

# LOWER MANHATTAN LANDFILL

## 1660s and prior

1. Mannahatta, as Manhattan was known by the Lenape Native Americans, was covered by over 70 kinds of trees on a hilly terrain when the Dutch arrived in 1609.
2. In the 1660s a canal, or Gracht, was dug by the people of New Amsterdam along today's Broad Street in order to drain the low-lying swamp ground that surrounded the area. Three bridges crossed this canal.

## 1660s to 1760s

3. By the 1670s, the English, who had taken over New Amsterdam, filled in the canal and extended the land to build the Great Dock, which was the city's first stone dock.
4. A technique called cribbing, in which many logs were tied together and sunk into the landfill to prevent it from falling apart, was a common practice.
5. When logs were hard to find, sometimes old ships were sunk in their place to hold in the fill. In the 1740s an 82 foot long ship was used as fill near Fletcher and Water Streets.

## 1760s to 1880s

6. Between the mid-eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, garbage was sometimes used as fill material. This included large quantities of leather scraps and animal bones. The health commissioner, who believed the waste led to the yellow fever outbreak, ordered the trash be covered with "wholesome earth and gravel" in 1797.
7. After the American Revolution, the construction of piers and wharves accelerated, starting the first of many construction booms.

## 1880s to 1990s

8. In 1934, construction of the East River Drive began. It is built on landfill and pile-supported relieving platforms.
9. Construction of Battery Park City in 1972 used earth and rock which was dug up during the excavation for the construction of the World Trade Center. It used 1.2 million cubic yards of dirt.

