

FreshkillsPark

Example comprehension questions for *The Freshkills Story: From World's Largest Garbage Dump to a World-Class Park*

The Freshkills Story: From World's Largest Garbage Dump to a World-Class Park is a one-hour documentary about the transformation of Fresh Kills Landfill into Freshkills Park. While the documentary is now several years old, it still contains valuable information about the former landfill, how the landfill closed, and early plans for the Park. Below are sample comprehension questions to encourage students to discuss the information in the film.

Before watching the movie:

- What is a landfill? Why do people use them?
- Who has heard people talk about “the dump”? What do they say?
- What is Freshkills Park?

During or after watching the movie:

- How long was the Fresh Kills Landfill supposed to be open? Why did it stay open longer than it should have been?
- How did Fresh Kills Landfill affect Staten Island’s reputation? Why?
- What made it possible for the landfill to close?
- Why do you think New York City is making Fresh Kills Landfill into a park?
- What is happening there to make sure people can visit and enjoy the future park?
- What happens to Staten Island’s garbage now?

Activity:

As a class or in groups, have students brainstorm what they would like to see at Freshkills Park with the following questions in mind and report back:

- How could people learn about the history of Fresh Kills Landfill when they visit?
- How could we encourage people to appreciate the environment when they visit?

Optional: Ask each student to write a letter, poem, or essay about what they would like to see at Freshkills Park.

Note: This film was made before the New Springville Greenway was open. For more information on open and closed park projects, please see our [design and construction updates](#).



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