CITY STORIES WINTER NATURE AND HOLIDAY PLAY **FAMILY GUIDE**

NYC at Christmas

A Wild Base Family activity book for ages 4-6, 7-9 and 10+







PRINT BY AGE | PAGE RANGES

Ages 4-6: activities 3-14; answers 39-41.
Ages 7-9: activities 15-26; answers 42-44.
Ages 10+: activities 27-38; answers 45-47.
Shared parent guidance and sources: 48-50.

This book belongs to

Choose your discoveries

Choose a comfortable challenge level. Each packet has its own introduction and answers. Reading aloud, talking and pointing count as exploring.

AGES 4-6 | ACTIVITIES 3-14 | ANSWERS 39-41

Picture clues, a broad-path maze, sorting, patterns, counting, coloring and conversation. A grown-up can read the short directions.

AGES 7-9 | ACTIVITIES 15-26 | ANSWERS 42-44

Processes, food webs, landscape math, a word search, a crossword, history and a family strategy game.

AGES 10+ | ACTIVITIES 27-38 | ANSWERS 45-47

Illustrated mysteries, a demanding maze, a challenging crossword, a changing model, an independent code and Sudoku.

PRINT AND PACK

Print US Letter at actual size, or fit to A4. Grayscale works. Bring a pencil, crayons and a clipboard. Single-sided pages are easy to share.

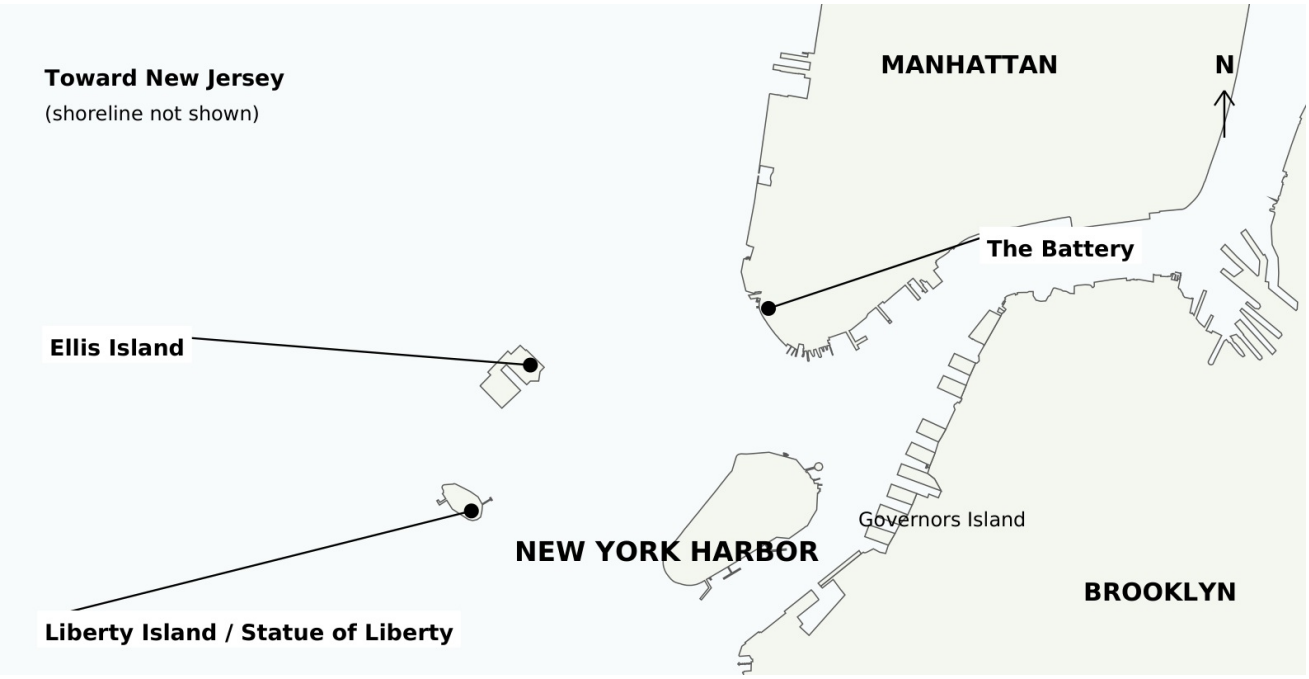
Shared parent guidance and sources: pages 48-50. Answer references use the page numbers in the PDF you are reading.

Passenger play only; keep the driver free to concentrate.

START YOUR EXPLORER PACKET **AGES 4-6**

Hello city hello harbor

Point to Manhattan, Liberty Island and Ellis Island. An island is land with water around it.



Map key: dots mark places; lines link names to dots. N points north.

FOUR PLACES TO MEET

Liberty Island holds a tall statue. Ellis Island tells arrival stories. Central Park has wildlife. Rockefeller Center has a shared winter tradition.

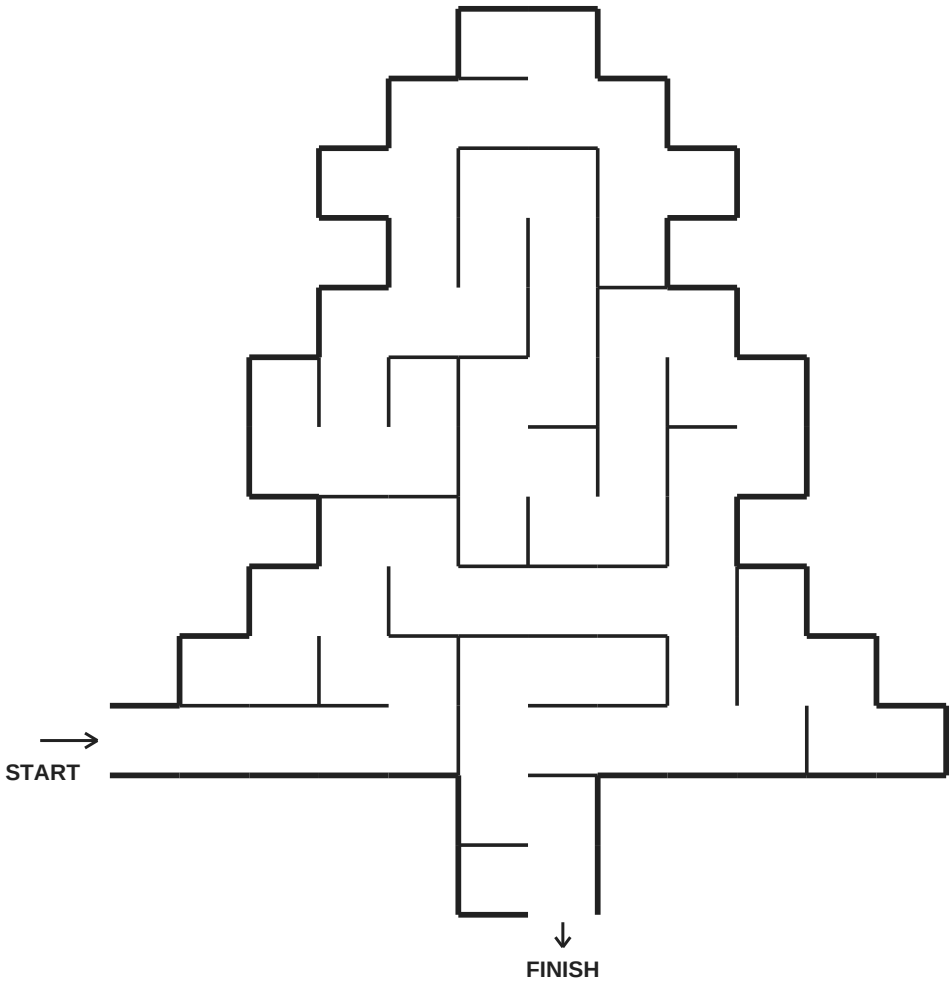
Circle Liberty Island. Put a star by Ellis Island. Point to Manhattan, where Central Park and Rockefeller Center are.

Use a pencil and crayons. Ask a grown-up to read. Answers begin on page 39.

SHAPED MAZE | GENTLE **AGES 4-6**

A path through the tree

Follow the open path from START to FINISH. Keep your pencil inside the tree.



A TRADITION MADE TOGETHER

In 1931, Rockefeller Center workers bought a tree together. Their families helped make its decorations.

Name something your family likes to make together.

COLOR AND DISCOVER AGES 4-6

A small city neighbor

Color the squirrel. Find its paws, tail and ears. Draw two acorns near it.



LOOK CLOSELY

Eastern gray squirrels live in Central Park. They eat and bury nuts. Their paws help them hold food and climb.

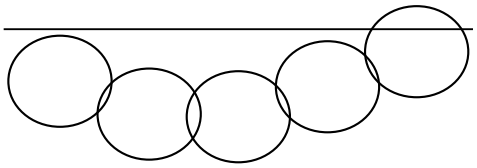
Point to the paws that hold the acorn. Tell someone what your hands help you do.

PUT A STORY IN ORDER **AGES 4-6**

Many hands make a garland

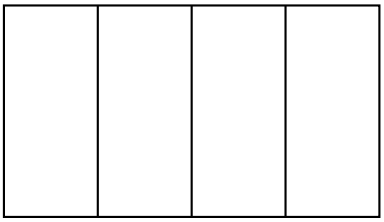
A paper garland is a chain decoration. Write 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the circles to show how to make one.

A



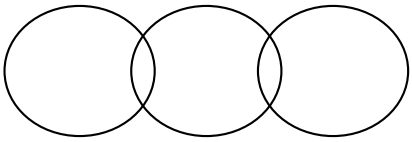
Hang the finished chain.

