

The Mall and Bethesda Terrace Discovery Journal

Supported by The Dr. Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation

Name

Date of Visit



Welcome, Park Explorer!

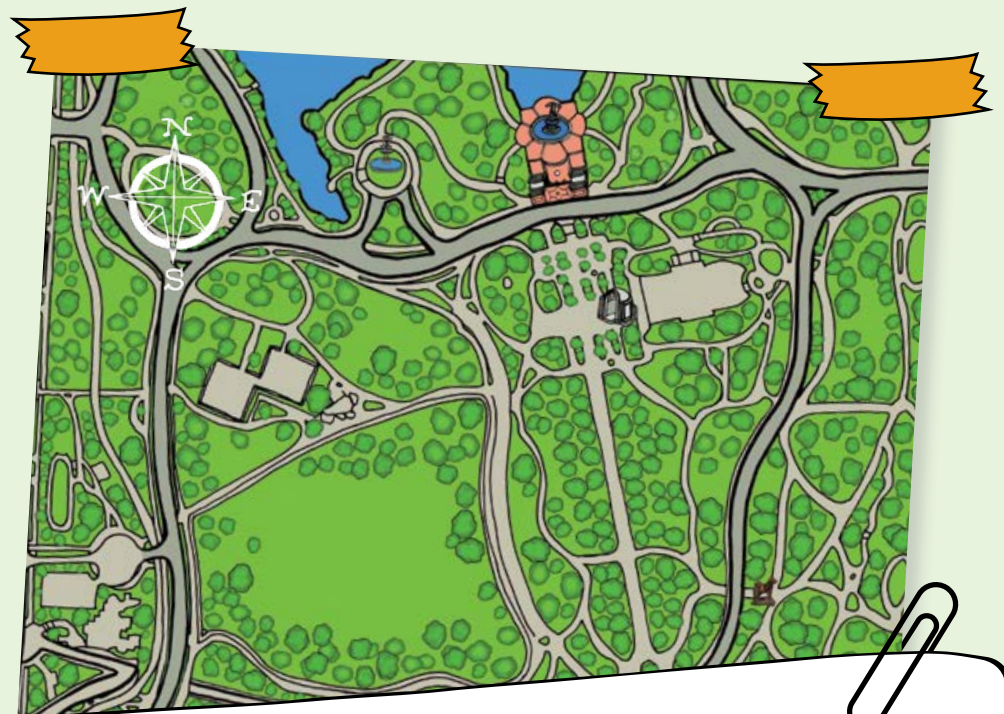
This journal is your guide to exploring the Mall and Bethesda Terrace as a **designer**, a **conservator**, and a **naturalist**. By completing the challenges on these pages, you'll discover how designers, conservators, and naturalists are also **stewards**, or caretakers, of this special place. With millions of visitors each year, it takes a lot of hard work to keep Central Park's landscapes healthy and beautiful.

The Central Park Conservancy is the official steward of Central Park. But we need your help, too! As you explore the Mall and Bethesda Terrace, follow the Park Explorer's Code of Conduct:

- ✓ **Keep wildlife wild.**
Don't feed wild animals. Human food is for human beings.
- ✓ **Put trash in its place.**
Litter pollutes the Park and can be harmful to animals if eaten. So make sure it goes in a bin.
- ✓ **Respect the landscape.**
Fenced areas are protected for a reason. They give animals and sensitive plants a break from people.

✓ _____
✓ _____

Add one more guideline for Park Explorers to follow, so they can be stewards, too!



Heart of the Park

Look around you. Everything you see – from how the land is shaped, to the location of water bodies, and even the trees – was planned by people! Designers, engineers, architects, stone carvers, and gardeners worked together to create Central Park for the people of New York City. It was the first large urban park built in America.

The Mall and Bethesda Terrace are considered the heart of Central Park. Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, the Park's designers, created this space specifically so that all New Yorkers could gather together and enjoy a pleasant walk outdoors.



1
Time
Travelers

Here are photographs taken around the Mall between 1890 and 1914. How was this area different then? What do you notice about the people in the photos? What are they doing?

Literary Walk

This part of the Mall is informally known as Literary Walk because four of the five sculptures found here honor well-known poets and writers. The **Park designers'** original plan included only one sculpture – *Angel of the Waters*. Today, you can find over 50 bronze and stone monuments throughout the Park!



$\frac{E}{3} \quad \frac{T}{12} \quad \frac{N}{8}$



$\frac{M}{2}$

$\frac{E}{9} \quad \frac{E}{14}$



$\frac{A}{1} \quad \frac{R}{13} \quad \frac{C}{6}$



$\frac{I}{5} \quad \frac{E}{15}$

$\frac{A}{7}$



$\frac{R}{4}$

$\frac{L}{10} \quad \frac{M}{11}$

Although he never wrote a book, this explorer helped to "write" American history!

