



Unit: Daily Life

Lesson 4.4: Mapping Central Park

Aim: To review mapping skills and design a park.

Objective: Students study a map of Central Park, generating questions and answers before designing a park of their own.

Materials:

1. Map of Central Park www.centralparknyc.org
2. Graph paper, markers

Procedure:

1. Look at a map of Central Park. Discuss map elements such as key, symbols, compass rose, bird's-eye view, and scale.
2. Have students study the map with a partner and generate questions such as “In what direction would one walk to get from the Wollman Rink to the Tennis Courts?” (Northwest) “Approximately how many blocks north is it?” (Between 30 and 35)
3. Allow the class to share and answer questions.
4. Olmsted designed Central Park with walkways for pedestrians, horse paths, carriage lanes, and a lake for skating in winter. Who uses a city park today? What do they do there? (e.g., ride bicycles, skateboard, play soccer or baseball)? What special features would you build to accommodate them?
5. Design your dream park. Students can work individually, with a partner, or in small groups. Draw a map with a key to represent your park. Students can use graph paper to establish scale (e.g., 10 boxes equals 1 mile). Decorate with markers and remember to give your park a name.