

BROOKLYN

CONNECTIONS



PARK SLOPE
PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET

Student Name

INTRODUCTORY READING

Adaptation

Park Slope is bounded to the north by Fourth and Flatbush Avenues, to the east by Flatbush Avenue and Prospect Park West, to the south by Prospect Park West and 15th Street, and to the west by Fourth Avenue. It was developed after Prospect Park was completed and street railways were extended to the area in the 1870s. Mansions and four-story row houses were built north of Ninth Street near Grand Army Plaza for professional and entrepreneurs, many of whom used new streetcar lines that extended over the Brooklyn Bridge to travel to work in downtown Brooklyn and Manhattan. From about this time, Prospect Park West from the plaza to First Street was known as the “Gold Coast.”

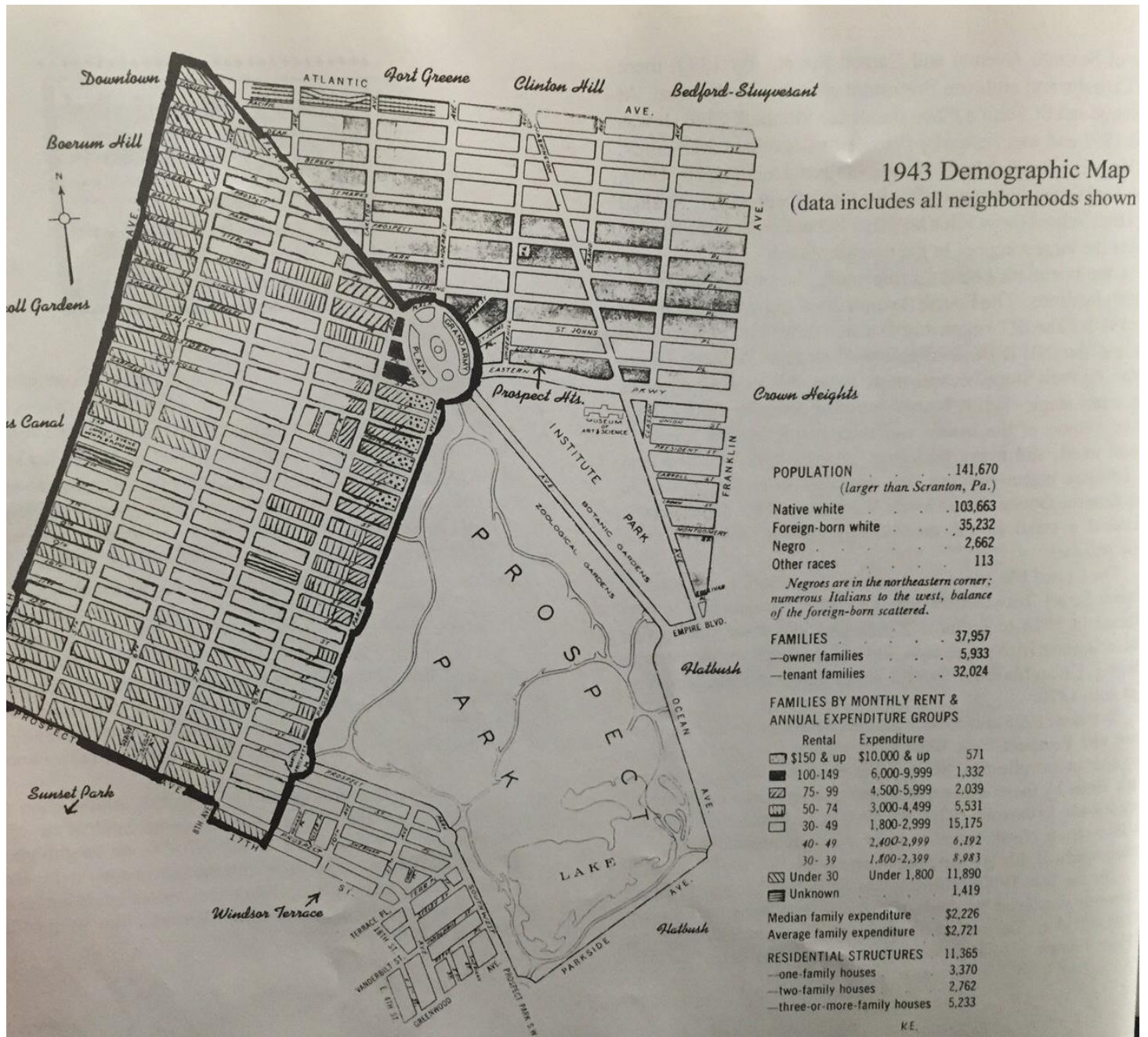
Modest row houses and apartments buildings were built west of Seventh Avenue and south of Ninth Street to house workers in local factories like that of Ansonia Clock Factory located at 12th Street and Seventh Avenue, which was the largest clock factory in the world.