2 Poet Puzzler

Fill in the names of the sculptures. Then use the letters from their names to help decode the type of trees planted all around you!

The Mall

Park designers arranged trees along the Mall to create a dramatic archway providing visitors with protection from the sun. When selecting the type of tree to plant, designers considered how the tree's shape would look in the landscape. Each tree's twisting trunk and branches make it a unique, living sculpture!

3 Tree Portrait

Choose your favorite tree, and draw it here!

Pay special attention to the shapes of the branches and patterns of the bark.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Answer: American elm tree. The Mall has one of the largest and last remaining stands of American elm trees in North America. It is Central Park's most important horticultural feature.

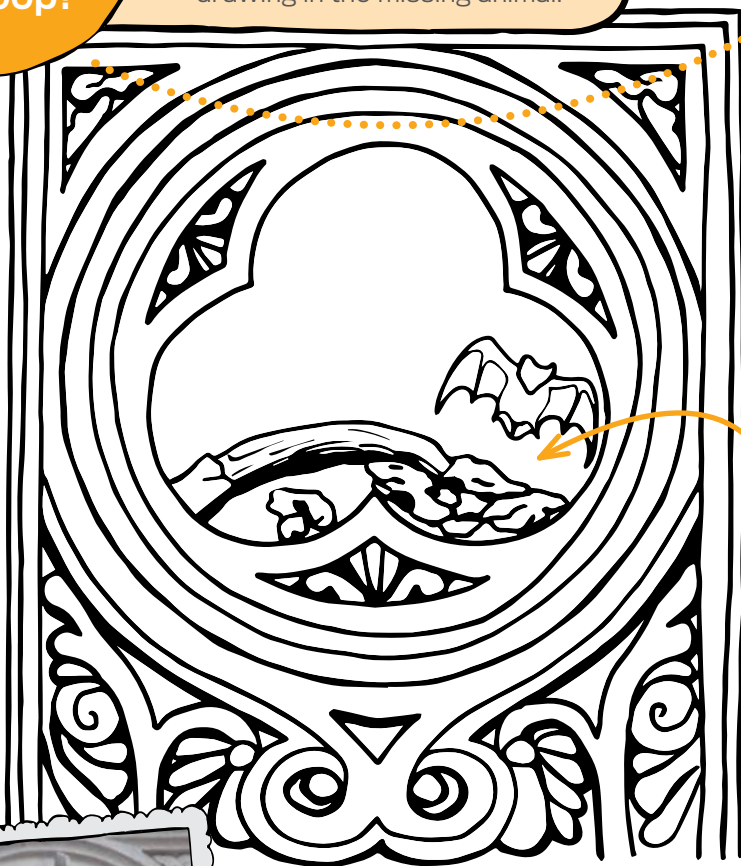
Bethesda Terrace

Olmsted and Vaux wanted visitors to experience “Nature first, second, and third – architecture after a while.” One of the ways they did this was by including themes and images from nature into the decorative carvings that cover Bethesda Terrace. Over time, these carvings can become worn down or even broken. To keep the Terrace looking as good as the day it opened, **Park conservators** carefully clean the sandstone and restore the missing pieces by carving sandstone based on the original artwork.

4

Whoo-ooo Flew the Coop?

Search the top of the stairs to discover the missing carving (Hint: look for the bat).
Complete your restoration by drawing in the missing animal!



Before it was restored, all that remained of this carving was a log and a flying bat!



The rooster, nearby, is a symbol for daytime.
The bird you just restored is a symbol for

Answer: nighttime.

