



Central Park



If you are visiting New York and would like a rest from the hustle and bustle of big city life, Central Park is the place to go. This year, New York's biggest open space celebrates its 150th birthday.

Wealthy residents of 19th century New York knew and admired the great parks of London and Paris, and wanted something like them in their own city – somewhere they could go for carriage rides and walks with their families.

So in July, 1853, New York State set aside over 700 acres of land in the middle of Manhattan to be used as a public place. The park's designers wanted to create a peaceful oasis in the city.

Building the park was not easy. The people who lived there, 1600 poor residents of the city, mostly Irish pig farmers, German gardeners and African-Americans had to be moved out. It took nearly 20 years to complete the idea of an English-style landscape, and build the roads and paths through Central Park.

At first, the park was mainly used by rich New Yorkers. People were not allowed to have picnics or games on the grass. But by the beginning of the 20th century, poorer immigrants had begun to use the park, too. The park went through a bad phase in the

visit it every year. It is a favourite place for joggers, walkers and inline skaters. You can even go riding there, and fish in the lakes – although you have to put anything you catch back into the water. You can also find stalls where you get soft drinks, hot dogs, French fries or some candy.

It is easy to reach Central Park. There are several subway stops to enter the park.

In an expensive city like New York one of the great things about Central Park is that it is free. There are free concerts there in the summer, and an annual Shakespeare festival. So instead of paying lots of money for one of the famous New York theaters you get a show for free there.

If you really want to get to know the park, you can go on free guided walks.

Adapted from: Read on, October Issue 2003, page 2 1970s. Crime was a problem, and people were afraid to walk in the park, especially at night. Old people were afraid of being robbed of their purses.

Things improved for Central Park in 1980, when a private, non-profit organisation, the Central Park Conservancy, started looking after it.

Today, Central Park is once again the place where New Yorkers – and tourists – go to relax and play. Around 25 million people



I. True, false, not in the text

1. Central Park has been the place to relax for 150 years.
2. It took 20 years to move out the residents to be able to build Central Park.
3. In the beginning it was not allowed to have picnics or parties in the park.
4. Crime is a problem and people are afraid to walk through the park at night.
5. There is a Shakespeare festival once a year.
6. About 25 million people visit Central Park every year.

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I. Answer the following questions in complete sentences....



7. Explain the reasons why Central Park was built.

8. What were the difficulties to build the park? (Name three difficulties)

9. Who used the park in the 19th century and what change took place in the 20th century?

10. Why do several million people visit Central Park every year? (Name three reasons)

2. find the correct words

11. We can take a taxi or go by subway/ _____.
12. In Central Park you can play basketball or you can jog/ _____.
13. It's a good chance/ _____ for you..
14. We had to wait in a long line/ _____.
15. The platform on top of the Empire State Building was full of people/ _____.
- He went into/ _____ the Statue of Liberty.
16. Jerry comes back/ _____ home at 8 pm.





3. Explain the following words in complete sentences:

17. skyscraper: _____

18. to park: _____

4. Negative questions:

Have a look at the pictures. Form negative questions.

			
You/like/jogging / park?	it/ be/ expensive / live / in New York?	Can/we/picnic / park?	Be/ crime / problem / in 1970s

19. _____

20. _____

21. _____

22. _____

5. To be allowed to/to be able to

Fill in the gaps. Use a form of 'to be allowed to' or of 'to be able to'.

23. Today people _____ buy some snacks at Central Park.

24. As soon as enough money was given by the State the builders _____ start working at the Park

25. In the 19th century you _____ have picnics or games in the park.

26. Today people _____ to play baseball at Central Park.

27. You _____ do some fun sport at the Central Park soon.

28.. Next year a law will be passed. People _____ organize their own big parties in the park.