

# DISCOVERIES

## A SECRET UNDER THE STREET

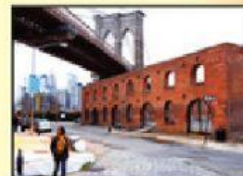
The Atlantic Avenue Tunnel was made in 1844 before the subway system was created in New York City. Steam trains traveling between New York City and Boston went through the tunnel. The trains drove by Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, coming in and out of the tunnel. As Brooklyn got busier, the train became more dangerous to people walking on the street. So, in 1861, steam trains were no longer allowed in the city, and the tunnel was closed.

It's 1980. Bob Diamond, a 19-year-old engineering student, is on a mission to uncover a secret. He hears a story on a radio program about the unused tunnel that is under the very busy street in Brooklyn, where he lives. Bob is excited when he hears that John Wilkes Booth, the man who killed President Lincoln in 1865, might have hidden pages from his journal in the abandoned tunnel. After hearing about the mysterious tunnel, he decides to start looking for it.

Bob finds an old map with the tunnel on it after searching city records for 8 months. It shows a circle above the tunnel, and Bob thinks it might be an entrance. When Bob goes to the place on the map, he finds a manhole cover and convinces men from a gas company to let him go down the hole. He crawls

underground until he hits a brick wall. He knocks down part of the wall, and he's hit with unexpected cold air. It's the tunnel!

Bob's discovery is unbelievable! He never finds John Wilkes Booth's journal, but the tunnel is exciting enough. After the news spreads, he becomes a local hero. The city puts him in charge of the tunnel. He starts giving tours and also starts the Brooklyn Historic Railway Association. As soon as he found the tunnel, he knew he had to share it with others, and he wants to make this unknown city secret known to all!



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### Reading: An article about an old train tunnel

1. Look at the pictures. What do you think the man discovered? How old do you think it is?



2. Read and listen to the article. What is the purpose of the article?

- a. to inform the reader about secret train tunnels in cities
- b. to tell a story about a man's search for and discovery of a secret tunnel
- c. to give information about transportation in New York City in the past

3. Read the article again. Are the sentences true or false? Write T (true), F (false), or NI (no information).

1. Bob Diamond wanted to become a train engineer. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Bob does a lot of research to find the train tunnel. \_\_\_\_\_
3. A subway replaced the Atlantic Avenue Tunnel. \_\_\_\_\_
4. It took Bob more than a year to find the tunnel. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Bob found a secret journal of a famous person in the tunnel. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Bob gave tours of the tunnel to inform people about its history. \_\_\_\_\_

### DID YOU KNOW...?

Bob Diamond and others believe there is an old steam train buried in another part of the tunnel.