1. Read the article. Which city is bigger: New York City or Brasilia?

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Did you know ...?

New York City didn't use to be called New York City. Almost 400 years ago, it used to be called New Amsterdam. It became New York in 1664, when England took control of the area. Its name comes from the Duke of York, the brother of the English king.

From 1785 until 1790, New York City was the capital city of the U.S. Then the capital moved to Boston, and now the capital is Washington, D.C. Washington, D.C. is an important city, but it isn't as big as New York. There are more than 8 million people in New York City, and it's also very popular with tourists: more than 50 million tourists visit the city every year!

Brasilia didn't use to be the capital of Brazil. From 1549 to 1763, Salvador used to be the capital city. Then from 1763 to 1960, Rio de Janeiro was the capital. However, there were plans for a new capital as long ago as 1827. Finally, in 1956, architects and town planners started to design, plan, and build Brasilia, and it took 41 months to complete. On April 21st 1960, Brasilia officially became Brazil's capital city. It is now the largest city in the world that didn't exist at the beginning of the twentieth century. Brasilia isn't as big as Rio de Janeiro, Brazil's second largest city, but it is Brazil's fourth largest city with just over 2.5 million people.

2. **Skim for content** Match the statements to the cities.

1. It didn't use to be the capital of the U.S. _b_   a. New York City
2. It is Brazil's second largest city. ____   b. Washington, D.C.
3. It used to be called New Amsterdam. ____   c. Brasilia
4. It took 41 months to build. ____   d. Rio de Janeiro

3. Answer the questions.

1. Where does the name New York come from?

   It comes from the name of an English king's brother. His name was the Duke of York.

2. How long was New York City the capital of the U.S.?

   _____

3. Which city is bigger: Washington, D.C. or New York City?

   _____

4. How many cities were the capital of Brazil before Brasilia? Which cities were they?

   _____

5. Which city is bigger: Brasilia or Rio de Janeiro?

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