Development in Park Slope Slowed around the time of World War I, when real estate agencies firms began to develop areas south of Prospect Park that had recently become accessible by streetcar and subway. The lower part of Park Slope was largely Irish during this time. After World War II, Park Slope became a less fashionable neighborhood because many people were moving to the suburbs of Long Island.

In the 1960s Eighth Avenue between Grand Army Plaza and First Street became known as “doctor’s row,” and in the following years, the homes were purchased for cheap and restored. The Ansonia Clock Factory was converted into housing coops in 1982. The 14th Regiment Armory on Eighth Avenue became a women’s shelter; its exterior was landmarked in 1998.

In the 1980s the area attracted new immigrants from the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. In the late twentieth century the population consisted of young professionals near Prospect Park, attracted by the close proximity of Manhattan and low housing costs. By 2008, Park Slope was the “poster child” of **gentrification** as the neighborhood attracted young families to its beautiful tree-lined streets and its increasingly expensive housing prices.

CITATION: “Park Slope.” *The Encyclopedia of New York City*. 2nd ed. 2010.



Document 1 - 1943 Demographic Map. *Brooklyn's Park Slope: A Photographic Retrospective.* 2010.

1. Look at DOCUMENT 1. What neighborhoods border Park Slope?

2. According to DOCUMENT 1, how many people lived in Park Slope in 1943?

3. How would you describe the racial make-up of Park Slope in 1943?

4. What **landmarks** are near Park Slope?

Document 1 - 1943 Demographic Map. *Brooklyn's Park Slope: A Photographic Retrospective.* 2010.

During the American Revolution's Battle of Brooklyn or Long Island, August 27, 1776, the Old Stone House was held by an estimated 2,000 British soldiers, who turned it into an artillery position. From the house, the British fired on the Americans, who had lost a lot of troops and were fleeing for their lives to the safety of American forts across the Gowanus Creek. The American troops were outnumbered and nearly 300 men lost their lives that day. The current Old Stone House is a replica of the 1699 original building and is now a museum.

In the early 1900's the Old Stone House was the clubhouse of the [Brooklyn Superbas](#), who later became the Brooklyn Dodgers.



Document 2 - *The Old Stone House*. Stereotypes, Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn Public Library.

1. Read the text with DOCUMENT 2. Why do you think the current building is a replica of the original? What do you think happened to the original building?

2. Are the two photographs in DOCUMENT 2 identical? Explain.

3. What do you think the building in DOCUMENT 2 was constructed for? Explain why you think this.

4. What time of year do the images portray?

Document 3a: Entrance to Washington Park Baseball Grounds. 1911.



Document 3b: “Stoic Link to Baseball History Stands Guard” *New York Times*, February 10, 2007.

From 1898 to 1912, Washington Park was the home of the team alternately nicknamed the Bridegrooms, Superbas and Trolley Dodgers.

The opening of the park was a major event, something of a homecoming for the Dodgers, who had played since 1891 in what was then distant East New York.

Small and outdated, Washington Park inspired its first bout of **nostalgia** when the team announced it would leave after the 1912 season. On opening day that year, 30,000 fans overwhelmed the park’s official capacity, 18,000. Fans sat along the foul lines and in the outfield.

The field did not seem to be beloved in its time. The nearby [Gowanus] canal gave off a constant stench, and as a late-season call-up, Casey Stengel, once remembered, ‘the mosquitoes was something fierce.’ After the team’s move to Flatbush, a renovated Washington Park was the home of the Tip-Tops from the upstart Federal League for two years, and then sat unused until Con Ed bought the land in 1922.”

1. Describe the building in DOCUMENT 3a. What is it built from? Is it small or large?

2. According to DOCUMENT 3b, what was this building used for?

3. According to DOCUMENT 3b, when and why did Washington Park close?

4. Who owns the land today, where Washington Park once stood?

Document 4: *Old 14th Regiment, 187th Field Artillery.* February 8, 1951. Brooklyn Daily Eagle photographs, Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Collection.

