

THE CHRYSLER BUILDING IN NEW YORK

1 Read the text on the Chrysler Building and find the required information.

The *Chrysler Building*, the favourite skyscraper among New Yorkers, was designed by William Van Alen for a project of Walter P. Chrysler, the automobile tycoon. Construction began in September 1928. In total, almost 400,000 nails were used and approximately 3,826,000 bricks were manually laid, to create the walls of the skyscraper. It was the first man-made structure to stand taller than 300 m. Less than a year after it opened to the public on May 27, 1931, the Chrysler Building was surpassed in height by the Empire State Building, but the Chrysler Building is still the world's tallest steel-supported brick building. The Chrysler Building is considered a masterpiece of Art Deco architecture. The distinctive

ornamentation of the building is based on features that were then being used on Chrysler automobiles. The corners of the 61st floor are adorned with eagles, replicas of the 1929 Chrysler hood ornaments; on the 31st floor, the corner ornamentations are replicas of the 1929 Chrysler radiator caps. The Chrysler Building is also well-known for its terraced crown, composed of seven radiating terraced arches. The building was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1976. The Chrysler Building has been featured in several television programs, films, and other media. It was destroyed in the 1998 film, *Godzilla*, and in *Armageddon* it was struck by a meteor, causing its spire to come crashing to the ground.

Designer:

Sponsor:

Beginning of construction:

Building materials used:

Opening to public:

Architecture:

Ornamentation:

Recognition:

Crown:

Films:

