PROSPECT PARK ZOO
PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET

Student Name
INTRODUCTORY READING

Zoo on Brooklyn’s Flatbush Avenue, near Prospect Park’s Ocean Avenue entrance. It originated as a menagerie in the late nineteenth century, and the Central Park and Bronx zoos sent animals, including zebras, sheep, baboons, to supplement it in 1902. A 1906 inventory listed a coyote, two timber wolves, and an Angora goat for sale to the public, along with a broken-down automobile and steam roller. In 1914 the menagerie began its transformation to a proper zoo with the purchase of the Bostock collection of animals from the Anglo-American Exposition grounds in London, which was had cheaply—for $12,000 – because of World War I. The new Prospect Park Zoo opened in April 1916, consisting of a $20,000 one-story brick and stone building. By 1923 the zoo had obtained its own elephant. In 1934 Parks Commissioner Robert Moses obtained Works Progress Administration funds to build a new zoo in the park, which opened in 1935 with three new animal houses, a seal pool, and a restaurant. Through the late twentieth century the zoo fell into obsolescence. During the 1980’s the Wildlife Conservation Society entered into a partnership with the city to renovate and manage a new facility, and a $37 million renovation began in August 1989, replacing the zoo’s old cages and pits with natural habitats. The new zoo opened in 1993. Although much smaller than the Bronx Zoo, in 2008 the Prospect Park Zoo was home to almost 400 animals representing more than 100 species and received almost 240,000 visitors annually.

1. Look closely at DOCUMENT 1. Identify THREE sections of the proposed park:

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2. List the names of the FIVE streets which border the park:

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3. Locate Ninth Avenue on the map. According to this document, what was planned for the park next to Ninth Avenue?

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4. Locate Flatbush Avenue on the map. According to this document, what was planned for the park next to Flatbush Avenue?

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Document 2b: The Deer Farm, Prospect Park. 1866. Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn Public Library.
1. According to the text in DOCUMENT 2a, what is the “pretty glade of turf” meant to be used for?

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2. Observe the image in DOCUMENT 2b. Describe how the deer are contained in the park:

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3. Make THREE close observations of the clothing worn by the people in DOCUMENT 2b:

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4. Refer back to the map in DOCUMENT 1. Where do you think this “Deer Farm” was located on the map? List the name of the area here:

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Document 2b: The Deer Farm, Prospect Park. 1866. Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn Public Library.
There is a baby buffalo in Prospect Park and the staid old father and proud young mother are just wrapped up in it. It hasn’t been shown to the public yet because the Commissioner has thought it better to keep it where it could not be annoyed until it had reached an age where it would not mind the annoyance of being gazed at and fed cookies by admiring children.

A little story is connected with the events which led up to the securing of the three buffalos now owned by Brooklyn. The buffalo bull originally was owned by the late Samuel Duryea, who had an idea that he could develop an interesting breed of cattle with buffalo blood in them. He did not succeed in this, although in the West the attempt has been more or less successful. After Mr. Duryea died George V. Brower, who was at that time Park Commissioner, bought the buffalo bull and put in Prospect Park, where it for years led a most lonesome life.
1. According to the headline in DOCUMENT 3, what is the “new and valuable addition” to Prospect Park?

2. Read the text in DOCUMENT 3. Why had the baby buffalo not been shown to the public yet?

3. Who originally owned the buffalo bull?

4. What two animals did Samuel Duryea hope to breed together?

1. Read DOCUMENT 4. What does the Park Commissioner request to be changed about the zoo in Brooklyn?

2. According to the author of this article, what is the problem with the “present collection” of animals?

3. At the time of the article, which animals did the zoo already possess?

4. What additions would Mr. Brower “be content with” to improve the Brooklyn zoo?

THE GREAT FRANK C.
BOSTOCK
TRAINED
WILD ANIMAL
ARENA
AND
JUNGLE

FRANK C. BOSTOCK
"THE ANIMAL KING"
ORIGINATOR & FOUNDER

SOLE OWNER
DAVID HORSLEY
GENERAL MANAGER
HARRY E. TUDOR

"The name of Frank C. Bostock will go down in history as that of a man who developed the instinctive intelligence of the wild beasts of the jungle to a greater degree than was ever imagined possible."—New York Herald.

THE *
"BOSTOCK"
SOUVENIR
POSTAL CARD
PROGRAM
PRICE-FIVE CENTS

Copyright, 1915

A Zoo for Brooklyn

In order to facilitate the expression of the growing desire for the purchase of the Bostock animals for a zoo in Prospect Park, The Eagle has decided to receive subscriptions to a fund for that purpose.