The 200,000-square-foot fortress-like structure was built for the 14th Regiment who served bravely in the Civil War (1861-1865). It was designed by William Mundell and completed in 1893. The armory later became a recruitment center for The National Guard until 1994. After World War II it was decided that inner city armories were no longer needed because access to transportation was imperative. In the 1990s the armory was turned into a women's shelter, in 2007 a sports complex and finally in 2010 the armory became the new home to the Park Slope YMCA.



1. Look at DOCUMENT 4 and describe the building in this photograph.

2. How many different purposes has the building in DOCUMENT 4 been used for?

3. By looking at DOCUMENT 4, what do you think the purpose of an armory is?

4. Why do you think the armory closed? Do you think that had a negative impact on the neighborhood? Why or why not?

Document 5: *Litchfield Mansion*. [18--?] Brooklyn Daily Eagle photographs, Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Collection.

Edwin C. Litchfield, a railroad tycoon and real estate developer, had Litchfield Villa (located at 95 Prospect Park West) built as a home for his family in 1857. The Villa was named Grace Hill for his wife, Grace Hill Hubbard. In 1868 Litchfield was forced to sell his land to the Brooklyn Parks Commission because Olmsted and Vaux's design for the new Prospect Park included Grace Hill and its surrounding property. After Litchfield's death in 1885 the Villa was taken over by park administrative offices and park police. It now is the Brooklyn headquarters of the NYC Department of Parks and offices of the Prospect Park Alliance. Litchfield Villa was designated a New York City Landmark in 1966.



1. Read the text in DOCUMENT 5. Who was Litchfield?

2. Describe the building in the photograph of DOCUMENT 5.

3. Why do you think the city was able to take the Litchfield Villa away from the family? Do you think that was fair? Why or why not?

4. According to DOCUMENT 5, how is Litchfield Villa used today?

Document 6a: "Royal Arcanamites Have Grand Times at Prospect Hall." *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. 10 Nov 1893.

HONORING JOHN C. KUHLMKE.

**Royal Arcanamites Have Grand Times
in Prospect Hall.**

They had a grand time in Prospect hall, Prospect avenue, near Fifth, last evening. There was Thomas Kelly of the grand trustees of the grand council, Royal Arcanum, and Grand Vice Regent Kilpatrick of the state of New York and plenty of other equally grand people, in fact enough grandeur to paralyze the effete monarchs of Europe, for every man present was an American sovereign and had a title half a yard long all to himself. The gathering was in honor of J. C. Kuhlke, who is a grand Court street undertaker. People who have tried it say that it is a positive pleasure to be buried by Mr. Kuhlke, and this has made him remarkably popular.

Document 6b: "First Grand Opening of the New Prospect Hall." *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. 1 Feb 1903.

AMUSEMENTS.

FIRST GRAND OPENING
OF THE
NEW PROSPECT HALL,
PROSPECT AVE, NEAR FIFTH AVE, BROOKLYN,
ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1903.
JOHN KOLLE, Proprietor.

Document 6c: "Prospect Hall Threatened." *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. 15 April 1908.

PROSPECT HALL THREATENED.

**Obstinate Prospect Avenue Blaze At-
tacked Building, but Damage Was
Slight—Other Losses \$3,500.**

Fire which broke out at 4:45 this morn-
ing in an unoccupied store house at 259
Prospect avenue, threatened to destroy
Prospect Hall. Only the hardest work
by the firemen saved the hall, which was
damaged to the extent of about \$500.

Document 6d: "Dance Sat. Nite." *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. 26 Feb 1949.

DANCE SAT. NITE
IN PERSON—ALL EVENING
ONE OF AMERICA'S TOP NAME BANDS
WOODY HERMAN
& HIS ENTIRE ORCH. & REVUE
IN BROOKLYN'S GRAND BALLROOM
PROSPECT HALL
261 PROSPECT AVE.
(Between 5th and 6th Aves.)
All BMT Trains change for 4th Ave. Local to
Prospect Ave. station. Also convenient to 8th
Ave. Subway, Buses and Trolleys. Adm. \$1.50

1. Read DOCUMENT 6a. What building is described here, and where is it located?

2. Look at DOCUMENT 6b. What year is this document from? Why do you think there was a “new” version of this building?

3. According to DOCUMENT 6c, what happened in this location? What was the cause, and what was the impact?

4. Look at DOCUMENT 6d. What year is this from? What kinds of events happened in this building at that time?

Document 7a: *Prospect Expressway*. 1953-1955. Brooklyn Daily Eagle photographs, Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Collection.