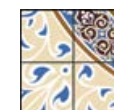
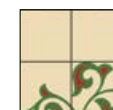
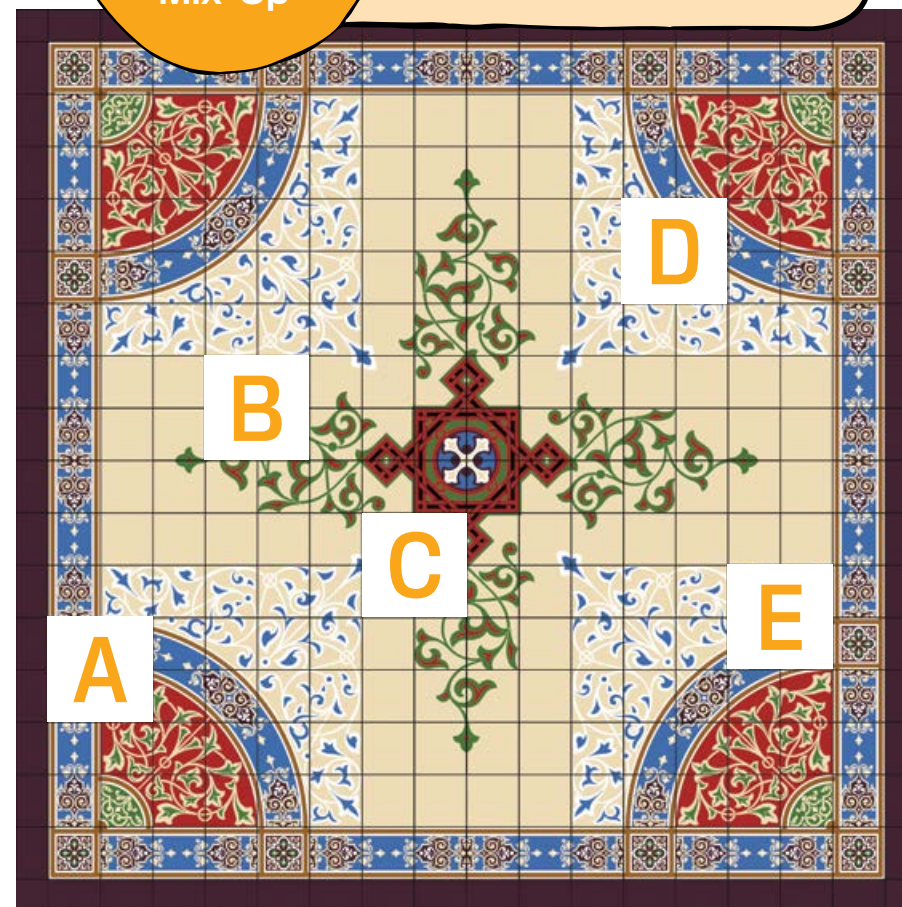
Bethesda Terrace Arcade

Look up! You're seeing the only place where Minton tiles are used on a ceiling! Over the years, leaking water and exposure to the weather damaged these colored clay tiles. In order to restore them, conservators removed the panels of tiles and carefully took them apart. After they were repaired, conservators had a 15,000 piece puzzle on their hands!

5

Minton Mix-Up

Help the conservators by replacing the missing tiles of this Minton tile panel. If you need help, just look up!

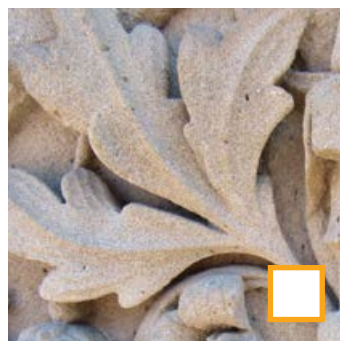
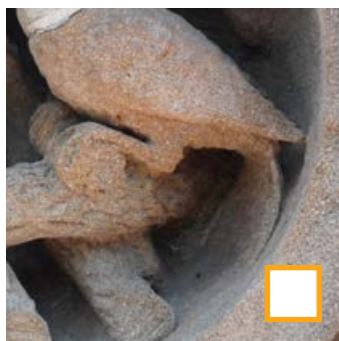
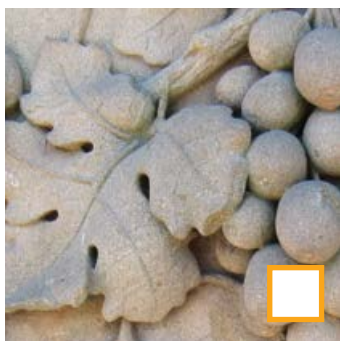
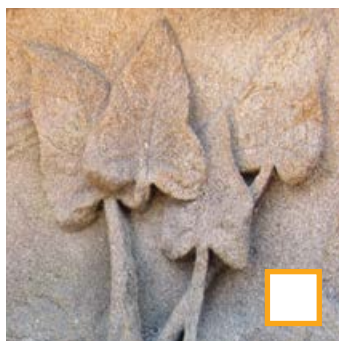
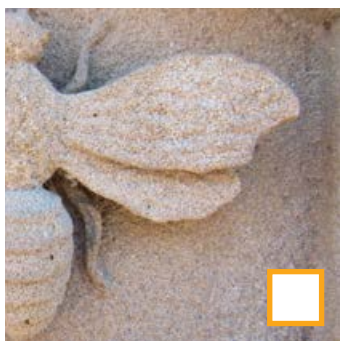


Answers, from left to right: E, C, A, A, B, D

Conservator

Bethesda Terrace

Naturalists study plants and animals and record their observations to share with others. The hills surrounding Bethesda Terrace, the Lake, and the Ramble to the north of the Terrace serve as habitat for animals living in Central Park for some or all of the year, providing them with food, shelter, space, and water.