B



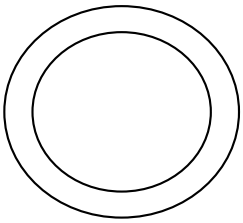
Cut paper into strips.

C



Add more linked loops.

D



Join one strip into a loop.

DISCOVERY

A long chain can grow from one small loop. Ask a grown-up to help with scissors.

MATCH AND DRAW **AGES 4-6**

Homes in winter trees

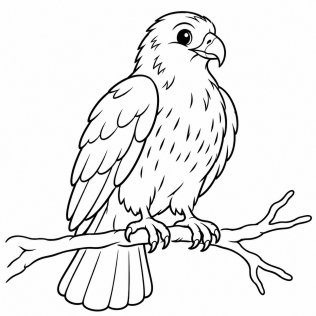
Squirrels make leafy dreys. Hawks build stick nests. Match each animal to the home made from its materials.

SQUIRREL



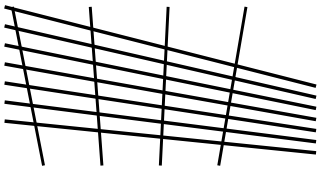
A small tree climber.

HAWK



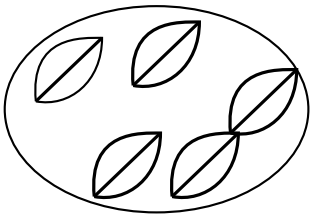
A large bird.

HOME A



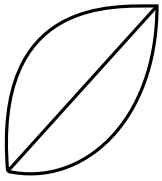
Sticks make an open nest.

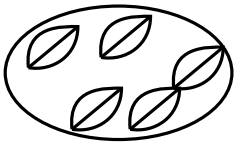
HOME B



Leaves form a leafy clump.

Draw a line from each animal to its home.





Draw an arrow showing a leaf moving into the leafy home.

WILDLIFE SORTING **AGES 4-6**

Lunch in the park

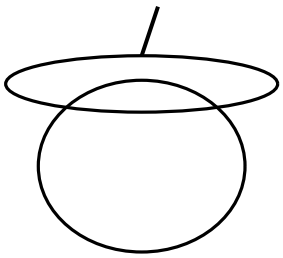
Draw a line from each food to an animal that eats it. Squirrels eat acorns and other seeds. Cardinals eat seeds and insects.



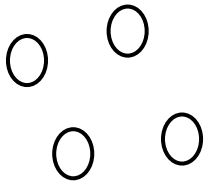
SQUIRREL



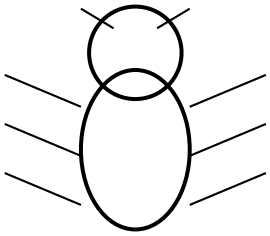
CARDINAL



ACORN



SEEDS



INSECT

COUNT AND CIRCLE

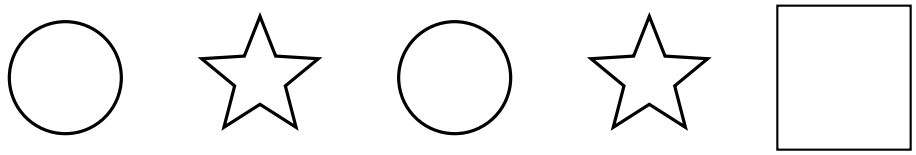
How many food pictures? ____

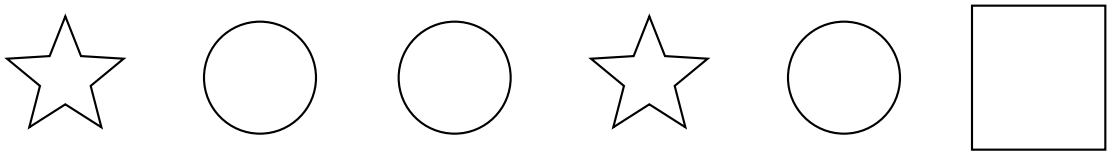
Circle the foods that come from plants.

PATTERNS AND COOPERATION AGES 4-6

Many hands one garland

A garland is a long decoration. Draw the next shape in each pattern.

1. 

2. 

A REPEATING UNIT

A pattern repeats the same small group. Point to one group that repeats in each row.

DRAW TWO PAIRS OF CIRCLE ORNAMENTS

Two pairs contain how many circles? ____

PEOPLE AND HISTORY **AGES 4-6**

One building a long story

Castle Clinton is a round building beside New York Harbor. Its jobs have changed as the city changed.

IN 1811
The building was completed as a fort to help defend the harbor.

IN 1896
It opened as an aquarium, where visitors came to see water animals.

TODAY
It is a national monument. People visit and learn about its many jobs.

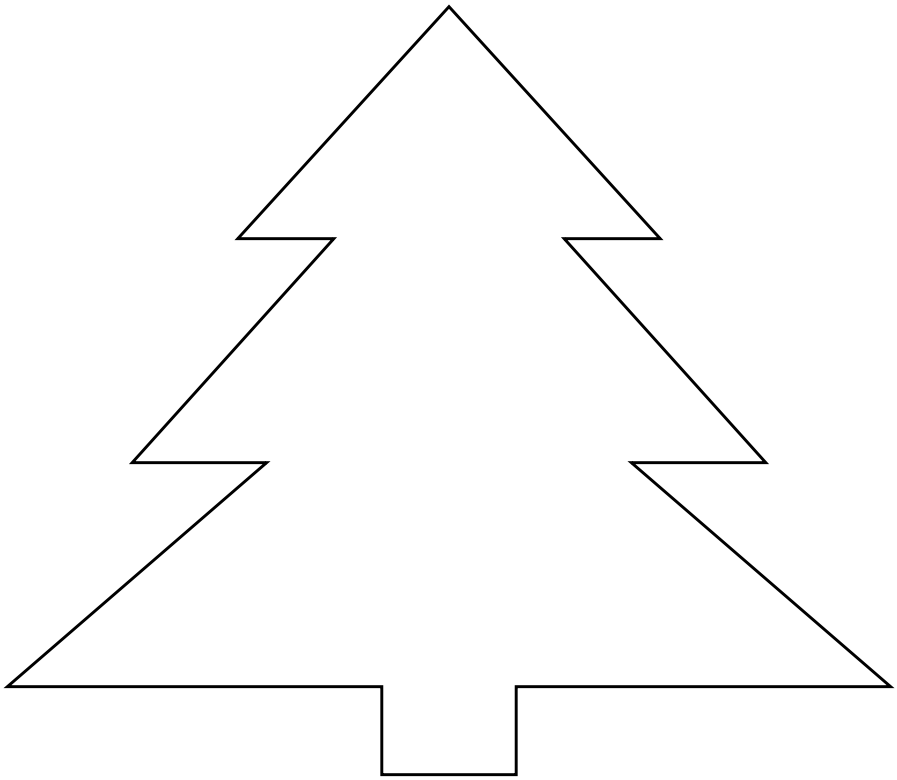
Point to the earliest part. Circle TODAY. How can visitors help care for an old place?

DRAW YOUR CARE-FOR-A-PLACE IDEA

COUNT AND BUILD **AGES 4-6**

Build a shared tree

Color the tree outline. Draw four circle ornaments and two star ornaments on its branches.



MADE TOGETHER

The first Rockefeller Center Christmas tree was bought by workers in 1931. Their families helped make decorations.

4 circles + 2 stars = ____ ornaments

DRAW TWO MORE ORNAMENTS FOR A FRIEND

6 - 3 = ____ 3 + 2 = ____

COLOR AND OBSERVE **AGES 4-6**

A little wild in the city

Color the Central Park scene. Find the squirrel, a bird, a tree and a bridge. Add a small leafy drey high in the tree.



LOOK FOR SHELTER

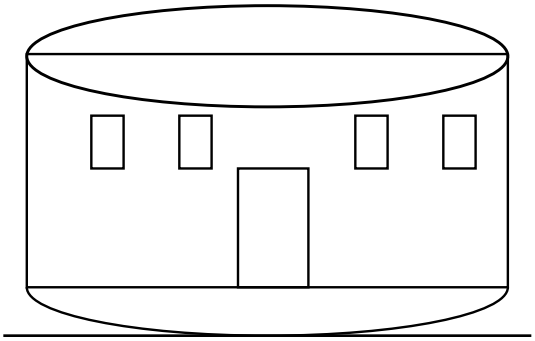
Trees help city wildlife find places to rest and shelter. A drey is a squirrel’s leafy nest. Keep your snacks to yourself; wild animals find their own food.

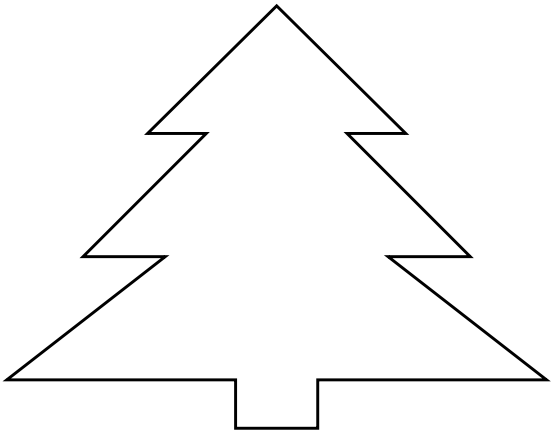
Point to a place above the ground where an animal might rest.