Document 7b: *Prospect Expressway*. 1954. Brooklyn Daily Eagle photographs, Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Collection.

Caption: "The Prospect Expressway, at the connection to Gowanus Parkway, will look like this to motorists when the first section, from 6th Ave., is opened with ceremonies at p.m. tomorrow. The truck ramp from the expressway to Hamilton Ave. is in the center."



Document 8: Herzberg, Irving. *United Airlines plane crash*. Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn Public Library. 1960.

A United Air Lines DC-8 jet and a Trans World Airlines Lockheed Super-Constellation collided in the air above New York on Friday, December 16, 1960 at 10:21 AM. Most of the Super-Constellation ended up at Miller Army Air Field in Staten Island while the United flight went down at Seventh Avenue and Sterling Place in Park Slope. Six people on the ground were killed, including a sanitation worker shoveling snow, a church caretaker, and two Christmas tree salesmen. All 128 passengers on board the two flights died. A stream of jet fuel started a seven-alarm fire, destroying 10 buildings. This was the worst plane crash at the time.



1. According to DOCUMENT 8, what happened on December 16, 1960 in Park Slope?

2. How do you think people on the street reacted to the crash?

3. What aspects of Park Slope's geography would police and firemen find difficult when responding to this tragedy?

4. The crash happened at 10:21 AM on a Friday. Most people were at work or school during this time. How do you think people on the street would have been affected if it happened on a Saturday or during rush hour?

Document 9: *Entrance to Greenwood Cemetery.* [190-?] Brooklyn Postcard collection, Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Collection.



Manufactured by

Rand, McNally & Co. Chicago

ENTRANCE TO GREENWOOD CEMETERY.

1. Describe what the image in DOCUMENT 9 shows. Where is it located?

2. Why do you think that Green-Wood cemetery built an entrance like this? What does it make you think of?

3. Why do you believe this postcard of Green-Wood Cemetery was made? Why would people buy and mail it?

4. In the early days of the cemetery, it was used as a park as well. Why do you think this was the case?

Document 10: Stuart-Eortley, Emmeline. "Travels in the United States, Etc: During 1849 and 1850." *Harper & Brothers* (1851): 76-77.

I must now give a brief account of Greenwood Cemetery, which we visited the other day in company with Mr. and Miss Grinnell, who obligingly insisted on taking us there, and showing us the place. It is in the south part of Brooklyn, about three miles from Fulton Ferry (you may also go to Greenwood by the new ferry, at Whitehall, which lands you in the vicinity of the cemetery on a very long pier). Greenwood contains two hundred and forty-two acres, of which a great part is beautifully covered with woods of a natural growth; and I think the surprisingly brilliant colors of autumn are more striking and exquisite here than those at Staten Island, or New Haven, or in the country before we came to New York. These were perfectly extraordinary—the most dazzling scarlet, the most golden and vivid yellows and Tyrian purples, and rich, deep, velvet-like crimsons, and delicate pale primrose-tints, and soft surviving greens, and rose-hues, such as flush the lips of Indian shells—all cast their sumptuous shadowings over the quiet graves, like the reflections from richly-painted windows, "blushing with the blood of kings and queens," in some mighty old cathedral. The views from the heights of the cemetery were sublime. I admired the one from Ocean Hill the most. There is a lovely variety of valleys, elevations, plains, groves, and glades, and paths. When will London have any thing even *approaching* to this magnificent cemetery? The ocean rolling and moaning, with its fine melancholy, organ-like sounds, so near, like a mighty mourner, she can not have, nor the gorgeous pall cast over the tombs by a Western autumn; but all the rest she could have, and yet has not.

The cemetery is traversed by many winding paths and avenues, all beautiful and solemn. Some of the monuments are interesting. There is one to an Iowa Indian Princess, named Dohumme; another handsome one to a young lady who was killed while returning from a ball. There is one thing which I did not quite like, and yet it is not only useful, but necessary, and that is, having "Guide Boards" given to visitors, to direct them in these solemn labyrinths. We were told that, but for this precaution, many persons would probably lose themselves in the Cemetery; still, there is something not in keeping with all the rest in these melancholy, methodical maps; but that is only fanciful.

Adapted Transcription:

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1. According to DOCUMENT 10, where is Green-Wood Cemetery located?

2. How does the author of DOCUMENT 10 describe Green-Wood Cemetery?

3. Explain in your own words why the author loved visiting Green-Wood Cemetery.

4. Does this text convince you to visit Green-Wood Cemetery? Why or why not?

GLOSSARY