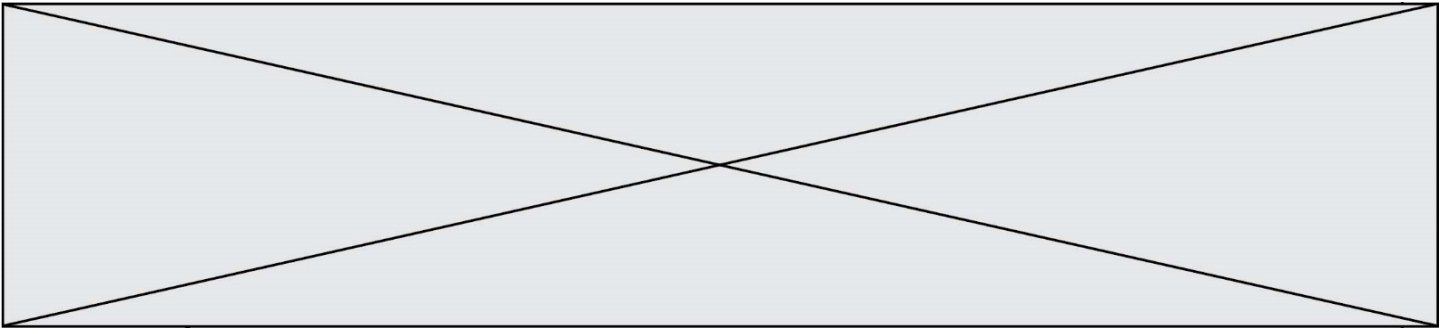
30 What began as a high-paying vocation became a tribal tradition as fathers and grandfathers taught their sons and grandsons to handle their fears effectively. The Skywalker tradition was passed down for many generations as Mohawks worked the high steel from Ontario to Chicago and Philadelphia, and as far away as San Francisco. They even established a neighborhood of their own in Brooklyn, New York. [...]

35 Advances in metallurgy during the early 1900s had made it possible for architects to design much taller buildings using a skeleton of hardened steel, fastened by riveting gangs. [...] Mohawks worked on the 1,046-foot Chrysler Building, a stainless-steel-sided Art Deco masterpiece that was completed in 1930. It was the tallest building in the world until, less than a year later, it was surpassed by the Empire State Building at 1,250 feet, also with the help of Mohawks. Skywalkers then helped out on Rockefeller Plaza, which was finished in 1933.

40 Lynn Beauvais’ grandfather Joseph Jocks worked on several of them. He told her that during the Great Depression men were desperate for jobs. “Men would wait in the street for someone to fall off so they could take their job. My grandmother would walk miles to find day-old bread to eat, but they survived.”

45 Beauvais was proud of her grandfather’s work on the Empire State Building, once the tallest building in the world. “But when I got older, he told me there were going to be other buildings even taller—the World Trade Center towers. I was sad that my Empire State Building was going to be outdone, but Joe Jocks also went to work on the Trade Towers.”

Tony Tekaroniake Evans, <https://www.history.com>, May 13, 2021



1. Compréhension de l'écrit (10 points)

Give an account of the text, **in English** and in your own words, paying particular attention to the way the Native-American workers contributed to building New-York.

2. Expression écrite (10 points)

Vous traiterez, **en anglais** et en **120 mots** au moins, l'**un** des deux sujets suivants, au choix.

Sujet A

Write a speech for the inauguration of a statue celebrating the Indian American heritage.

Sujet B

Should minorities' contributions be remembered? Give examples drawn from the English-speaking world.