

WARM UP

1 What does R & D stand for? Why is it important?

✘ A **science or research park** is an area where scientific research and commercial development can be carried out together thanks to the co-operation between large and international businesses, research organisations and university centres of knowledge.

RESEARCH CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE IN THE USA

RTP – Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

Research Triangle Park is one of the oldest and largest **science parks*** in the United States. It is located near the towns of Raleigh, Durham and Cary, close to Raleigh-Durham International airport, and covers an area of 7,000 acres (2,832 hectares). RTP currently has 170 companies which include Fortune 100 and global companies (for example GlaxoSmithKline, IMB Corporation, Bayer, DuPont, Credit Suisse), small and start-up businesses and US federal government agencies (for example Center for Disease Control and Prevention, US Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences).

It has a long standing relationship with three leading research universities in the area (Duke University, North Carolina State University and University of North Carolina) and these university – business partnerships have meant that RTP is a centre of innovation and at the forefront of pioneering research, especially in the fields of biotechnology, information technology and clean technologies.

The research park offers a pleasant working environment with large green spaces with native trees, plants and wildlife, 27 kilometres of walking trails, a 6-km bike trail, softball fields and volleyball courts.

Source: www.rtp.org

MIT – Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is a world-class university offering undergraduate and graduate courses but which has had research as well as teaching as its key aim for the last 150 years. MIT has an inter-disciplinary approach to research so researchers are encouraged to collaborate across departments, fields and institutions as well as together with industries and businesses. Research projects are funded by the government, foundations and industry, with global names like BP, Ford Motor, Google, Intel, Samsung and Siemens involved as corporate sponsors and research partners.

These cutting edge research projects at MIT are often focused on global challenges facing our society, such as the MIT Energy Initiative and the David H Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research. The MIT Lincoln Laboratory, located in Lexington (MA), is a research and development centre for issues of national security.

The MIT campus has many modern, innovative buildings designed to reflect its forward-thinking spirit, and offers all the amenities like museums, art centres, libraries, sports facilities, social groups and activities that you would expect from a world-renowned educational and research facility, as well as the advantages given by its city location.



Source: <http://web.mit.edu/>

READING COMPREHENSION

2 Read the texts and tick which research facility (or both)...

- 1 is surrounded by nature
- 2 is also a university
- 3 is carrying out cancer research
- 4 collaborates with 3 universities
- 5 offers sport facilities
- 6 specialises in biotechnology
- 7 houses 170 companies
- 8 is situated in a city
- 9 has federal agencies on its site
- 10 has sponsorship from global companies

	RTP	MIT	BOTH
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SPEAKING

3 Answer these questions in pairs.

- Are there any science or research parks in your area/country?
- What about university research centres?
- What are the advantages of having a single centre for research where universities, research institutes and companies can collaborate together?
- Can you think of any disadvantages?