



## City Island Facts

### Who?

*Who are the people of City Island?*

- Native Americans (Lenape people- who were members of the Algonquin group)
- English and Americans
- The Dutch were in the vicinity of Pelham Bay Park which neighbors City Island. There is no evidence they were on City Island. However, the first map showing City Island was drawn by Dutchman Adrien Block in 1614.
- People Today

### What?

*What is City Island known for?*

- City Island is an island. ~ An island is a body of land that is surrounded by water.
- City Island has many sandy beaches.
- You can go boating and fishing on City Island.
- City Island has many restaurants.
- 5 famous 12 meter sloops that won the America's Cup sailboat race 7 times were built on City Island.

### When?

*When were important events occurring?*

- 1600's
  - Native Americans fished and hunted on City Island.
  - Thomas Pell, an Englishman, bought City Island from the Indians in 1654, along with 50,000 other acres!
  - Early settlers moved to City Island.
- 1700's
  - Benjamin Palmer, who named City Island, divided City Island into business and building lots.
  - The American Revolution and The Battle of Pell's Point
- 1800's
  - The oyster farming business was first started on City Island.
  - Many shipyards were first established on City Island.
  - Piloting ships through Hell Gate became an important business on City Island.
  - City Island became part of New York City.
- 1900's
  - Boatyards employed many people on City Island.

- People began to build summer homes on City Island; some were bungalows brought over from Orchard Beach
- During World War II many City Island shipyards built minesweepers, torpedo boats, landing craft, and tug boats.
- City Island became a tourist attraction.
- City Island was known for custom-built yachts.
- The Americas Cup winners (12-meter sloops) Columbia, Constellation, Intrepid, Courageous and Freedom were built on City Island.
- 2000's
  - Many people live, work, and play on City Island.
  - City Island has many yacht clubs, marinas, and sail-making lofts.
  - Condominiums have replaced many boatyards.
  - Most City Islanders work off City Island in nearby areas such as Manhattan and Westchester.
  - Many people come to City Island to sight see, fish, and enjoy seafood meals.

## Why?

### *Why is City Island important?*

- For Native Americans City Island offered hunting and fishing grounds.
- For early settlers, City Island was a farming community.
- City Island and the surrounding areas of Pelham Bay Park and Rodman's Neck were used by both the British and the Americans during the America Revolution.
- In the 1800's the oyster business was thriving on City Island. Seed oysters were planted in the water. Then the oysters were harvested and sold to restaurants and the Fulton Street Fish Market.
- Shipbuilding and shipyards became a major industry on City Island. Yachts, minesweepers, military vessels, sloops, sailboats, and power boats are some examples of the boats built on City Island.
- Hell Gate pilots guided ships safely through Long Island Sound to New York Harbor.
- Today there are many small businesses and restaurants on City Island.

## Where?

### *Where is City Island?*

- City Island is a nautical community located in the northeast section of the Bronx, New York.
- It is an island surrounded by the waters of western Long Island Sound and Eastchester Bay.

