Our Favorite Places

All About New York City Landmarks

Classes 2-204 & 2-217 at P.S. 125 Ralph Bunche School
A special dedication to all the essential workers whose daily self-sacrifice make it possible for us to be safe as we live a healthy, safety and socially-distanced life.

We dedicate this book to our families, friends, teachers, The Ralph Bunche School and our principal, Mr. Reginald Higgins.
About the Program

New York City is full of famous places to visit. Think of the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge, or the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The second graders in Ms. Flanagan’s and Ms. Scoufaras’ classes explored New York landmarks in a series of workshops centered on Allison Pataki’s book *Nelly Takes New York*.

The students did extensive research on their favorite New York City places, from Coney Island to the Bronx Zoo and everything in between, collaborating with Behind the Book volunteers.

Author Allison Pataki visited the class during which she spoke about how New York City’s history is preserved through landmarks. She explained that she selected her own favorite landmarks to display throughout the book *Nelly Takes New York*.

Following Allison’s visits, students participated in a drama workshop with Behind the Book’s drama teacher Karen Butler. They examined the characters in the book, giving voice to them, and bringing the pages to life. Behind the Book teaching artist Candice Humphries taught the students how to create pop-up cards of their favorite landmarks.

The final workshop combined all they had learned when they wrote informational essays about their favorite NYC landmark. Through this book, you too can experience some of the best parts of The Big Apple. We hope that our work inspires you to explore and learn about New York City’s history.
Do you know about the Statue of Liberty? Read to find out more.

The Statue of Liberty was built in 1875. The architects of the Statue of Liberty were Frederich August Bartholdi and Richard Morris Hunt.

The Statue of Liberty is located on Liberty Island.

The Statue of Liberty over time, the Statue of Liberty became a NYC landmark in 1976.

It was built as a symbol of freedom.

The Statue of Liberty today, 4 million people visit the Statue of Liberty each year. It is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States.

Did you learn facts about the Statue of Liberty?
Do you know what Central Park is all about? Read to find out!

Central Park in the Past

Central Park opened to the public in 1858. In 1853, the New York State Government gave over 700 acres to build the park. Central Park was built in Manhattan.

Central Park became a landmark on March 26th, 1914. There were a total of 11 decorative bridges and 22 arches built over 230 different species of birds have been spotted in Central Park over the years. Millions of people visit Central Park every year. The park has been shown in many movies and television programs. Today, the size of Central Park has been extended to cover 842 acres. The end
Do you learn more about the AMNH in the past? The museum of natural history was originally built in 1874. The museum of natural history opened in 1877. The first architects were Calvert Vaux and J. Wrey Mould.

AMNH over time
The museum of natural history became a NYC landmark in 1967. In 2001, the Judy and Josh Weston pavilion opened. In 1998, the Hall of biodiversity opened on the first floor.

AMNH today
The museum of natural history has 5,000,000 visitors every year. Today, the Milstein Hall of ocean life is most famous for 94-foot-long blue whale model. Did you have fun learning with me?
AMNH in the Past

The museum’s first architects were Calvert Vaux and J. Wrey Mould.

The Museum of Natural History was originally built in 1874. It opened
the in 1877. AMNH over time they
the Museum of Natural History became a NYC landmark in 1967. In
1941, the Hall of North American Mammals opened
AMNH today. Millions of people visit
the museum per year. Today, the great
dinosaur fossil collections are on the fourth floor of the
museum.
Have you ever gone to the AMoNH? Well, if you haven’t gone we can peek in my story to learn about the museum!

AMNH in the Past
In 1871 a series of exhibits of the museum’s collection went on view for the first time in Central Park. The Museum of Natural History was built in 1874 and it opened in 1877. The museum had many architects but its first architects were two men: Calvert Vaux and J. Wrey Mould.

AMNH Over Time
Overtime in 1895, President Jesup hired Franz Boas to be the assistant curator in the department of ethnology. Overtime in 1896, the Hall of Northwest Coast Indians now called the Northwest Coast Hall opened on the first floor.
Journey continued...