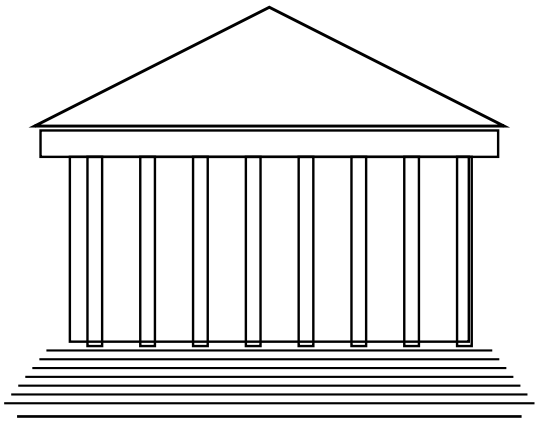
FAMILY ROAD BREAK **AGES 4-6**

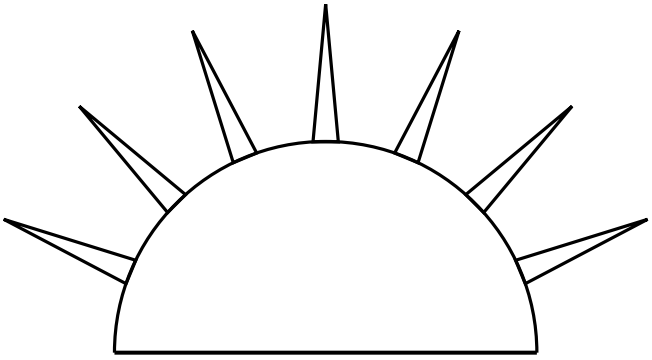
I spy a city shape

Choose a picture. Give a shape clue so someone can guess it.









Try: “I spy a round wall” or “I spy seven pointed rays.”

DRAW YOUR OWN SHAPE CLUE

REMEMBER AND SHARE AGES 4-6

My city discoveries

Choose a memory from your visit or this book. Draw it, tell it, or ask someone to write your words.

A PLACE OR SHAPE I WILL REMEMBER

A SYMBOL I WOULD ADD TO THE CITY

My new word is

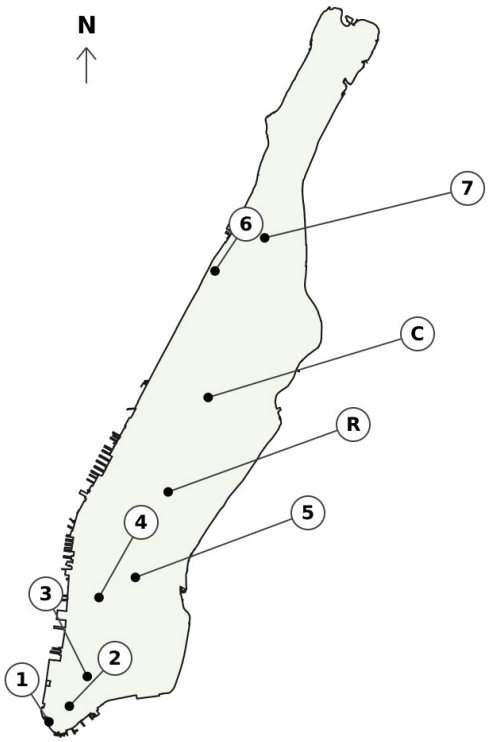
One thing I can explain now is

Show someone your favorite discovery.

START YOUR EXPLORER PACKET **AGES 7-9**

An island full of stories

Manhattan is one part of New York City. Find historic places, Central Park and Rockefeller Center on this north-up locator.



MANHATTAN ISLAND

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PLACES

1 Castle Clinton
The Battery

2 Federal Hall
Wall Street

3 African Burial Ground
Lower Manhattan

4 Stonewall
Greenwich Village

5 Roosevelt Birthplace
East 20th Street

6 General Grant Memorial
Riverside Park

7 Hamilton Grange
St. Nicholas Park

CITY LANDMARKS (NOT NPS)

R Rockefeller Center

C Central Park (reference point)

Map key: dots mark places; N points north. Hudson River west; East River east.

PLACES HOLD DIFFERENT STORIES

Hamilton Grange: a home. Grant Memorial: Ulysses and Julia Grant’s burial place. Roosevelt Birthplace: a re-created home. Federal Hall: an oath site.

1. Which numbered site is farthest north? ____

2. Which numbered site is farthest south? ____

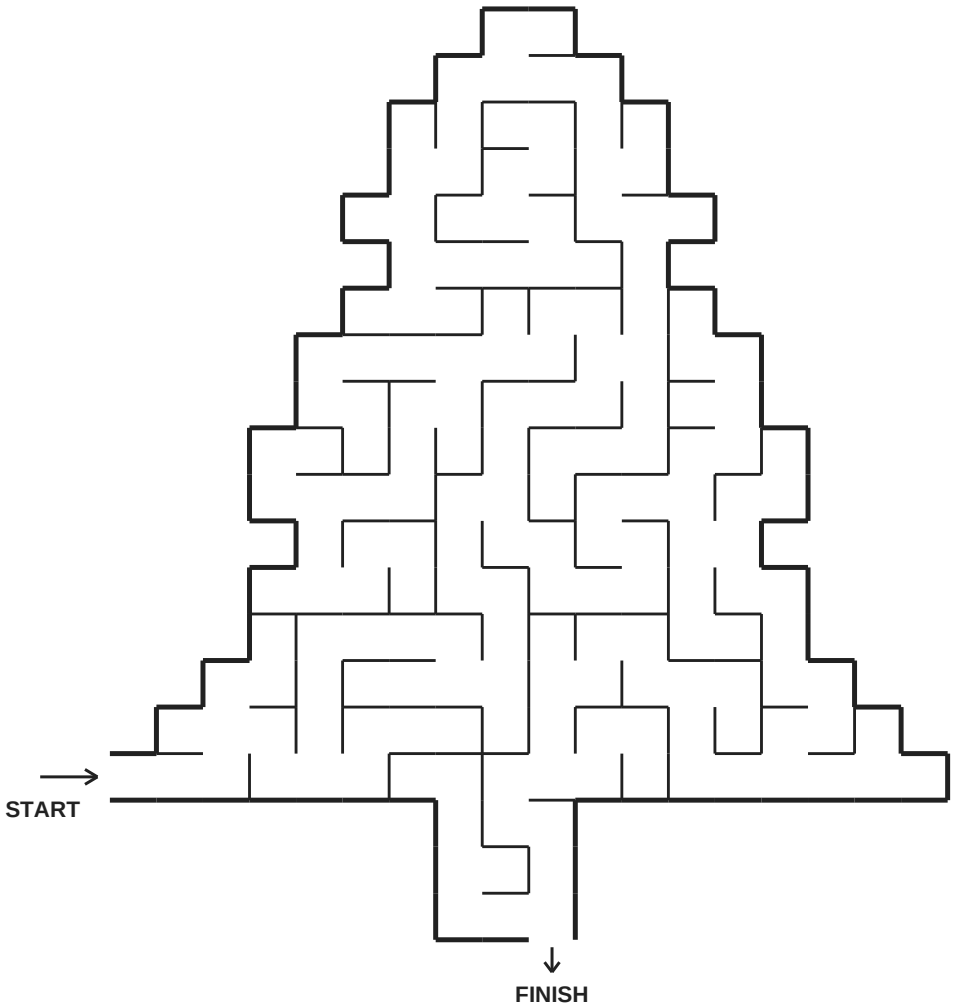
3. Is Central Park north or south of Rockefeller Center? ____

Use a pencil and crayons. Answers begin on page 42.

SHAPED MAZE | MODERATE **AGES 7-9**

Branch by branch

Plan your route through the Christmas tree from START to FINISH. At each fork, look for a branch that continues rather than ending.



FROM ONE TREE TO A TRADITION

Workers pooled money for a Rockefeller Center tree in 1931. The annual tradition began in 1933. What changed from one shared event to a repeating custom?

Annual means happening each year.

SEQUENCE AND EXPLAIN AGES 7-9

From acorn to oak

Squirrels bury nuts such as acorns. A buried acorn that is not eaten may sprout when conditions are suitable. A small action can help a tree begin.

A
A squirrel buries the acorn in soil.

B
The young oak grows more leaves and a woody stem.

C
An oak drops an acorn.

D
A root and shoot grow from an uneaten acorn.

E
The buried acorn remains uneaten until conditions allow growth.

Write the letters in order: ____ → ____ → ____ → ____ → ____

NOTICE AND CONNECT
Why do not all buried acorns grow into trees? Name one thing that could happen to a buried acorn.

BUILD A FOOD WEB AGES 7-9

A wild web in the city

Plants use sunlight. Seeds feed squirrels and cardinals. Plant-eating insects feed on leaves. Cardinals eat insects. Red-tailed hawks can eat squirrels.

BUILD THE CONNECTIONS

Draw six arrows: sunlight to PLANTS, then five food-to-eater links. SEEDS and PLANTS represent different plant foods.

SUN

PLANTS

SEEDS

INSECTS

CARDINAL

SQUIRREL

HAWK

NOTICE AND CONNECT

Trace one path that links plants with a bird. Why should people let wild animals find their own food?

COMPARE AND CALCULATE AGES 7-9

A holiday workshop in numbers

A group plans 24 paper ornaments: twice as many circles as stars. A star uses 2 paper squares; a circle uses 1.

1 SHARE THE ORNAMENTS

Think of three equal groups: one star group and two circle groups. Stars ____ Circles ____

2 COUNT THE PAPER

How many paper squares make the stars? ____
How many make the circles? ____
Total paper squares: ____

3 PAPER LEFT

The group starts with 36 paper squares. How many are left after making the 24 ornaments? ____

COMPARE TWO DESIGNS

A circle is one closed curved line. A star has repeated points. Both shapes can form a repeating garland.

