WHO WAS FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA?

WORD SEARCH GAME
Here is a calendar of major events in the life of Fiorello H. LaGuardia, with many underlined words. Those underlined words can be found in the word search game on the front cover. The words may be across, up, down, on a diagonal or even backwards. Find the words and draw circles around them with your pencil.


June 1894: LaGuardia graduates from grade school in Prescott, Arizona.

1907-1910: LaGuardia works as an interpreter in the United States Immigration Service at Ellis Island.

November 7, 1916: LaGuardia elected to the Congress from a district in lower Manhattan.

October 29, 1929: Stock market crash marks the start of the Great Depression.

November 7, 1933: LaGuardia elected New York City’s 99th Mayor.

July 11, 1936: Mayor LaGuardia opens the Triborough Bridge.

September 14, 1936: Classes begin at Public School 2 and at Public School 149 in Jackson Heights, Queens, built with funds obtained by Mayor LaGuardia.

November 3, 1937: Mayor LaGuardia elected to a second term as Mayor of New York with the largest vote majority in the city’s history.

April 30, 1939: Mayor LaGuardia joins other officials at the opening of the New York World’s Fair at Flushing Meadows.

June 19, 1939: Mayor LaGuardia opens a playground in Corona, Queens.

October 15, 1939: Mayor LaGuardia opens LaGuardia Airport in Queens.

October 25, 1939: Mayor LaGuardia welcomes the new tenants of Queensbridge Houses in Long Island City, the first public housing project in Queens.

January 13, 1940: Mayor LaGuardia dedicates a police precinct station house in Elmhurst, Queens.

September 20, 1940: Mayor LaGuardia opens a health clinic for children in Corona.

November 3, 1941: Mayor LaGuardia elected to a third term as Mayor.

1941-1945: the United States fights in World War II.

June 18, 1942: Mayor LaGuardia begins a weekly radio program called, “Talks to the People.”

September 20, 1947: LaGuardia dies of cancer at age 64 after a long illness.

On The Cover: Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia is cutting a ribbon to open a new subway line, at a station in Manhattan, December 15, 1940.
WHO WAS FIORELLO H. LA GUARDIA?

Fiorello H. LaGuardia lived earlier in this century and became famous as the Mayor of New York City from 1933 to 1945. This booklet tells his story and his many activities.

LaGuardia's parents were both from Europe. His father was from southern Italy and his mother was from a city in Austria-Hungary which is today part of northern Italy. They came to New York City in 1880.

Two years later, in 1882, their son Fiorello was born at their home in Greenwich Village, a neighborhood in Manhattan. When Fiorello was a young man, he worked as an interpreter at Ellis Island in New York harbor. He helped immigrants who were coming to America.

In 1933 LaGuardia was elected Mayor, which meant he was the leader of the government in New York City. As the Mayor, he did many things to help the people of New York. He obtained funds to build schools, playgrounds, health clinics and many other types of places. He also built a World's Fair at Flushing Meadows Park and an airport in Queens. Do you know the name of the airport?

When you are finished with this booklet, you will know much more about Fiorello LaGuardia. And if anybody ever asks you, "Who was Fiorello H. LaGuardia?", you will have a lot to tell them.
WHERE DID LA GUARDIA’S FAMILY COME FROM?

Fiorello LaGuardia’s parents came from southern Europe. His father Achille LaGuardia was born in Foggia, a town in southern Italy. His mother Irene Cohen grew up in Trieste, a city in Austria-Hungary, which is now part of Italy. In June of 1880 Achille and Irene were married in Trieste. The next day, they boarded a steam ship in Trieste and came to New York City. The trip took two weeks. They settled in Greenwich Village in lower Manhattan and that's where their son Fiorello was born on December 11, 1882.

This map will help you to understand the travels of the LaGuardia family. The route the steam ship took is shown in a dotted line on the map. The map will also help you to answer the questions below.

1. Is Italy located north or south of Germany? ____________________________

2. What kind of shoe do you think Italy looks like? ____________________________

3. Which of LaGuardia’s parents was born in southern Italy? ____________________________
4. Identify two seas that Achille and Irene crossed on their journey to New York on a steam ship?

5. In what direction did Achille and Irene travel at the beginning of their journey?

6. What direction did they travel once the ship got through the Mediterranean Sea?

7. Name the ocean the LaGuardias crossed on their way to New York City.

8. How far did they travel when they went from Trieste to New York City? (Hint: Use the Scale of Miles)

9. How long did it take to travel from Italy to New York in 1880?

   How long do you think it would take today?

10. How many years after his parents arrived in New York was Fiorello LaGuardia born?

11. What is different about the birthplaces of Fiorello LaGuardia and his parents?
WHAT DID CHILDREN DO IN NEW YORK IN THE 1880s?

A horse-drawn wagon and people on a road in Queens in the 1880s.