Overtime Boas organized the Jesup North Pacific expedition where they found an unparalleled record of life and culture of the North Pacific.

AMNH Today

Today, The Museum of Natural History has new world mammals, birds, and oceanic also the big whale. Today the upper level of the hall exhibits the vast array of ecosystems present in the ocean. Well, you learned so much in this book! I think you should ask your parents to go to the Museum of Natural History.

Minka

Do you want to learn more about Coney Island? This book is all about the fancy Coney Island. Coney Island in the past. Coney Island was built in 1895. Nathan's famous original hotdog stand opened on Coney Island in 1916 and quickly became a landmark there. Three rides, the Wonder Wheel, the parachute jump, and the cyclone were all landmark.

The cyclone were all landmark.
Coney Island over time
Coney Island burnt down three times. One time in 1907, in 1908 and in 1911. The Cyclone roller coaster was built in 1927. A minor league baseball stadium was built in 2002.
Coney Island now today
Today you can ride bumper cars on Coney Island. In 2011 Scream Zone, another amusement park opened. In 2013, Seaside Park and community arts center, featuring a 6,000 seat amphitheater opened. The End
This book is entertaining and all about The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Enjoy the book!

The MET in the past

The MET's earliest roots date back to 1800 in Paris. The Met MET's was built in 1874.

The MET over time

The MET became a landmark on November 29, 1972. In 1998, the Arts of Korea gallery opened to the public. Completing a major suite of galleries devoted to the arts of Asia.

The MET today

Millions of people view visit the MET each year. Today tens of thousands of objects are on view. I hope you had a good trip.
This book is all about The Statue of Liberty.

The Statue of Liberty

The statue of Liberty was built in 1875.
The architects of The Statue of Liberty were
Frederick Auguste Bartholdi and Richard Morris Hunt.
The project to build The Statue of Liberty was
announced in France in 1875.
The Statue of Liberty over time
The Statue of Liberty became a NYC landmark in
1976. The Statue of Liberty is a monument that
is admired throughout the world. The Statue of Liberty stands on Liberty Island
in New York Harbor

The Statue of Liberty today
Millions of people visit the Statue of Liberty per year. Today, the height of the statue from the base to the tip is
151 feet.

Hope you liked reading this book.
Welcome to reading about Central Park!

Central Park in the Past

In 1853, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux won a design competition. Central Park opened to the public in 1858. $14 million was spent on developing the land and construction works for Central Park.

Central Park Over Time

Central Park became a NYC landmark on March 26, 1974. Central Park is bordered on the North by West 100th street. The Central Park Conservancy runs the park.

Central Park Today

Millions of people visit Central Park every year. Central Park is 2.5 miles long and 0.5 miles wide. Central Park is admired throughout the world.

Thank you for reading this book about Central Park.
Do you know when Coney Island was built? You’ll find out by reading this book!

Coney Island in the past
Coney Island was built in 1895. Coney Island was built in Brooklyn.

Coney Island burnt down 3 times. Coney Island burnt over time.
The Wonder Wheel has both
star and stationary cars and
now it is a part of Deno
Wonder Wheel.

Look out for Part 2 of Fun Facts
about Coney Island!

Part 2: Fun Facts
- The Wonder Wheel was built
  in 1927.
- The NY Aquarium opened
  in 1957.
- In October 2012 Superstorm
  Sandy hit much of Coney Island
- KeySpan Park is home to the
  Brooklyn Cyclones.
Jordan

The city of Jordan was built in 1876 by Andrew Cuyler. The original Harper Cemetery is located in Brooklyn on an island off the farm. There are now 143 acres of parkland in Jordan.
Do you know the Statue of Liberty was a gift from France? Read more to find out!

The Statue of Liberty in The Past
France gave The Statue of Liberty to the United States as a gift. The Statue of Liberty was built in France, Liberty Island, in New York. The statue was modeled after a Roman goddess named Libertas.