NOTICE AND CONNECT

Which ornament uses more paper in this workshop?

WORD SEARCH AND SORT **AGES 7-9**

Hidden words city meanings

A drey is a squirrel’s leafy nest. A harbor is sheltered water where boats gather. Find the seven words running right, down or diagonally down-right.

R	I	Q	I	G	T	O	R	C	H	F
F	J	N	I	S	I	H	V	U	L	K
A	Q	O	L	H	L	U	P	M	J	I
F	W	N	W	K	A	A	L	T	Q	D
T	D	R	E	Y	K	Y	N	G	V	X
A	L	U	U	D	U	S	X	D	R	X
B	P	S	M	E	M	O	R	I	A	L
L	X	M	Y	A	D	P	A	R	K	V
E	E	S	Z	K	X	T	S	C	A	U
T	N	S	B	X	R	X	O	R	S	C
S	R	C	H	A	R	B	O	R	M	F

TORCH TABLET ISLAND DREY
MEMORIAL HARBOR PARK

Two things held by Liberty: _____

One wildlife home: _____

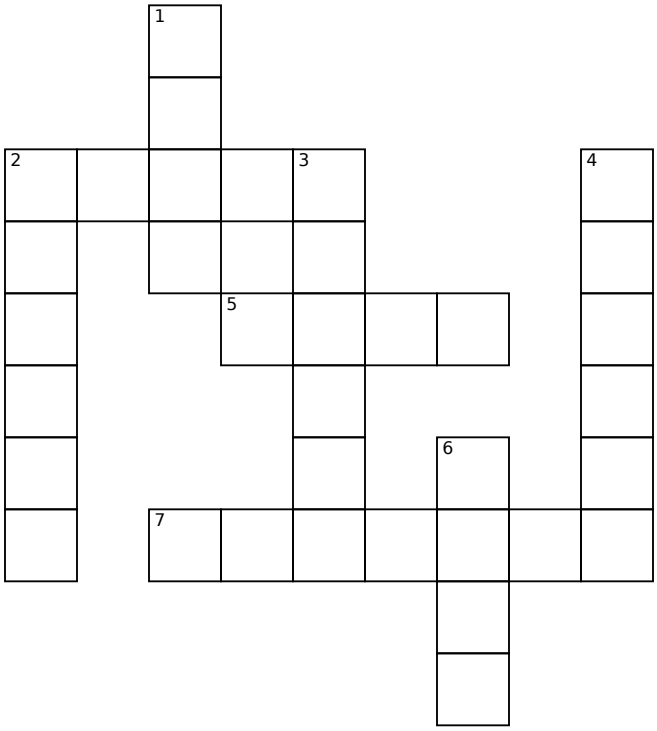
One place for remembrance: _____

NOTICE AND CONNECT
Use ISLAND, HARBOR and PARK in a sentence about the city.

CROSSWORD | MODERATE **AGES 7-9**

Words across the city

A harbor is sheltered water for boats. A drey is a squirrel’s leafy nest. Use these clues and discoveries in this packet.



ACROSS

2. Liberty holds this light-bearing object high. (5)

5. A squirrel’s leafy nest. (4)

7. A long chain decoration. (7)

DOWN

1. Castle Clinton’s first defensive job. (4)

2. Liberty holds this object bearing a date. (6)

3. Sheltered water where vessels can stop. (6)

4. Land with water all around it. (6)

6. Central ___ has trees and wildlife. (4)

Try a crossing before looking at the answers.

DEDUCE FROM EVIDENCE AGES 7-9

The missing landmark labels

Four notes lost their place names. Each note describes a different place. Use the evidence and clues to restore all four.

THE FOUR PLACES

Castle Clinton: round former fort with changing uses.
Federal Hall: today’s columned building opened in 1842.
Hamilton Grange: Alexander Hamilton’s home.
Roosevelt Birthplace: a re-created childhood home.

1. A and C describe homes.

2. B describes a round fort.

3. C describes a home that was re-created.

4. D describes the columned building.

Note	Place name	Clue that helped
A		
B		
C		
D		

Explain: how did identifying C help you work out A?

TIMELINE AND PERSPECTIVE AGES 7-9

A building changes with a city

Castle Clinton has served a harbor city in different ways. A building’s oldest use is not its whole story.

1896
Castle Clinton opens as an aquarium.

1811
The harbor fort is completed.

1855
The building opens as an immigrant depot.

1. Write these dates from earliest to latest.

2. How many years passed from completed fort to aquarium?

3. How many years passed from immigrant depot to aquarium?

THINK BEYOND THE DATES
What could an immigrant’s own words reveal that a building-use timeline leaves out?

COLOR AND COMPARE **AGES 7-9**

Columns shapes and a site

Color the Federal Hall drawing. Look for repeating vertical columns, a triangular roof shape and broad steps. The building shown is the later customs house.



Find two repeating shapes: _____

How does repetition make the front seem balanced?

_____

NOTICE AND CONNECT

Tell someone why the year 1789 belongs to the site’s story, not to the construction of this building.

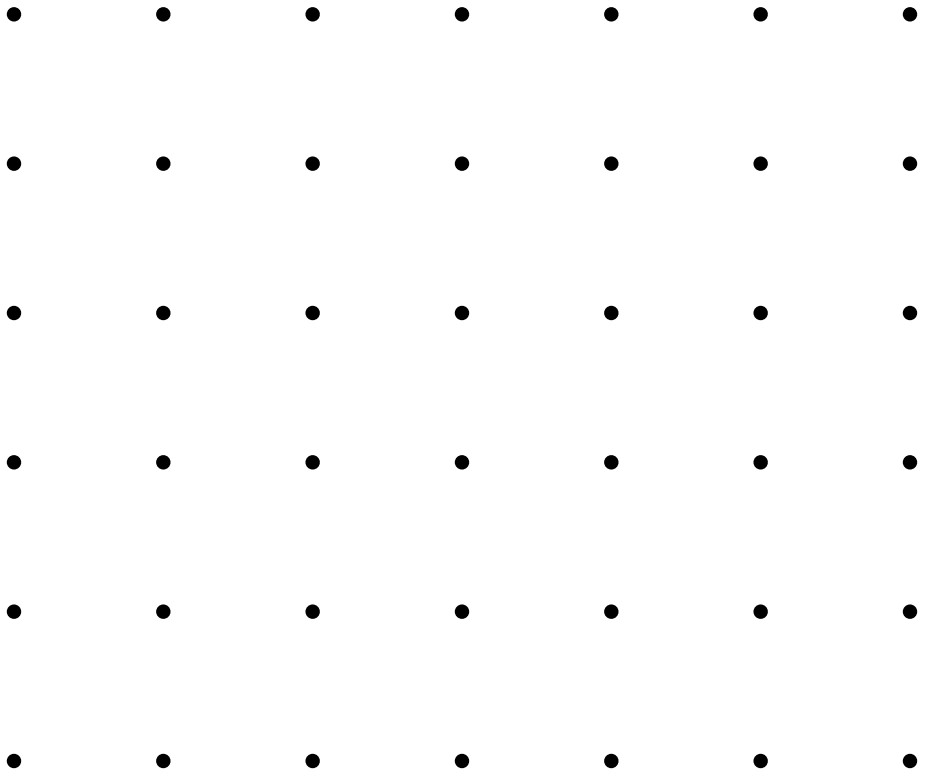
FAMILY ROAD BREAK **AGES 7-9**

Dots and boxes

Two players take turns joining neighboring dots with one straight line, across or down. Never repeat a line.

HOW TO SCORE

Complete the fourth side of a box, write your initial inside and take another turn. Most boxes wins; equal scores are a tie.



Player initials _____ and _____

Final score _____ to _____ Winner or tie _____

How many boxes can this grid hold? Count spaces, not dots.

REMEMBER AND SHARE AGES 7-9

My city evidence and memories

Choose a symbol, building, tradition or wildlife clue. Explain it using something from the packet or your visit.

