

## CENTRAL PARK: AN URBAN OASIS IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY

### A. Review the text and provide your response

Central Park, a sprawling green oasis amidst the bustling metropolis of New York City, has a rich history dating back to the 19th century. Conceived during a time of rapid urbanization, the park's creation was a visionary response to the need for open space and recreational areas in a rapidly expanding city.

The idea for Central Park was born in the 1850s, as New York City grappled with overcrowding, pollution, and social unrest. Influential figures such as landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and architect Calvert Vaux envisioned a grand public park that would provide respite from the concrete jungle and promote health, recreation, and social cohesion.

Construction of the park began in 1858, following the selection of Olmsted and Vaux's design in a public competition. Over the next 20 years, the marshy and rocky terrain of Central Park was transformed into an enchanting landscape of meadows, woodlands, lakes, and architectural landmarks, including Bethesda Terrace, Belvedere Castle, and the iconic Bow Bridge.

Central Park officially opened to the public in 1873, becoming an instant sensation and a beloved retreat for New Yorkers of all walks of life. Over the decades, the park has evolved and expanded, undergoing numerous renovations and improvements while remaining true to Olmsted and Vaux's original vision of a democratic space where people could escape the city's hustle and bustle and commune with nature.

Today, Central Park stands as one of the most visited urban parks in the world, attracting tens of millions of visitors each year. Its lush landscapes, scenic vistas, and cultural attractions continue to inspire and delight people from around the globe, making it a cherished symbol of New York City's enduring vitality and resilience.



### B. Answer the following questions

- What is the name of the famous urban park located in the heart of New York City?

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- Who were the two architects who designed Central Park?

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- When did Central Park officially open to the public?

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- What are some common activities that people enjoy doing in Central Park?

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- Can you name one iconic landmark within Central Park?

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