The opportunity arises from the fortunes of war and will not recur. The Bostock arena in London has been commandeered for military uses, and as a result the animals must be sold for whatever Mrs. Bostock can get for them. This brings an offer of some seventy of these animals, useful for exhibition and educational purposes in a zoo, for $3,000. If Brooklyn is to get them, enough money for proper exhibition quarters must be raised, but the amount needed is small in comparison with the educational value of the exhibit.

1. Look at DOCUMENT 5a. What kind of business did Mr. Frank C. Bostock run?

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2. Read DOCUMENT 5b. According to this newspaper article, what is available for purchase?

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3. London is the capital of the United Kingdom. According to DOCUMENT 5b, what major event happened in London to cause this opportunity?

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4. According to DOCUMENT 5b, how much money would Brooklyn need to buy these animals? How would they raise the money?

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1. Observe DOCUMENT 6a. What did you need to do if you wanted lions brought to Brooklyn?

2. Analyze DOCUMENT 6b. What does the “……..” mean? How do you know?

3. In DOCUMENT 6c, Henry Milton contributed toward a fund which does what?

4. All of these clips were run in the “Junior Eagle” section of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle newspaper. What do you think “junior” means here? Why would the newspaper target “juniors” for this fundraiser?

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**Document 6**: "Do You Want Lions?" *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 18 October 1914.
1. These photographs show some of the animals added to the zoo’s collection from 1938-1966. Name TWO animals that were on display at the Prospect Park Zoo during this time:

2. Observe the photograph of two zebras. Describe the environment in their cage:

3. Observe the photograph of three polar bears. Describe the environment in their cage:

4. Make an inference: why do you think the zebras’ cage looks so different to the polar bears’ cage?
1. According to DOCUMENT 8, what happened on the afternoon of July 3, 1935?

2. The article reports that there were “roars, squeals, yelps, and assorted shrieks” during the speeches. Specifically, who or what made these sounds?

3. According to the document, what TWO ways did people experience the opening of this new zoo facility?

4. Imagine attending the opening day ceremony in 1935. You've never been to a zoo before. What are you most excited to see and why?
Document 8: "Zoo Has the Whole Town Talking." The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, 3 July 1935.
1. Use the legend to locate the entrance to the zoo in Document 9a. According to this image, which animals would you most likely see FIRST after entering?

2. DOCUMENT 9a shows the proposed plans for the new zoo in 1934, one year before it was actually built. List FOUR areas they planned to build in the new zoo:

3. DOCUMENT 9b shows the zoo as it actually stands today. List TWO areas that are the SAME in DOCUMENT 9a and DOCUMENT 9b:

4. Why do you think this semi-circle design was chosen for the zoo?


1. Read DOCUMENT 10a, 10b and 10c. Summarize the zoo’s problems in your own word, citing one example from each of these three documents:

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2. Read DOCUMENT 10d. This final event led to the closing of the Prospect Park Zoo. Write a short letter to the zoo proposing two new ideas for how to make the zoo better:

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Prospect Park Zoo
Is Warm and Fuzzy

By Julio Laboy

With a ceremonial herring toss to a pair of honking sea lions, the Prospect Park Wildlife Center celebrated its grand opening yesterday as children hurried through the revamped zoo in search of baboons, wallabies and other cuddly animals.

It may have taken four years and $37 million, but the 12-acre wildlife center, which replaces the old Prospect Park Zoo on Flatbush Avenue, opened to the cheers of schoolchildren and park officials.

"It's a beautiful place. They've done a good job. Now we have a place to see animals in Brooklyn," said Roy McKenzie, 42, as he held his 4-year-old daughter, Ashley, who was feeding sheep.

The renovation of the badly deteriorated zoo, which first opened in 1935, has transformed it into an immaculate wildlife center designed with the education of children as its top priority.

"This is fantastic. I've lived in the neighborhood for 50 years and it's such an improvement from the last place," said Jane Dawson, 71, "I can't wait to get my grandson here after school today."

Natural habitats replace the bars, cages and pits of the old zoo and interactive exhibits encourage hands-on education.

Elephants, polar bears, tigers and other large animals no longer reside at the zoo. Now, a barn with a petting area allows children to get as close as they wish to tamer beasts.

The new wildlife center is the fifth wildlife park to be opened in the city by The Wildlife Conservation Society, which runs the Bronx Zoo/Wildlife Conservation Park.