Right: Children in a blacksmith class in New York in the 1880s.

Read the passage and look at the photographs. They will help you answer the questions below.

When Fiorello LaGuardia was born in New York City in 1882, life for children was different than it is today.

In school, some children went to special classes where they learned skills for work. One of these classes taught students the trade of blacksmithing. A blacksmith is someone who makes things out of iron, a very strong metal. Blacksmiths were important in the 1880's because they made shoes for horses. At that time, horses were used to transport people and goods all over New York. The horseshoes protected horses' hooves and made them stronger so that horses could do their work.

Because New York City had few playgrounds or parks in the 1880s, children found places to play in the streets and alleys of their crowded neighborhoods. Stickball, dice and other street games were popular. Listening to street musicians play hand-held organs was another form of entertainment. Sometimes children cooled off by swimming in the East River near Fulton Fish Market in Manhattan.

1. Name two popular street games in the 1880s.______________________________________________

2. What did a blacksmith do? ________________________________________________________________
3. Are there many blacksmiths in New York City today? ___________ Why, or why not?

4. How are the clothes the children in the photographs are wearing different from what you wear?

5. How is the class in the photograph different from your class? ___________
   How is it similar?

6. How are your activities different from what children in New York did in the 1880s?

7. Do you think children were happier in the 1880s than they are today? _______ Why, or why not?

Children playing a game with dice in an alley in New York in the 1880s.
Fiorello LaGuardia worked at the immigration station on Ellis Island from 1907 to 1910. Many immigrants passed through Ellis Island before entering the United States. Many of the immigrants did not speak English, and LaGuardia's job was to translate the language the immigrants were speaking into English.

The picture shows an inspector examining the eyes of an immigrant boy for signs of disease. In some cases, an immigrant with a disease could be sent back home. The ship's manifest lists the passengers on a ship which came to Ellis Island in 1910. Inspectors checked to see that an immigrant's name was written on the manifest. The cartoon shows Fiorello with an immigrant on Ellis Island.

These materials will help you answer the questions below.

1. How does the clothing the inspectors are wearing differ from the clothing the immigrants are wearing in the picture? ____________________________________________

2. Why are many of the immigrants in the picture carrying bags and suitcases? ____________________________________________

3. What do you think is inside the bags and suitcases? ____________________________________________
LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS

NAME                  AGE   OCCUPATION       NATIONALITY
Gregor               35    Farmer            England
Henners              24    Masons           Norway
Herbert              85    Chaffeur          France
Jones                26    Wife              Ireland

HE BECAME AN ELLIS ISLAND INTERPRETER.

NOW HE'S TALKING CROATIAN! THAT'S 6 LANGUAGES...
DON'T WORRY, LITTLE MOTHER!

Cartoon showing Fiorello LaGuardia working at Ellis Island, c. 1910.

4. Imagine that you are the boy in the picture who is being examined. What do you think he is thinking about? ________________________________

5. Looking at the manifest, name the countries the immigrants come from? ________________________________________________________________

6. Name some of the occupations of the immigrants. ________________________________

   Are there any occupations you don't understand? ________________________________

7. Who was the oldest immigrant? ________________________________

8. What can you see through the window in the cartoon? ________________________________

9. Why do you think LaGuardia would be comforting the woman in the cartoon? ________________________________

10. Do you know any immigrants who came to America in the last two years? Were they examined? Why, or why not? ________________________________
WHO WAS THE MAYOR IN 1934?


LA GUARDIA ELECTED MAYOR OF NEW YORK;

MAYORS OF NEW YORK CITY: FROM LA GUARDIA TO GIULIANI

Robert F. Wagner
(1954-1965)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Mayor</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>William O'Dwyer</td>
<td>(1946-1950)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Vincent R. Impellitteri</td>
<td>(1960-1963)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Here are the front pages of two newspapers with headlines about the elections of Mayors of New York City. There is also a time line showing all the Mayors and the years they were Mayor. Most of the Mayors are already on the time line, but you will have to add two of them. They are in the upper right margin on page 9. Cut them out and tape or paste them onto the right spot in the time line. After that, use the newspapers and the time line to answer the questions.

1. In what year was LaGuardia elected Mayor? ________________________________

2. How old was LaGuardia when he was elected Mayor? (Hint: You may want to look back at the Calendar of Events.) ________________________________

3. How much more did the paper cost in 1993 than in 1933? ________ Why do you think the cost went up? ________________________________
GIULIANI OUSTS DINKINS BY A THIN MARGIN;

Edward I. Koch
(1978-1989)

1970
John V. Lindsay
(1966-1973)

1980
Abraham D.
Beame
(1974-1977)

1990
David N. Dinkins
(1990-1993)

2000

4. What was the same about the newspapers in 1933 and 1993? ____________________________

5. What were the differences between the newspapers in 1933 and 1993? ____________________________

6. How many years after LaGuardia was elected was Giuliani elected as Mayor? __________

7. Who was the Mayor in 1934? ____________________________

8. Who was the Mayor when you were born? ____________________________

9. How many people served as Mayor in between LaGuardia and Giuliani? __________

10. Which of the Mayors served for the longest period of time? ____________________________
WHY DID MAYOR LaGUARDIA HELP TO FIGHT THE FIRES?