6

Detail Detectives

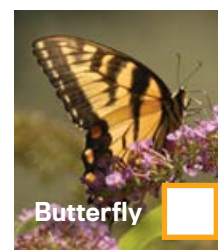
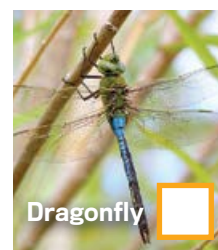
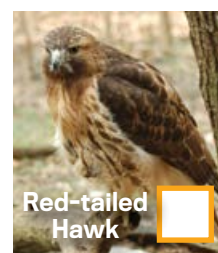
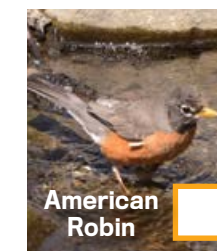
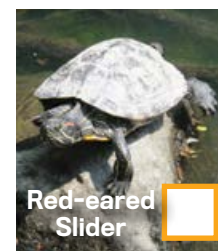
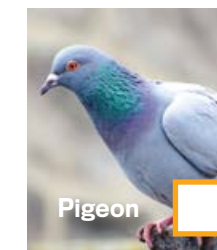
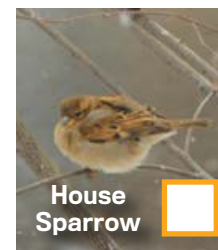
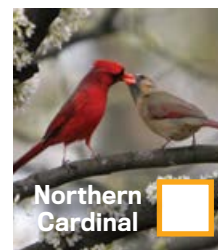
Plants and animals can also be found in the carvings along the staircases. Can you match the details above to the correct carving at the bottom of the staircase? Check each one off as you find it!

Did you know that each staircase represents a different season of the year?



7 Wildlife Watchers

Now it's your turn to be a naturalist! Check off each animal that you observe in the landscape surrounding the Mall and Bethesda Terrace.



Do you see another animal that isn't on this checklist?
Draw it, here!

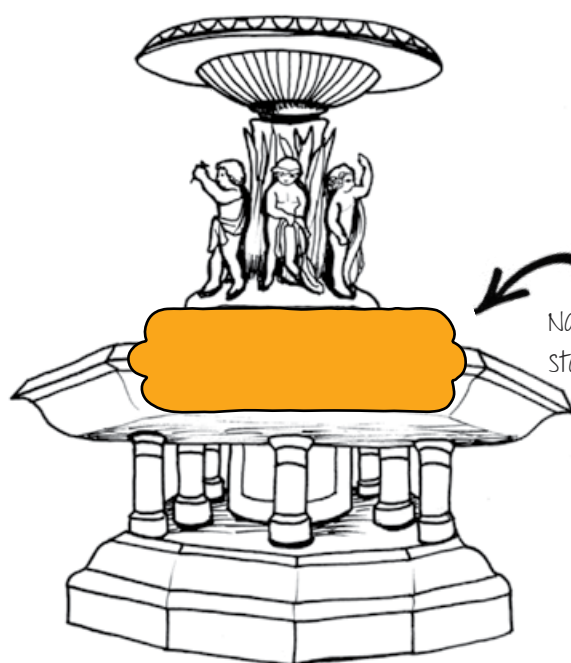
Naturalist

Angel of the Waters

Access to clean water has always been important to New York City residents. Before 1842, many people became sick from drinking contaminated water. Both Bethesda Fountain and the *Angel of the Waters* honor the creation of New York City's water supply system, which still feeds the Park's water bodies today!

8 My Monument

In the 1800's, clean water was so important that Park designers created a statue about it! What would you dedicate a Central Park sculpture to today? Draw it here!



Name your
statue here!



IT'S OFFICIAL!
Complete your badge
by adding your
name and picture!

Official Steward

CENTRAL PARK
CONSERVANCY
central to the park

Central Park is MY Park!

By following the Park Explorer's Code of Conduct, you are a Central Park steward. But stewardship is more than just staying on pathways and putting trash in its place. Teaching others is another way to be a steward. By sharing your Mall and Bethesda Terrace discoveries, you help others to appreciate the Park, and become urban park stewards, too!

Steward



Discover Central Park!

The Central Park Conservancy offers a variety of Discovery Programs to help children explore Central Park and develop skills for inquiry, all in the world's greatest outdoor classroom.

Learn more: centralparknyc.org/discovery

Discovery Programs are generously supported by
The Dr. Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation.

Share photos from today! #discovercentralpark

   @centralparknyc

Illustrations by Anne Yen.

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