

The New York City Subway



The New York City subway is one of the most famous transportation systems in the world. It is like an underground train system, and it is over one hundred years old. It has over four hundred subway stops in four parts of New York City.

The subway officially opened in 1904, but it started many years before that. In 1869, a man named Alfred Beach built a small underground system in New York. It did not stay open long, but it showed the people that a subway would be a good idea. It took a lot of work to get the subway running. Sewer systems and gas and electric lines had to be moved. Streets had to be dug up.

All of this was worth the effort once the system was working. During blizzards in the early 1900s, the people knew they had made a good choice. The subway cars could run smoothly underground while cars and carriages above ground were stuck in snow.

The subway has tremendously changed over the last hundred years. At first, each ride cost only five cents. Today, it costs over two dollars. New stations have been added, new tracks have been laid, and service areas have been expanded. At first, three companies owned the different sections of the subway. Today, it is all owned by the City of New York.

The subway runs through Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens.

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On weekdays, over five million people ride the subway each day. The highest number in history was December 23, 1946. On this day, over eight million people rode in one day!

The New York subway is open all day and night, and it is open every day of the year. There have been times when some stations had to close, though.

During the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, many stops in Lower Manhattan were destroyed or badly damaged. During Hurricane Sandy in 2012, the subway tunnels under the East River flooded. They had to be closed until they could be drained.

When emergencies happen, subway workers do all they can to keep the cars running on time. When they do have to close, they work hard to fix things as fast as possible. Work to maintain the subway is a big job, and it takes many workers to do it.

The New York City subway is a unique and wonderful part of history. It shows us the great things people can do when they work hard and they work together. If you ever go to New York City, it is one thing you won't want to miss!

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- 1) Which is not true?
 - a) It was a strenuous job to get the subway running.
 - b) Originally, the New York City subway was in multiple ownership.
 - c) Since it started operating, the subway has never had to close.

- 2) The subway has tremendously changed over the last hundred years. Give two examples.

- 3) Arrange the events in the order they appear in the development of the subway.

- A) Sewer systems and gas and electric lines were moved.
- B) Alfred Beach built a small underground system.
- C) The subway was officially opened.
- D) Streets were dug up.

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4) Why does the author mention Hurricane Sandy?

5) What is the author's purpose in the text?

- a) to persuade
- b) to entertain
- c) to inform

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Answer Key

- 1) Which is not true?
- a) It was a strenuous job to get the subway running.
 - b) Originally, the New York City subway was in multiple ownership.
 - c) Since it started operating, the subway has never had to close.

- 2) The subway has tremendously changed over the last hundred years. Give two examples.

At first each ride was as cheap as five cents, but today it costs over two dollars. Today there are many stations, which was not the case when the subway started.

- 3) Arrange the events in the order they appear in the development of the subway.

- A) Sewer systems and gas and electric lines were moved.
- B) Alfred Beach built a small underground system.
- C) The subway was officially opened.
- D) Streets were dug up.

B, A, D, and C

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Answer Key

4) Why does the author mention Hurricane Sandy?

The author does so to give an example for times when the subway had to close.

5) What is the author's purpose in the text?

- a) to persuade
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