"It is the first facility of this kind to be devoted to the education of children and inspiring them to care," said Howard Phipps, chairman of The Wildlife Conservation Society.

Visitors are first greeted by the outdoor sea lion pool, home to Stella and Gretchen. It's on the main concourse in a semicircle surrounded by three exhibit halls called "Animals in Our Lives," "Animal Lifestyles," and "The World of Animals."

Children inside "Animals in Our Lives" were given pencils and paper and encouraged to sketch the animals.

In The World of Animals, a 2.5-acre meadow, children can crawl through tunnels that simulate prairie dog burrows.

"It's great for the kids. It's really set up nice for them," said Michele Esposito, who drove to Prospect Park from Clinton Hill.

Esposito's daughter, Margaret, 3, pressed her nose against the glass at "Animal Lifestyles" and stared quietly at a family of baboons sitting only inches away. A young baboon scurried over and pressed his hand against the glass near Margaret's face.

"Mommy, did you see that?" she asked raising her hands to her cheeks.

"They can really get close. It's fun," Esposito said.

1. Read paragraph 1 of DOCUMENT 11. How did the Prospect Park Wildlife Center kick off its grand re-opening?

2. Read paragraph 2 of DOCUMENT 11. How long did the renovation of the zoo take, and how much did it cost?

3. Read paragraphs 6 and 7 of DOCUMENT 11. Name TWO new additions to the zoo:

4. Read paragraphs 6 and 7 of DOCUMENT 11. Name TWO parts of the zoo that were removed:
Visitor Information
Prospect Park Wildlife Center
450 Flatbush Avenue, Prospect Park, Brooklyn
General Information, 718-399-7339

Admission: General admission is charged. Children under 3 are admitted free. All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Hours: Open every day of the year. April through October—10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., weekends; to 5:30 p.m., weekdays and holidays. November through March—10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., daily. Tickets are sold until one-half hour before closing.

Food and Souvenirs: Visit the self-serve cafeteria near the Sea Lion Pool for beverages, snacks, and shopping.

Wheelchairs: The Wildlife Center is accessible to the handicapped. To reserve a wheelchair, contact the Security Department 718-399-7332.

Visitor Guidelines: For the benefit of our wildlife and our guests, please leave pets, radios, bikes, and skateboards at home. (Blind, visually-impaired, and hearing-impaired visitors may be accompanied by properly harnessed guide dogs.) Smoking is prohibited.

Welcome to the world of wildlife!

The World of Animals lets youngsters “hatch” from giant eggs, take a walkabout with wallabies, and experience the sights and sounds of wildlife along the Discovery Trail.

The Animal Lifestyles building introduces visitors to wildlife of the air, land, and water in stunning habitats. Be sure to look for our troop of hamadryas baboons.

Animals in Our Lives encourages children to observe and draw wildlife. They can learn about domestic animals and visit some friendly and touchable species in our barnyard.

GET INVOLVED! Volunteer at the Prospect Park Wildlife Center. Call 718-399-7324 for information about becoming a Wildlife Guide.

TRAVEL WITH THE EXPERTS
Wildlife Conservation Society tours take you to wild places. Call our International Travel Program at 212-439-6507 to find out about upcoming trips to Africa, India, the Galapagos Islands, and more wild destinations.

Our Education Department helps school groups make the most of their visit to the Wildlife Center. Classes are also available to the general public. Call 718-399-7321 for information about our educational adventures.
1. Observe DOCUMENT 12. Name four types of animals at the Prospect Park Wildlife Center:

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2. What hours is the Wildlife Center open from November through March?

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3. According to the “Visitor Guidelines,” what items should you leave at home before your visit?

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4. From the “Welcome to the World of Wildlife” section, name TWO special programs at the zoo.

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**GLOSSARY**

**Anglo-American Exposition:** opened May 14, 1914 in London, England. A public display of American and British inventions, items of interest and culture. Among the attractions were bands, a working model of the Panama Canal, a replica of New York City (complete with skyscrapers), and a scale model of the Colorado Grand Canyon. One popular attraction was the 101 Ranch Wild West show which had been shipped over from Oklahoma.

**Contain:** to have or to hold something within it

**Environment:** the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives

**Menagerie:** a place where animals are kept and trained especially for exhibition

**Obsolescence:** the process of becoming obsolete or no longer current

**Possess:** to have or to own

**Propose:** to suggest or to put forward an idea

**Supplement:** something that supplies what is needed or makes an addition