

Name: _____

Date: _____

Grand Central Terminal



One of New York City's most famous symbols is Grand Central Terminal. This is the city's main train station. About 750,000 people walk through it every day.

When the station was first built in 1871 by a man named Cornelius Vanderbilt, it was called Grand Central Depot. In 1901, a larger building was built and named Grand Central Station. However, that building was closed because of a big train accident in 1902. In 1913, a new and even bigger station was opened, and it was given the name Grand Central Terminal. This is the one that people can still see today.

Grand Central Terminal has 44 platforms. That is more than any other train station in the world. It also has 67 train tracks. The main hall is called the Main Concourse, and it is very big. The windows are about 23 meters high. In the middle, there is a famous clock made of opal. Opal is a very expensive stone, so it cost millions of dollars. Many people meet their friends by the clock.

On the ceiling, of the Main Concourse, there is a picture of the night sky with 2,500 bright stars. This ceiling was made in 1912, but it was covered in 1944 because it was old and rainwater was coming into the building. From 1996 to 1998, the ceiling was cleaned and fixed. Now, it is one of the most beautiful parts of the building.

1. In 1871, the name of New York City's main train station was
 - a. Grand Central Terminal
 - b. Grand Central Station
 - c. Grand Central Depot
 - d. The Main Concourse

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2. What happened in 1902?
 - a. Grand Central Depot was built.
 - b. There was a bad accident at Grand Central Station.
 - c. A new Grand Central Terminal was opened.
 - d. A man named Cornelius Vanderbilt was born.

3. Why did the clock cost millions of dollars?
 - a. It has many stars with bright lights in it.
 - b. It has a picture of famous people on it.
 - c. It is made of an expensive stone.
 - d. It is 23 meters high.

4. What was cleaned and fixed in the Main Concourse?
 - a. The ceiling
 - b. The platforms
 - c. The clock
 - d. The windows

5. What is this story about?
 - a. Traveling around the United States by train.
 - b. The life of Cornelius Vanderbilt.
 - c. A new art museum in New York City.
 - d. A famous place in New York City.

6. How many platforms are at Grand Central Terminal?
 - a. There are 750,000 platforms.
 - b. There are 67 platforms.
 - c. There are 44 platforms.
 - d. There are 23 platforms.