My discovery

The evidence or story behind it

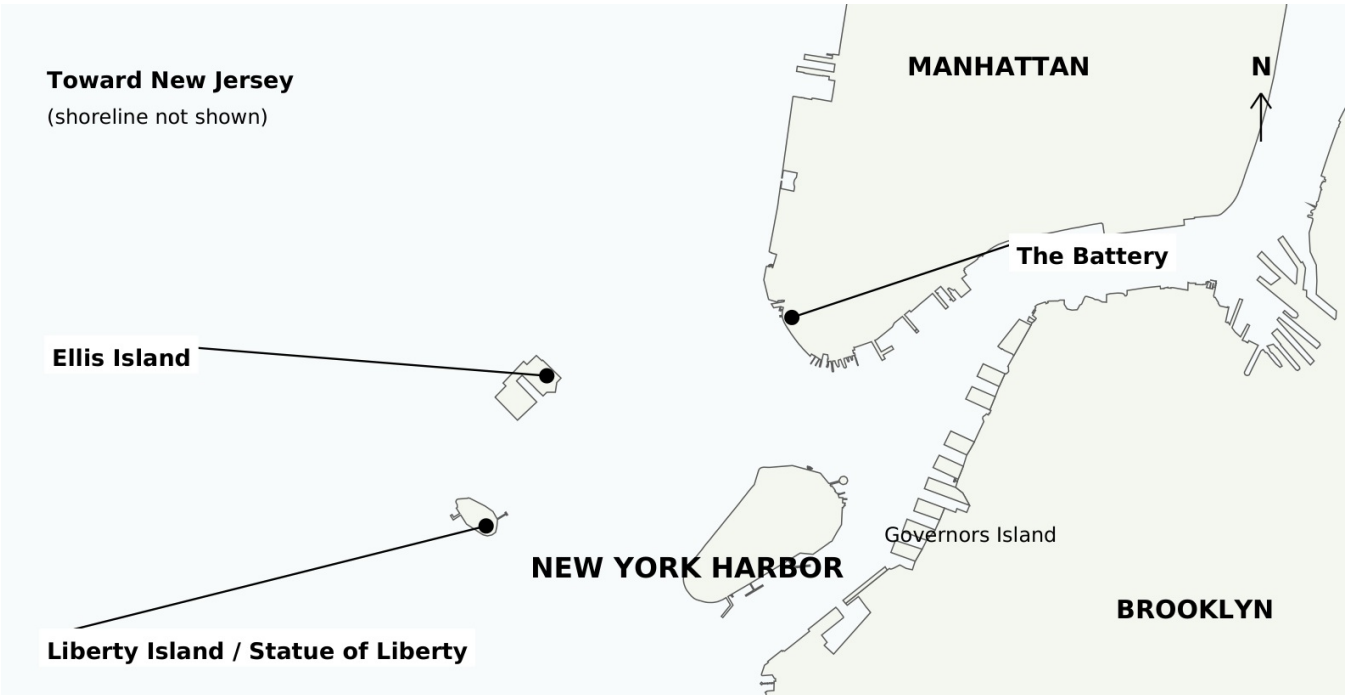
A DETAIL I WILL REMEMBER

A question I would ask a guide, historian or park educator

START YOUR EXPLORER PACKET **AGES 10+**

Harbor islands city stories

New York’s landmarks carry evidence in dates, materials and changing uses. Start with these harbor places, then explore wildlife, buildings and community stories.



Map key: dots mark places; lines link names to dots. N points north.

FOUR PLACES TO EXPLORE

Liberty Island: a monument and its symbols. Ellis Island: immigration stories. The Battery: Castle Clinton’s changing uses. Manhattan: city parks and historic places.

1. Is Ellis Island north or south of Liberty Island? _____

2. Is Liberty Island east or west of The Battery? _____

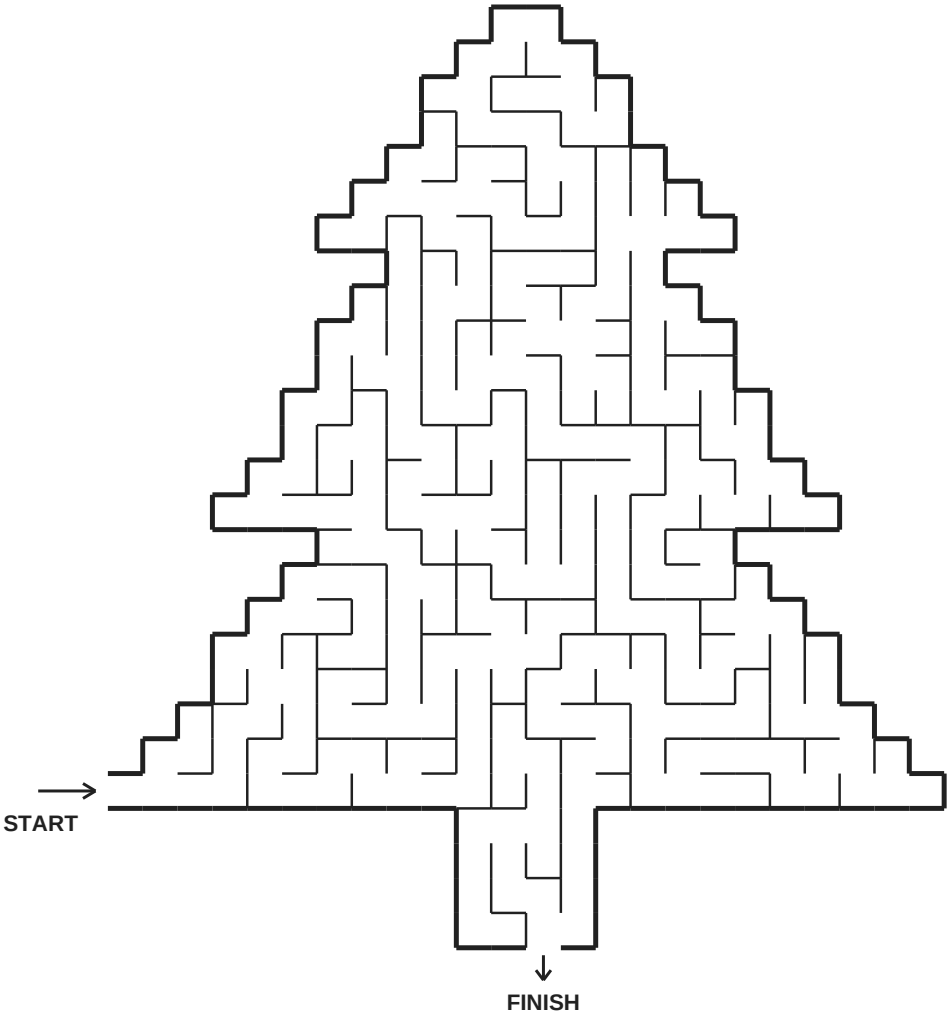
3. Choose one place above to investigate in this packet.

Pencil, crayons and a clipboard are enough. Answers begin on page 45.

SHAPED MAZE | CHALLENGING **AGES 10+**

The branching tree challenge

Find START to FINISH through the playable tree silhouette. Plan several turns ahead; keep a light mark where a branch proves to be a dead end.



A BRANCHING FORM

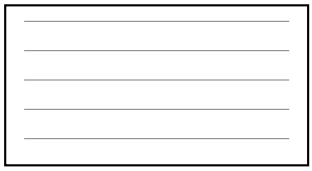
The tree outline has a trunk and branching levels. Each fork in the maze creates a choice. Which decision helped you stay connected to the finish?

ILLUSTRATED SCIENCE MYSTERY **AGES 10+**

Liberty’s changing surface

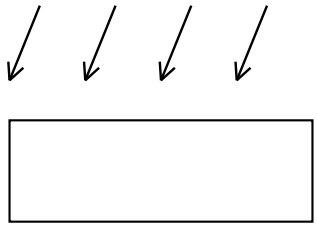
Match three labels to the scenes. Cross out the false card. Liberty’s outer skin is copper; natural oxidation formed its green patina. Dots mark a changed surface.

1



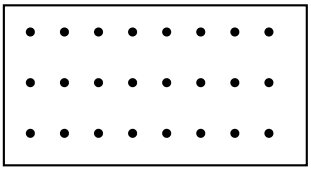
Surface at first

2



Outdoors

3



Surface much later

A | SCENE ____
A green patina has formed on the copper surface.

B | SCENE ____
Fresh copper has not yet developed its green patina.

C | SCENE ____
Green paint was required to make the natural patina.

D | SCENE ____
Air and moisture contact the exposed copper.

ANOTHER MATERIAL CLUE
A surface can change over time while the material below remains. Optional: what evidence would distinguish paint from a natural surface change?

BUILD AND QUESTION A FOOD WEB AGES 10+

Energy through an urban park

Seeds feed squirrels and cardinals. Plant-eating insects feed on leaves; cardinals eat insects. Red-tailed hawks can eat squirrels. Food arrows point toward the eater.

A. Draw five feeding arrows using the evidence above.

PLANTS

SEEDS

INSECTS

CARDINAL

SQUIRREL

HAWK

B. Name two food sources connected to the cardinal.

EVIDENCE OR OVERREACH

“If fewer seeds are available, every bird must decline by the same amount.” Does the web prove this? Circle YES or NO. Optional: name another factor.

COMPARE THE CLUES **AGES 10+**

Two watches one tree

Two observers watched the same leafy nest. Each recorded squirrel entries. One squirrel can return more than once.

A MORNING



20 minutes; 6 entries

B AFTERNOON



40 minutes; 8 entries

COMPARE ON EQUAL TIME

1. Morning entries per 10 minutes: ____
2. Afternoon entries per 10 minutes: ____
3. Higher entry rate: MORNING / AFTERNOON
4. The counts measure: VISITS / DIFFERENT SQUIRRELS

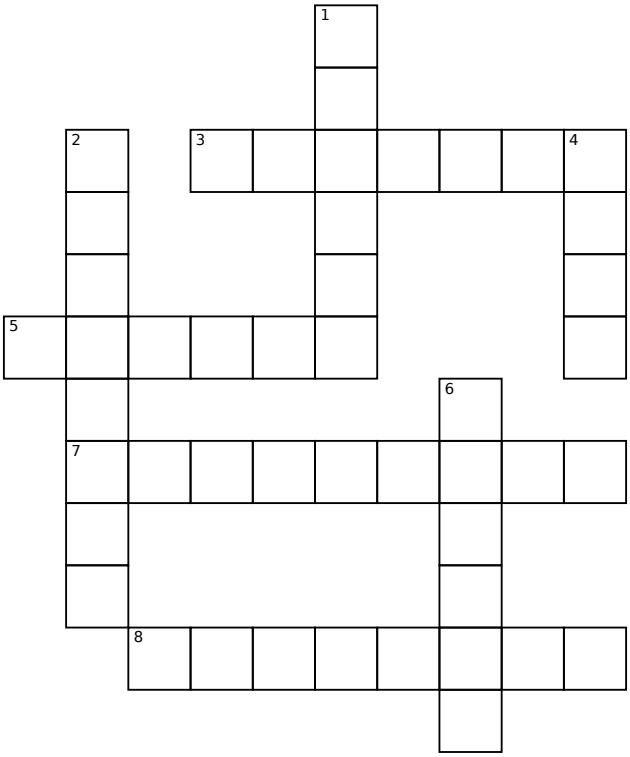
ONE MORE OBSERVATION CLUE

The morning observer saw no hawk enter a nearby stick nest in 20 minutes. Does that prove no hawk lives nearby? YES / NO
Optional: suggest another explanation.

