

A New Neighborhood Farmers Market

Lexile 1200
9th-12th



Across the street from a sandwich shop and a fried chicken joint, a greenmarket sprouts up every Wednesday in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx in New York City. The market is a welcome sight in an area that does not have many options for people to buy fresh fruit and vegetables.

"The lettuce is not as fresh at the grocery store; that's why I come here," said Jennifer Gillette as she paid for four heads of lettuce. Gillette is a vegetarian who lives in the neighborhood.

Mott Haven, a neighborhood in the South Bronx, is located in one of the poorest areas in the country. In other New York City neighborhoods greenmarkets are more common, but in the South Bronx there are not many places to buy healthy, organic food.

The summer of 2012 was the first time that the Youthmarket set up shop in this section of the Bronx, on 3rd Ave. between E. 148th and E. 149th Streets. The Youthmarket is part of a larger organization called GrowNYC, which helps make neighborhoods better by setting up farmers markets, community gardens, and recycling in the city.

Since opening in July 2012, the market has attracted a lot of attention from local residents who live in the area. Many people are excited that there is now a fresh produce market nearby.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What kinds of food can people buy at the farmers market in the Mott Haven neighborhood?

- A fried chicken and sandwiches
- B hot dogs and hamburgers
- C chicken and fish
- D fruits and vegetables

2. What does this passage describe?

- A This passage describes a grocery store where people can buy cheap organic food.
- B This passage describes a market where people can buy fresh, healthy food.
- C This passage describes a poor neighborhood in the South Bronx where it is dangerous to shop.
- D This passage describes a man who uses food stamps from the government to buy apples.

3. Government assistance encourages some people to shop at the farmers market in Mott Haven.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A Jennifer Gillette shops at the farmers market because the lettuce there is fresher than the lettuce at her grocery store.
- B Greysie Johnson uses checks from the government to buy fruit and vegetables at the farmers market.
- C Delphia Omborura buys bushels of large red beets at the farmers market to juice in a blender at home.
- D Mamie Jackson likes the fresh look of produce at the market and washes dirt off the cucumbers she buys there.

4. Based on information in the passage, what is a reason that some people shop at the farmers market in Mott Haven?

- A The fruits and vegetables at the farmers market are fresher than the fruits and vegetables at grocery stores.
- B There are not enough grocery stores in the Mott Haven neighborhood to supply the people there with all the food they need.
- C People in Mott Haven are tired of food from sandwich shops and fried chicken joints, so they are going to the farmers market instead.
- D The produce from grocery stores in the Mott Haven neighborhood is making people sick, so they are looking for new places to shop.

5. What is this passage mainly about?

- A food stamps and other government food assistance
- B a vegetarian named Jennifer Gillette who likes fresh lettuce
- C a farmers market in a neighborhood of New York City
- D the health risks of eating fruit and vegetables from grocery stores

6. Read the following sentence: "Mamie Jackson also likes going to the farmers market. She said that she likes the fresh look of the **produce** at the market, which looks different from what the grocery stores sell."

What does the word **produce** mean in the sentence above?

- A food that has been grown by farming
- B items that have been made in factories
- C meat or fish that has been cooked by a chef
- D products that are built and sold in large numbers

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The farmers market in Mott Haven sells several different kinds of vegetables, _____, lettuce, green pepper, and squash.

- A instead
- B consequently
- C previously
- D including

8. What is the Youthmarket?

9. Name at least two reasons given by people in the passage for shopping at the Mott Haven farmers market instead of at a grocery store.

10. Suppose that the Youthmarket set up a farmers market in another neighborhood where there was no farmers market before. Would people living in that neighborhood be likely to eat more fresh fruits and vegetables because of the farmers market? Explain why or why not, using evidence from the passage.