The Story Of Liberty over time
The Statue of Liberty became a NYC landmark in 1876. The statue is 151 feet and 1 inch tall.

The Statue Sways 3 inches in the wind and the torch sways 5 inches.

The Statue of Liberty today
Millions of people visit The Statue of Liberty each year. 440 people each day are allowed to climb to the crown. Visitors climb 364 steps to look out from 25 windows in the crown.

Now you know facts about The Statue of Liberty.
This book is all going to be about the Statue of Liberty.

The Statue of Liberty in the Past

The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France.

The architects of the Statue of Liberty were Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and Richard Morris Hunt. The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France.

The Statue of Liberty over Time


The Statue of Liberty today

Millions of people visit the Statue of Liberty per year. 240 people each day are allowed to the top. The Crown of Liberty today is part of the United States National Park Service. Thank you for reading this book about the Statue of Liberty!
Can you believe The Metropolitan Museum of Art is housing 13 dead bodies? The Met is home to 13 dead mummies and on display along with lots of other amazing things. Read on or find out more interesting facts, the Met is in the past because the Metropolitan Museum of Art was founded in 1870. The Met opened in 1872 and in 1880 the Met opened at its original location where it opened it had a sarcophagus that is still on view.

The Met over time
After the museum opened expansions began and you can still see parts of the old building inside in 1931 a blue egyptian hippopotamus named Willam became
Will continued...

the MET was over the years. The MET has grown to be 20 times its original size and became a national historic landmark in 1986.

Today, the MET has more than 2 million works of art. The MET is one of the largest museums in the world.

There are more than 6 million visitors to the MET each year.

I hope you get to visit the MET soon and see things I haven't seen.
Ms. Flanagan’s Class

Famous Landmarks in NYC

A landmark is a building or structure that symbolizes special values.
Landmarks in New York City are often:
- Historical
- Historic
- Skyscrapers
- Buildings
- Museums
- Hospitals
- Libraries
- Churches
- Synagogues

Landmarks are very important and very recognizable.

Thinking Map: Tree Map

Pop-up cards and books can be really simple or complex. Pop-up artists use a series of folds in paper to create amazing popup scenes that are fun to look at, but also fun to make. Today we will be making a pop-up of a special place that you think should be a city landmark.
It was opened on April 18th, 1923. Between the 1939–1970s, Yankee Stadium was also the home field for the Giants football team. The stadium was called the "House that Ruth built," named after the player Babe Ruth who had lots of home runs. After renovations, the stadium reopened in 1976 and included monuments.

The 1923 stadium was knocked down to make a newer stadium that opened in April 2009. The new stadium was the most expensive baseball stadium in the world. It cost $1.5 billion. The new stadium has some parts of the old stadium. Over time, they created more areas honoring old Yankee Players and museums. Trophies were built until 1961.
They are allowing virtual tours. Yankee Stadium is closed until baseball season and is being used as a vaccination site. Monument Park has monuments and plaques honoring old Yankee players. Back in 2013, the capacity of people at the games were 47,320. Now there’s just 30% capacity.

I picked Yankee Stadium because I went to a Yankee game with my mom and aunt. My aunt is from Australia. She doesn’t get to see us that much so we went to the game with her. I also picked it because I have only gone there once and I wanted to learn more about it. When it was my first time there I really liked it. I thought it was fun and wanted to learn more about it.

coney Island was built in 1897. It was once the largest amusement park. Three rides are land marked. European settlers led the land that makes up the present day coney island was divided across several separate islands that over the years were changing shapes. The development of coney island was very controversial as people in the area didn’t want them to build in the area. It became an amusement park in the 20th century. The original name came from the Dutch and was called coney island, which
means rabbit island. After the civil war Coney Island became a resort. Coney Island is an excellent beach for sun. It is a major attraction. Coney Island is closed because of COVID. The amusement park has various rides, games, and sideshows. It has bumper cars and the well-known ferris wheel the wonder wheel. The updated aquarium now has a coral reef shark tunnel. The reason I picked Coney Island is because I thought it looks fun and wanted to see what goes on there. I was curious to know how many things such as roller coasters they had. I have never gone to Coney Island and wanted to learn more about it and go one day.
The Museum of Art was built in 1874 in NYC. The architects are Richard Morris Hunt, Calvert Vaux, and Jacob Wing. It became a NYC landmark on November 21, 1977. The Met was founded in 1870.

