A Park Takes Shape

Read how events changed a city park over time.

3.SS.1.1 "Investigate your community's history and determine the chronological importance of local events."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each year in the passage, then number the four dated events from 1 to 4 in the order they happened.

How Central Park Grew

1. Central Park is a large green space in New York City. Today, neighbors walk its paths and rest under its trees. Long ago, this land was not a public park. In 1853, New York State passed a law allowing the city to buy land for a new park. That step came first. The city needed land before workers could make paths and lawns for people to enjoy.

2. A park needs more than land. In 1858, the city chose a plan by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. Their plan included winding paths and open lawns. Workers then shaped the land and planted trees. In 1876, the park was completed. The plan mattered because it guided the work that turned the land into a place people could visit.

3. Years later, the park needed care. In 1980, neighbors helped start the Central Park Conservancy, a group that works with the city to care for the park. This event did not create the park. It helped protect what earlier workers had made. The order of these events tells a story: the city got land, a plan guided the work, and people later cared for the finished park.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did the 1853 law need to come before the 1858 plan could be used?

2. Which dated event happened after the plan was chosen but before the Conservancy began? Why did it matter?

3. How was the purpose of the 1980 event different from the purpose of the 1858 event?

4. Put the 1876 and 1980 events in order. How did the first event make the later work possible?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose a place in your community. Find two events in its history and their years from a sign, a local website, or an adult. Write three sentences naming the place, putting the events in order, and explaining why the earlier event mattered for the later one.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 3 · 3.SS.1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each year in the passage, then number the four dated events from 1 to 4 in the order they happened. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did the 1853 law need to come before the 1858 plan could be used?	**The law let the city buy land for the park. Workers needed land before they could use the plan to make the park.**
2	Which dated event happened after the plan was chosen but before the Conservancy began? Why did it matter?	**The park was completed in 1876. People could then visit the place the workers had made.**
3	How was the purpose of the 1980 event different from the purpose of the 1858 event?	**The 1858 plan guided the making of the park. The group started in 1980 to help care for the park.**
4	Put the 1876 and 1980 events in order. How did the first event make the later work possible?	**The park was completed in 1876, before the Conservancy began in 1980. The group could care for a park that had already been made.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In New York City, workers began building the Brooklyn Bridge in 1870. The bridge opened in 1883. Starting the work first mattered because people could not use the finished bridge until it was built.

Accept answers that place the passage events in the correct order and explain how an earlier event helped make a later one possible. For Your Turn, check that both years and the connection between the events are clear.