CROSSWORD | CHALLENGING **AGES 10+**

City words connect

Use the clues and discoveries in this packet. An immigrant is a person who moves to live in another country. Try the crossings before the optional hints.



ACROSS

3. A chain or strand used as decoration. (7)

5. Metal making Liberty’s outer skin. (6)

7. A person who moves to live in another country. (9)

8. Information used to support an explanation. (8)

DOWN

1. Sheltered water for vessels. (6)

2. Place or object that preserves remembrance. (8)

4. Leafy squirrel nest. (4)

6. Surface coating formed by copper’s natural oxidation. (6)

Try a crossing before looking at the answers.

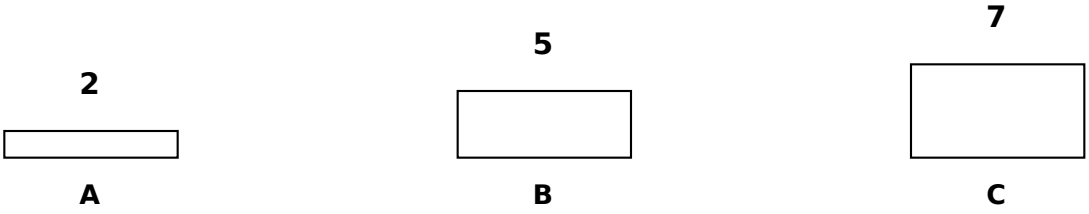
CHANGING MODEL | MULTI-STEP REASONING **AGES 10+**

Three garlands keep growing

A workshop balances three paper garlands. Each new group changes which garland is shortest. Track one round at a time.

MODEL RULES

Each round, add 3 links to the shortest garland. Other garlands stay unchanged. For equal lengths choose A before B before C.



Record the garland used and all three lengths after each round.

Round	Garland	A	B	C
Start	-	2	5	7
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

B. How many groups did each receive? A ___ B ___ C ___

C. Which garlands receive the next two groups? _____

Optional: explain why the first shortest garland does not remain shortest.

GEOGRAPHY AND A CODE AGES 10+

Harbor routes and a date code

Liberty Island and Ellis Island are separate islands in New York Harbor. Compare an ordered water route, then decode the date on Liberty’s tablet.

AN ISLAND ROUTE

The Battery → Liberty Island → Ellis Island → The Battery
Use the harbor locator at the beginning of this packet. Which island lies farther north?

_____
Does reaching either island require crossing water? YES / NO

ROMAN-NUMERAL KEY

I = 1 V = 5 X = 10 L = 50 C = 100 D = 500 M = 1000
Add values from larger to smaller. IV means 5 - 1.

TABLET CODE: JULY IV MDCCLXXVI

IV = ____ MDCCLXXVI = _____

The tablet’s date is July ____, _____.

TWO DATES TWO STORIES

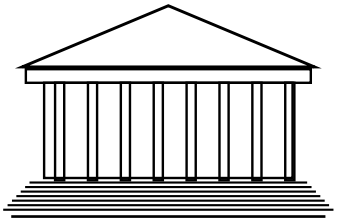
The statue was dedicated in 1886. How many years separate the tablet’s date from its dedication? ____
Optional: why might a monument carry a date earlier than its own dedication?

MATCH EXHIBITS AND LABELS AGES 10+

Three exhibits many voices

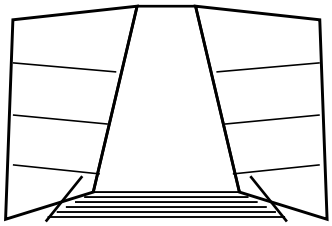
Three exhibits lost their labels. Use each place’s clue to match it with a label. A city’s history includes many kinds of experience.

A



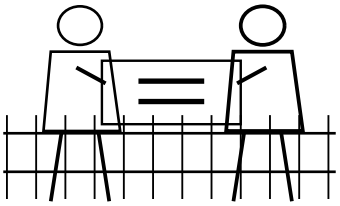
Washington took his first presidential oath at this site in 1789.

B



A memorial honors free and enslaved Africans in colonial New York.

C



The 1969 uprising became a turning point for LGBTQ+ equality.

LABELS

1 An equality movement
2 A presidential promise
3 Ancestors and remembrance

Exhibit A → label ____ B → label ____ C → label ____

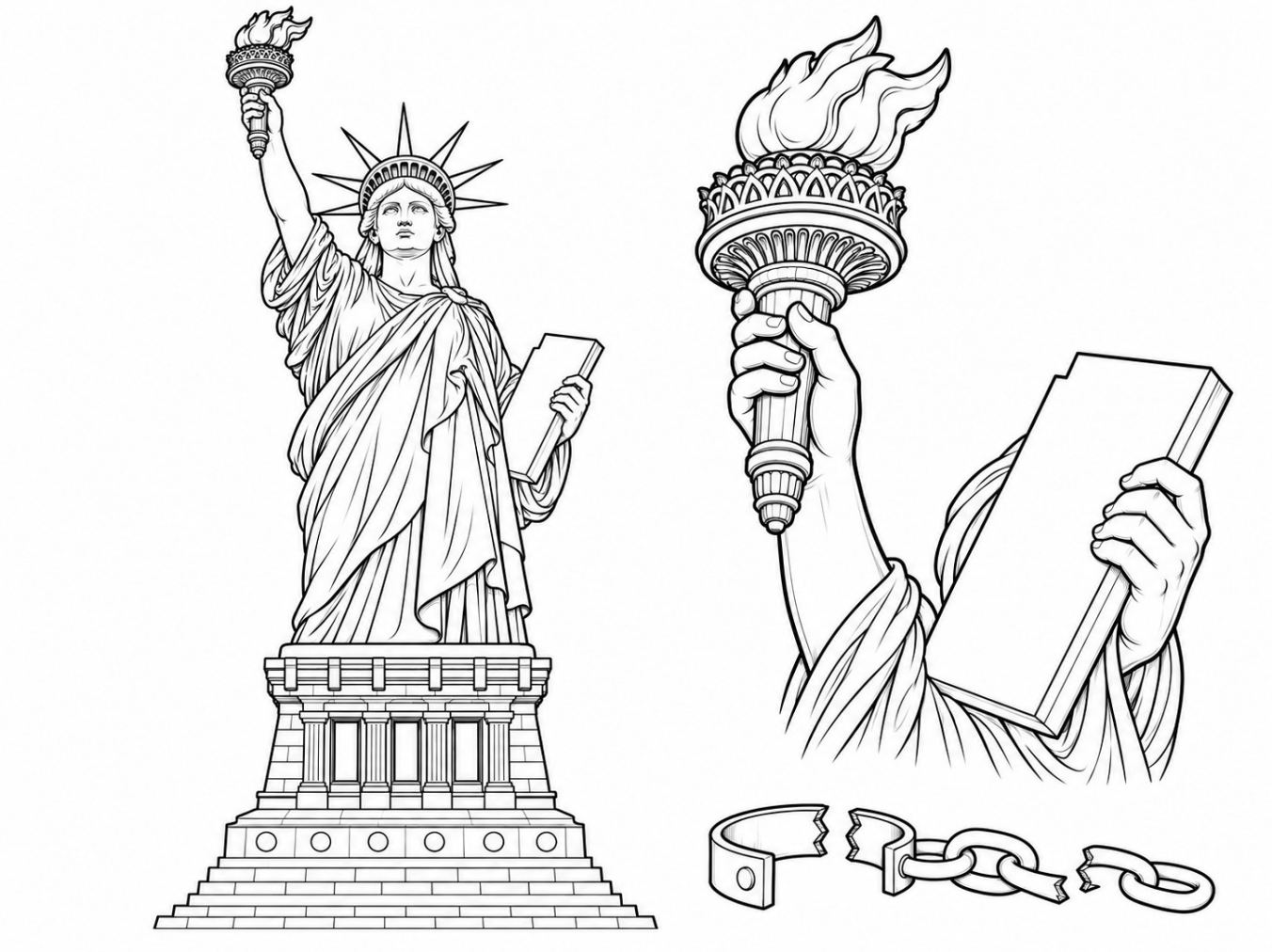
CHOOSE THE MUSEUM HEADLINE

ONE SIMPLE STORY / MANY VOICES SHAPE A CITY

NATURALIST COLOR STUDY **AGES 10+**

A monument and its symbols

Color the detailed study. Add three labels linking a visible form with the idea it communicates. Use the evidence below.



FORM AND MEANING

Torch and light: spreading understanding.
Tablet and written date: the Declaration of Independence.
Broken shackle and chain: freedom from enslavement and oppression.

Optional: how can people keep working toward an ideal expressed by a monument?

FAMILIAR ROAD BREAK AGES 10+

The number rest stop

Place 1-9 in each row, each column and each bold 3 × 3 box. Every number appears once in each. Work independently and use pencil.