By the 20th century, the museum became one of the largest Art Centers. The Met was the first public museum to contain art works by Henri Matisse. Today, almost all of around 26,000 Egyptian artifacts are on display in the American Wing. They house the most comprehensive collection of decorative painting, sculptures, and arts in the world.

The Met is open during Covid. People need to wear masks and keep social distancing. The museum is open at 25%. There are 15,000-20,000 people a day.

I picked this landmark because I love art. Second, I like to learn about new things. I also picked it because museums are one of my favorite places to go. I visited the Met and saw a lot of interesting art. Some were scribbles, but I didn't mind. I saw origami, sculptures, and three ice cream cones painted.
The Bronx Zoo opened on November 8th, 1899. The first person who worked at the zoo was William Temple Hornaday. The zoo's previous site is no longer used but is located in Astoria, Queens. New York City built the first animal hospital at the Bronx Zoo.

Over time, the Bronx Zoo was one of seven zoos outside of Australia to have the thylacine, which is extinct. Before animals were kept in cages and now they're free. It was only one zoo that cared for endangered species. They have exhibits where you can see the animals' farms and exhibits when you need to pay more than.

Present Day
The Bronx Zoo is open during COVID, but you need to make reservations before you go and only a certain number of people can be. Today the Bronx Zoo has over 4,000 animals, and many of them are endangered. They no longer keep the animals in tiny cages and they have more room in their habitat. The Bronx Zoo has more species of animals now.

Why I picked this landmark?
I picked the Bronx Zoo because I like the animals. They also have the home to lots of endangered and extinct animals. I also pick it because you get to learn about all the different animals and see the animals.
The statue of liberty was dedicated on October 28, 1886. They started building the statue of liberty in 1875. The idea for the statue of liberty was by an anti-slavery activist in 1875 some of the sections were dedicated to the United States. Around 4 million people visit the statue of liberty each year.

Over time, the statue of liberty over time became a landmark. After being in the rain and sun, it turned the statue green. They tried to make more and more money to continue to build the statue of liberty. The statue of liberty is a world heritage site for people around the world to enjoy and learn about the history of NY.
Eric continued...

The Statue of Liberty is a part of the U.S. National Park Service. Due to COVID-19, parts of the Statue of Liberty are off limits to visit. It is opened at just 25% capacity. Why did I pick this landmark? I picked this landmark because the Statue of Liberty is also a museum you can visit. The torch has 7 points that represents 7 seas and 7 continents.

Joelle

Coney Island was a fun place. Coney Island was built in Brooklyn next to a beach. It used to be called Rabbit Island by Dutch Settlers. After the Civil War, Coney Island was a resort. The first ride was built in 1876 by Charles Looff.

Over time, Coney Island had hotels where people can stay around the 1830s. There are so many rides. They were trying to separate Coney Island from Brooklyn and filling it with waste. In 2003, the mayor offered Coney Island to be a possible spot for the
Joelle continued...

2012 Olympic Pics, but it wasn’t picked. Coney Island started.
Freak Shows,
Present Day
Today, there are changes in its appearance and more attractions built. Coney Island is closed because of COVID, Coney Island.
rebuilt there
Aquarium and added a coral reef/shark tunnel. Coney Island hosts events such as the Mermaid Parade every summer.
Today, they still have their famous wooden roller coaster called the Cyclone.
why I picked this landmark? I picked Coney Island because it is a fun place where you can go with your family. I’ve never been there before.
The Statue of Liberty was built in September 1875. The Statue of Liberty is a symbol of peace and liberty. The architects of the Statue of Liberty were Frederic Bartholdi and Richard Morris Hunt. The Statue of Liberty has many names.