The comic above shows Mayor LaGuardia helping to fight a fire in New York City in the 1930s. The comic will help you to write a story about Mayor LaGuardia and fires. Use the space on the opposite page to write your story. You may want to include some of the following ideas:

1. How did Mayor LaGuardia get to the scene of the fire?
2. What did he do once he got there?
3. What would you think about a Mayor who helps to fight fires?
4. What do you think the firemen would have thought about it?
5. Do Mayors still help fight fires?
WHAT DID AN AIRPLANE LOOK LIKE IN 1939?

Orville Wright flying a plane over the Arlington National Cemetery, in Virginia, in 1908.

The first plane ever to land at LaGuardia Airport, in 1939.

Fiorello LaGuardia was always interested in airplanes. He learned to fly a plane in 1915 and in 1918 he was a war pilot in the First World War in Europe. When he was a Congressman in the 1920s, LaGuardia helped to make laws that created aviation as a business. Later on, as Mayor of New York City, he built an airport in Flushing, Queens, which was named after him, LaGuardia Airport.

There are three airplanes on this page. They will help you to answer the questions.

1. How old was LaGuardia when he learned to fly a plane? (Hint: You might want to look back at the Calendar of Events.)

2. Which of the planes carried the fewest passengers?

   Which of the planes could carry the most passengers?

3. How do the wings of the 1908 plane differ from the wings of the 1939 plane?
4. What is different about the tail of the 1939 plane and the tail of the 1994 plane? __________

5. What is different about the background scenes of the 1908 picture and the 1994 picture?

6. What is the same about the 1939 plane and the 1994 plane? ____________________________

7. Which of these planes do you think would have been the most difficult for the pilot to fly? __________ Why? __________

8. Which of the planes is your favorite? ______________ Why? ____________________________

9. Do you think airplanes improved from 1908 to 1994? ______________ Why, or why not? ____________
HOW MANY SCHOOLS DID MAYOR LA GUARDIA OPEN?

This map was used by Mayor LaGuardia in his campaign in 1941 to become Mayor for a third term. It shows all the places that Mayor LaGuardia built in western Queens from 1934 until 1941. There are playgrounds, firehouses, police stations, health clinics, schools and a subway line. Use the Legend on the side of the map to help you understand the map and to answer the questions.

1. What is the name of the big Park at the eastern edge of this map? __________________

   Does it still exist? __________________

2. Name the airport that is located on the northern shore of Queens. __________________

3. How many firehouses can you find? __________________ Draw circles around the firehouses.

4. Which Public School (P.S.) is located furthest to the North? __________________
5. Name the two high schools built when LaGuardia was Mayor. ____________________________
   Which is located further west? __________________ What is the distance between the two high schools? ____________________________

6. How many Public Schools (P.S.) did Mayor LaGuardia open? __________ Color them blue.

7. Which streets do the Independent Subway run along? ____________________________
   Have you ever taken that subway? ____________________________

8. How many playgrounds can you locate? ____________________________ Color them red.

9. How many swimming pools can you find? ____________________________ Draw squares around the pools.

10. Why do you think Mayor LaGuardia used this map as part of his campaign in 1941? ________
# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Raymond C. Bowen, President, Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College/CUNY  
Hon. Rudolph W. Giuliani, Mayor, City of New York  
Hon. Peter F. Vallone, Speaker, Council of the City of New York  
Hon. Claire Shulman, President, Borough of Queens  
Hon. Schuyler G. Chapin, Commissioner, Department of Cultural Affairs  
Robert W. Donohue, Vice President, Con Edison, Queens

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## Special Thanks
- Julius C.C. Edelstein
- Randy Fader-Smith
- Aida Gonzalez-Jarrin
- Glenn Granat
- George Hamada
- Gus Hatzidimitriou
- John Kotowski
- Mina Malin
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## Credits

Photograph of children in blacksmith class, Courtesy of Children’s Aid Society

Detail of photograph of children in alleyway,  
Courtesy of the Museum of the City of New York

Photograph of 1994 airplane,  
Courtesy of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Mayoral election newspaper headlines,  
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## Made Possible by Grants from

The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs  
Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

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HOW DID THEY BUILD THE WORLD’S FAIR?

One of the important things that LaGuardia did when he was Mayor of New York was to help build the World’s Fair at Flushing Meadows Park in Queens. Here are five pictures of the building of the World’s Fair. Each picture shows a different activity. Use a scissors to cut them out and then put them in the right order. After you put them in the right order, write about why you did it that way.