3	2							
	4	6			3	1		5
	9	1	8	6	4			
	5			4		2	3	
	3				5	6		
6								
	7			5	1	4	8	6
						3	7	2
	6			7			1	

A WAY IN

Find a row, column or box with only a few gaps. List the missing digits, then use the crossing row and column to eliminate choices.

Afterward: teach someone one deduction you made without guessing.

SYNTHESIZE AND REMEMBER AGES 10+

Make a discovery worth sharing

Choose a question you can now explain. Support your answer with two details from this packet, an exhibit or your own observations.

My question

My explanation and two supporting details

DRAW A MODEL OR DETAIL THAT HELPS EXPLAIN YOUR IDEA

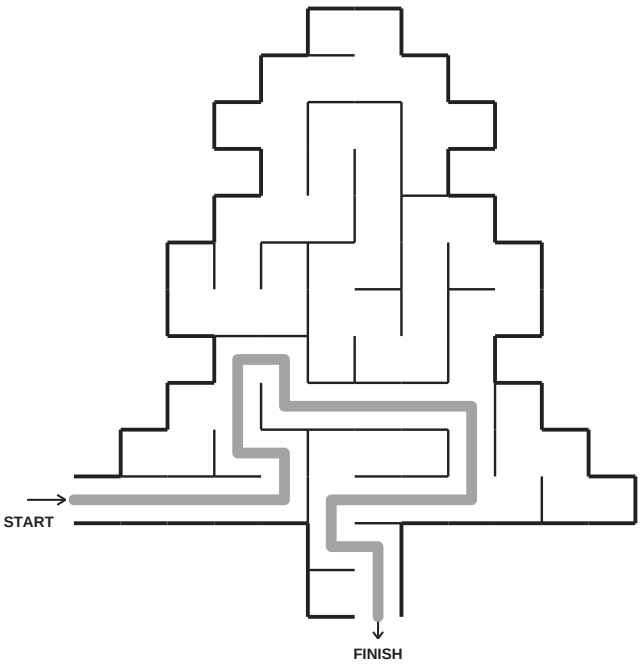
One thing I want my family to remember

ANSWER KEY | 1 OF 3 **AGES 4-6**

Routes and connected ideas

Try one hint before giving the answer. Use the printed activity page number and exact title.

Page 4 A path through the tree



Page 3 Hello city hello harbor

Manhattan is the large island. Liberty Island and Ellis Island are smaller separate islands. Pointing responses should follow the printed locator.

Page 5 A small city neighbor

Find paws, tail and ears; add two acorns. Paws hold food and help climbing. Colors and other details may vary.

Page 6 Many hands make a garland

Order B, D, C, A. Card numbers A=4, B=1, C=3, D=2. Cut strips; make one loop; link more loops; hang the finished chain.

Answers to small discoveries

Invite children to point, say or draw the clue they used.

Page 7 Homes in winter trees

Squirrel → Home B (leafy drey). Hawk → Home A (stick nest). The arrow points from the separate leaf toward the leafy drey.

Page 8 Lunch in the park

Acorn → squirrel; seeds → squirrel and cardinal; insect → cardinal. There are 3 food pictures. Circle acorn and seeds. The clues show some foods, not the animals' entire diets.

Page 9 Many hands one garland

Pattern 1: circle. Pattern 2: circle. The repeating units are circle/star and star/circle/circle. Two pairs contain 4 circles.

Page 10 One building a long story

1811 is earliest. Circle TODAY. Visitors can care for the building, follow directions, keep it clean and listen respectfully. Its past includes more jobs than the two dates shown.

Answers and family conversations

Open-ended drawings and conversations can have more than one thoughtful answer.

Page 11 Build a shared tree

Draw 4 circles and 2 stars: 6 ornaments altogether. Add two more in the box for a friend. Arithmetic: 6 - 3 = 3; 3 + 2 = 5.

Page 12 A little wild in the city

Add a drey in a tree. The squirrel and cardinal are above the ground; the water is below the bridge. Colors and extra details vary.

Page 13 I spy a city shape

Clues may describe Castle Clinton’s round wall, the Christmas tree, seven crown rays or Federal Hall’s columns. Give a clue without naming its answer.

Page 14 My city discoveries

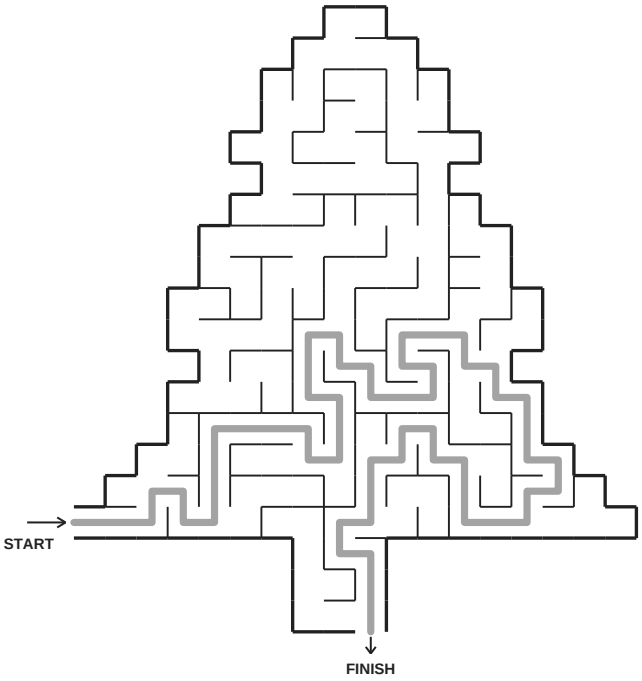
Memory drawings vary. The child can name a city place, animal, shape or historical idea and explain one remembered clue.

ANSWER KEY | 1 OF 3 **AGES 7-9**

Routes and connected ideas

Try one hint before giving the answer. Use the printed activity page number and exact title.

Page 16 Branch by branch



Page 15 An island full of stories

Hamilton Grange (7) is farthest north; Castle Clinton (1) farthest south. Central Park is north of Rockefeller Center.

Page 17 From acorn to oak

Order C, A, E, D, B. Some buried nuts are eaten, fail to grow or lack suitable conditions; burying a seed does not guarantee a tree.

Page 18 A wild web in the city

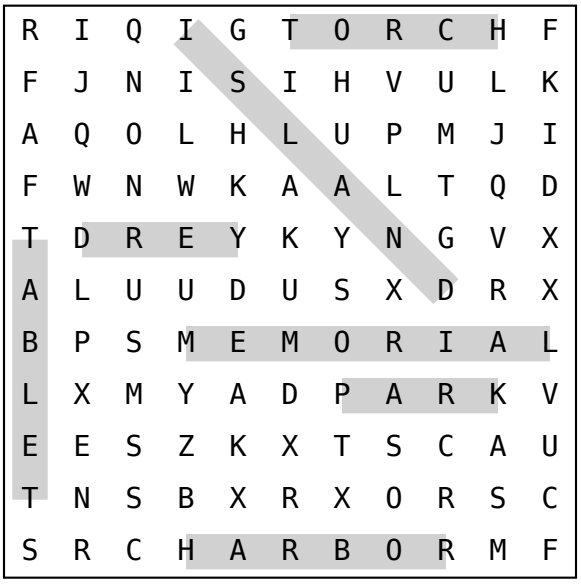
SUN → PLANTS; PLANTS → INSECTS; SEEDS → SQUIRREL; SEEDS → CARDINAL; INSECTS → CARDINAL; SQUIRREL → HAWK. One food path is plants → insects → cardinal. Do not feed wildlife.

ANSWER KEY | 2 OF 3 **AGES 7-9**

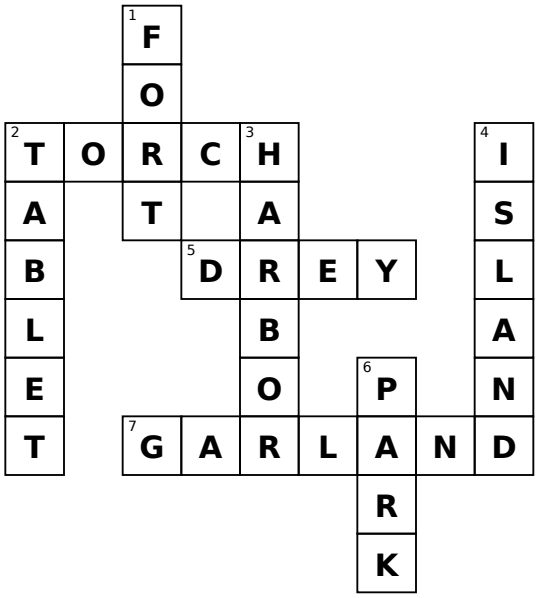
Word puzzles and evidence

Page 19 A holiday workshop in numbers: Stars 8; circles 16. Star paper 16; circle paper 16; total 32. Paper left 36 - 32 = 4. Each star uses more paper than each circle, although both sets use 16 squares.

Page 20 Hidden words city meanings



Page 21 Words across the city



Page 20 Hidden words city meanings

Object/symbol words: TORCH, TABLET. Wildlife home: DREY. Remembrance: MEMORIAL. Other city words are shown in the completed search grid.

Page 22 The missing landmark labels

A Hamilton Grange; B Castle Clinton; C Roosevelt Birthplace; D Federal Hall. C is the re-created home, leaving Hamilton Grange for A. Clues 2 and 4 identify B and D.

ANSWER KEY | 3 OF 3 AGES 7-9

History observations and play

A reasonable explanation connects the response with evidence in the activity.