Over time, the Statue of Liberty is made out of copper and its green color is from the rain. The Statue weighs 450,000 pounds. Millions of people visit the statue of Liberty each year. Currently, it is 130 years old. The statue is now a world heritage site. They changed the torches flame.
Kaden continued...

Symphani

Past
The statue became a landmark on 9/11.
1975. The statue was built in France in
1875. It was given to NYC as a gift in 1886.
In 1886, almost 14 million immigrants came
to the United States through New York.
Lots of people came to see The Statue of Liberty.

Overtime
The arm and torch of the statue of
Liberty were built first. Then her head was
built and rest of her body over time. Parts
of the statue weigh 415,000 pounds.
Symphani continued...

Statue was first a copper color then it turned green because of the weather. The Statue became a symbol for immigrants entering the U.S. Present Day some parts of the statue are closed because of COVID and is only open at 25% capacity. The Statue of Liberty is between New York and New Jersey. The Mayor wanted the 7 oceans and 7 continents. Why I picked this landmark? I picked the Statue of Liberty because it is interesting. I also picked it because it is history from the past. I knew a little bit about the statue like it was a gift from France and to learn more.
Luna

Luna Park was first built in 1871. The idea was to build a large park in Coney Island after the Civil War ended. Luna Park was one of the largest amusement parks in the country. It is also the location of the New York Aquarium since June 6th, 1857, the original inhabitants of Coney Island. The name "Luna" is believed to have originated from the place without shade.

The theme park changed ownership three different times. Since the opening of the famous hotdog eating contest, every time more attractions were developed like Amuse, the sideshow. In 1904, Luna Park was expanded because the original Luna Park was closed...

In 1944, in 2012, Hurricane Sandy destroyed Coney Island.

Yesterday today because of COVID, Coney Island is closed. Coney Island is a really fun place. Coney Island hosts many events like the carnival parade and 5x marathon whale picket.

This landmark! I choose Coney Island because I'm named after Luna Park. I like that the park is right by my uncle's house. It is a very fun place with a lot of cool rides and the aquarium has animals.
About the Visiting Author

Allison Pataki grew up in Upstate New York, near the Hudson River. As a kid, she loved to read books, write books, and get lost in the stories in her own imagination. After college, Allison wrote for the news, but she soon decided that she enjoyed writing books more! Allison now writes novels for adults as well as children’s books, including the two picture books *Nelly Takes New York* and *Poppy Takes Paris*.

Allison loves to travel and has been as far as Australia, Vietnam, Turkey, South Africa, Greece and elsewhere, but she still lives in Upstate New York, along with her three children, her husband, and her dog, Penny. In addition to writing and reading stories, Allison also teaches yoga and loves to take walks in the woods, cook, and imagine future stories.

About the Author

This book was written by the second graders at P.S. 125, the Ralph Bunche School, during their 2020-2021 blended learning program. We researched and wrote about New York City landmarks while learning all about The Big Apple. Since we love art, we created pop-ups of our favorite landmarks! We try our best in reading, math, social studies and science. We love to participate in gym, work choice, and dance. We have persistently worked in both our remote and in-person classrooms, despite many changes and new challenges. We always help each other and work together as we learn! #EndHateEducate.

About Behind the Book

Behind the Book brings authors and their books into classrooms to build literacy skills and foster a community of lifelong readers and writers. Working with classes from Pre-K through 12th grade, our series of workshops is designed to bring books to life and inspire students to reach their full potential. Behind the Book is embedded in the class curriculum, nurtures critical thinking, creativity, and self-confidence in New York City public school students. All programs meet the Common Core Learning Standards.
Common Core Learning Standards Addressed

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1**
Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7**
Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.5**
With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing.

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.7**
Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., read a number of books on a single topic to produce a report; record science observations).

**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.4**
Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking audibly in coherent sentences.
BtB empowers the next generation of readers and writers by nurturing critical thinking, creativity, and self-confidence in our students.

www.behindthebook.org