Page 23 A building changes with a city

Order 1811, 1855, 1896. Fort to aquarium: 1896 - 1811 = 85 years. Depot to aquarium: 1896 - 1855 = 41. Personal accounts can reveal feelings, family needs and experiences not shown by dates.

Page 24 Columns shapes and a site

The drawing has repeated columns, steps and window shapes. The 1789 oath took place at the site; the present building opened in 1842.

Page 25 Dots and boxes

5 × 6 = 30 boxes. Closing a box earns another turn. Scores total 30 when all boxes are claimed; there is no fixed winner.

Page 26 My city evidence and memories

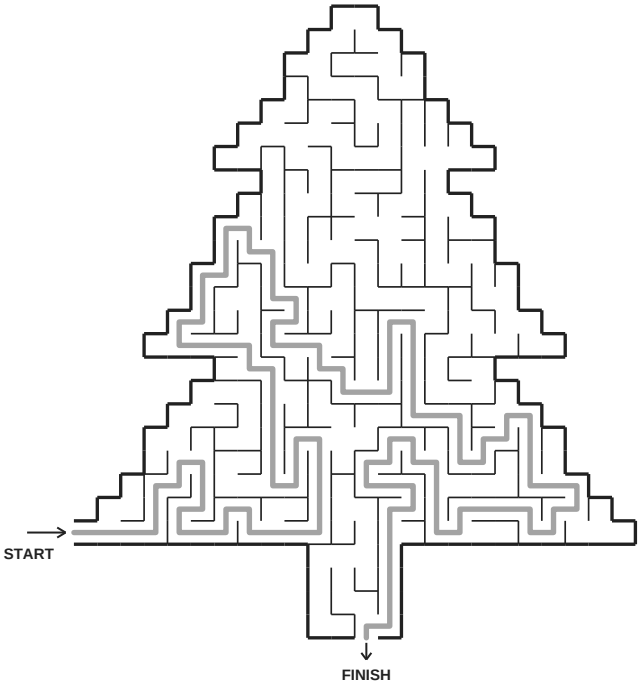
A strong final note links a discovery to a specific clue. Drawings, memories and new questions vary.

ANSWER KEY | 1 OF 3 **AGES 10+**

Routes and connected ideas

Try one hint before giving the answer. Use the printed activity page number and exact title.

Page 28 The branching tree challenge



Page 27 Harbor islands city stories

Ellis Island is north of Liberty Island. Liberty Island is west of The Battery. Reaching either island requires a water crossing. Questions about city stories can vary.

Page 29 Liberty’s changing surface

Scene 1 → B; scene 2 → D; scene 3 → A. Cross out C. The green patina formed by natural oxidation of copper, not a required coat of green paint.

Page 30 Energy through an urban park

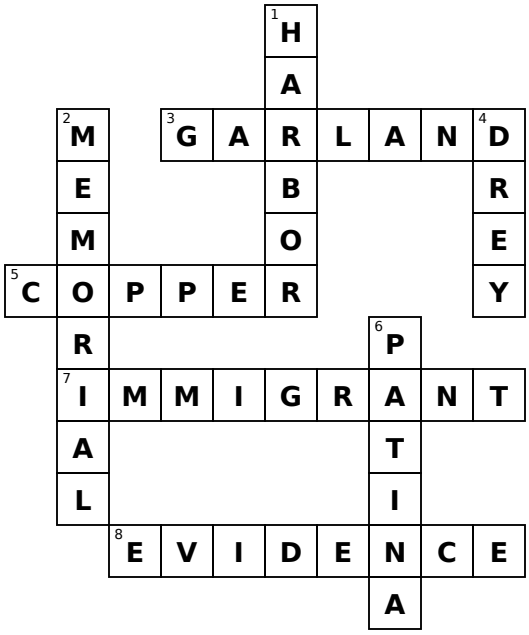
PLANTS → INSECTS; SEEDS → CARDINAL; SEEDS → SQUIRREL; INSECTS → CARDINAL; SQUIRREL → HAWK. Cardinal sources: seeds and insects. Circle NO. Alternative foods, movement, weather and other factors can affect different species differently.

ANSWER KEY | 2 OF 3 **AGES 10+**

Numbers words and models

Page 31 Two watches one tree: Morning: 6 ÷ 2 = 3 visits per 10 minutes. Afternoon: 8 ÷ 4 = 2. Circle MORNING and VISITS. Circle NO: a hawk may be away, may arrive later or may use another nest. Short observation cannot establish absence nearby.

Page 32 City words connect



Page 33 Three garlands keep growing

Rd	Used	A	B	C
1	A	5	5	7
2	A	8	5	7
3	B	8	8	7
4	C	8	8	10
5	A	11	8	10
6	B	11	11	10

Groups: A 3, B 2, C 1. Next: C, A.

Page 34 Harbor routes and a date code

Ellis Island lies farther north. YES, each is separated from Manhattan by water. IV = 4; MDCCLXXVI = 1776. July 4, 1776. Gap: 1886 - 1776 = 110 years. The tablet recalls the Declaration of Independence, not the statue’s own dedication.

Page 32 City words connect | Optional hints

Completed grid shown. Optional hints: PATINA, COPPER, MEMORIAL, IMMIGRANT, GARLAND, HARBOR, EVIDENCE, DREY.

ANSWER KEY | 3 OF 3 **AGES 10+**

History art and a rest stop

Page 35 Three exhibits many voices: A → 2 (Federal Hall); B → 3 (African Burial Ground); C → 1 (Stonewall). Choose MANY VOICES SHAPE A CITY. Participant and descendant-community voices help interpret these places.

Page 37 The number rest stop

3	2	7	5	1	9	8	6	4
8	4	6	7	2	3	1	9	5
5	9	1	8	6	4	7	2	3
1	5	9	6	4	8	2	3	7
7	3	2	1	9	5	6	4	8
6	8	4	2	3	7	9	5	1
2	7	3	9	5	1	4	8	6
9	1	5	4	8	6	3	7	2
4	6	8	3	7	2	5	1	9

Page 36 A monument and its symbols

Labels connect the raised torch/light with understanding, the tablet/date with the Declaration of Independence, and the broken shackle/chain with freedom. An ideal is a goal people may continue working toward.

Page 38 Make a discovery worth sharing

A useful synthesis connects two details: for example, Castle Clinton’s fort and immigrant-depot uses show changing city needs. Historical experiences differ; seek relevant participant or community voices.

A NOTE ON THE HISTORY DISCUSSION

Invite more than one perspective. Community stories belong to living people, not only to dates or buildings. Ask which source could help answer the next question.

ADULT PLANNING NOTES FAMILY GUIDE

Before your city adventure

A little planning leaves more room for close looking and good conversation.

HOLIDAY VISITS

Check Rockefeller Center, Central Park Conservancy and official venue pages for current dates, hours, ticket needs, access and weather. Tree viewing, skating and performances may have different arrangements.

HARBOR VISITS

Liberty Island and Ellis Island are separate from Manhattan’s street grid. Check the official NPS ferry and access information before choosing tickets. Use current maps for street travel.

CARE IN A BUSY CITY

Stay together in crowds, obey crossing signals and respect memorial spaces. Keep food away from wildlife. Skate only at designated operating rinks, not frozen ponds. Be curious and kind about different traditions.

MAKE ROOM FOR DISCUSSION

Ask “What evidence supports that?” and “Whose story would help us learn more?” Memorials may raise serious questions; read at a pace that fits the child.

Official starting points: nps.gov/npnh | rockefellercenter.com | centralparknyc.org

Sources for curious families

These primary sources support the facts in the activities. The editable source package includes the detailed fact and puzzle-verification records.

Castle Clinton and changing uses

https://www.nps.gov/cacl/learn/historyculture/index.htm

Federal Hall site and building

https://www.nps.gov/feha/learn/hc.htm

Hamilton Grange

https://www.nps.gov/hagr

Roosevelt Birthplace re-creation

https://www.nps.gov/thrb/learn/historyculture/brownstone.htm

Ulysses and Julia Grant memorial

https://www.nps.gov/gegr

African Burial Ground

https://www.nps.gov/afbg/learn/historyculture/index.htm

Stonewall and LGBTQ+ equality

https://stonewallvisitorcenter.org/about

Ellis Island histories

https://www.nps.gov/elis/learn/historyculture/index.htm

Liberty symbols and materials

https://www.nps.gov/stli/faqs.htm

Sources checked October 26-27, 2026. The editable package contains the detailed fact and puzzle records. Retained WBF art and new educational diagrams support the activities.

REFERENCE 2 OF 2 FAMILY GUIDE

Sources for curious families

These primary sources support the facts in the activities. The editable source package includes the detailed fact and puzzle-verification records.

Squirrels and buried nuts

https://www.centralparknyc.org/articles/getting-to-know-central-parks-squirrels

Winter homes and park residents

https://www.centralparknyc.org/articles/park-winter-wildlife

https://www.centralparknyc.org/articles/winter-stories-wildlife

Cardinal food

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_cardinal/lifehistory

Red-tailed hawk food and nests

https://www.nyc.gov/site/wildlifenyc/animals/red-tailed-hawks.page

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Red-tailed_Hawk/lifehistory

Rockefeller Center traditions

https://www.rockefellercenter.com/history/

https://www.rockefellercenter.com/holidays/rockefeller-center-christmas-tree/

Liberty copper and natural patina

https://www.nps.gov/stli/faqs.htm

Liberty and the abolition ideal

https://www.nps.gov/stli/learn/historyculture/abolition.htm

Sources checked October 26-27, 2026. The editable package contains the detailed fact and puzzle records. Retained WBF art and new educational diagrams support the activities.