

LESSON 8 Program Evaluation

OBJECTIVES

- To provide a tool to assess student knowledge from pre-visit lessons and field exploration activities; and
- Attain evaluation from teachers about the education program.

MAIN IDEA

To provide Petrified Forest National Park with an evaluation tool to assess the successfulness of the education program.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

- writing

PAGES TO PHOTOCOPY

- *What You Know AFTER* pages 84-85
- *Teacher Evaluation* pages 86-87



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INTRODUCTION

The National Park Service is dedicated to establishing the National Park System as a distinct resource for the education community, thereby increasing connections between national parks and educators. The service recognizes the educational value of park resources as well as the power educators have to help the American public connect with and understand the natural systems and cultural heritage that the parks protect. The education program at Petrified Forest National Park is one such example of connecting educators to park resources.

In order to continue to receive funding for programs like the education program, the park must justify the program and its effectiveness. Through tools such as the *What You Know BEFORE* and *What You Know AFTER* questions, as well as the program evaluation by teachers, statistics generated can be used to maintain and improve the program at Petrified Forest National Park.

LESSON FRAMEWORK

1. Activity: *What You Know AFTER*

A student activity that provides Petrified Forest National Park with a general idea of what students have learned during this education program about paleontology, fossils, geology, and their national parks. This is an essential component of program evaluation for the park.

2. Teacher Evaluation

A teacher evaluation of the education program which allows teachers to express their likes, dislikes, and suggestions for improvement concerning the program. This is an essential component of program evaluation for the park.

WHAT YOU KNOW AFTER AND TEACHER EVALUATION TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

OBJECTIVE

To provide an evaluation tool, when used with the *What You Know BEFORE* questions, for Petrified Forest National Park to use in monitoring the successfulness of the education program.

MAIN IDEA

Completing and returning the questions provided in both the *What You Know BEFORE* and *What You Know AFTER* sheets helps the park to assess and improve the education program by providing an idea of the effectiveness of the program through student learning.

MATERIALS

- copies of *What You Know AFTER* - one per student
- copy of *Teacher Evaluation* (one per teacher if more than one teacher was involved)

PROCEDURE

1. Have each student complete the *What You Know AFTER* questions on pages 84-85.
2. Feedback from teachers is also important! Please complete the *Teacher Evaluation* on pages 86-87. The education program provides a tool for you, as an educator, to utilize a national park and its resources as a “classroom” learning environment. Let us know how we can improve the program and better serve you and your students.
3. Mail the completed student surveys and teacher evaluation to:
Education Technician
Petrified Forest National Park
P.O. Box 2217
Petrified Forest, AZ 86028

WHAT YOU KNOW AFTER

Recently, you went on a field trip to Petrified Forest National Park. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions below.

What school do you attend? _____

What kind of field trip did you do? _____

What grade are you in? _____ Had you gone to the park before today? ____ yes ____ no

Now that you have visited Petrified Forest National Park, can you think of two facts you know about the park or the National Park Service?

What is a fossil? Give an example of a fossil found at Petrified Forest National Park.

It is important to protect our natural resources. Fossils are an example of resources that are in danger of being destroyed. Can you list two reasons for why fossils are being destroyed?

With any job, most people will do a variety of tasks. Think about all the jobs your teacher does. The same is true of paleontologists. List two jobs you think a paleontologist might do.

Geologic time is how scientists measure the age of the earth, the age of rocks, and the age of fossils. The Jurassic Period is the geologic time period when dinosaurs ruled the earth. Petrified Forest National Park represents the time *before* the dinosaurs. Do you know the geologic time period represented at the park?

National parks were created to protect natural and cultural resources for future generations. Can you explain why this is important?

Please return this completed form to:
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

TEACHER EVALUATION

Recently, you brought your students on a field trip to Petrified Forest National Park. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions below.

School _____

Teacher _____

Date of program _____ Grade(s) _____

of Students _____ # of Teachers _____ # of Other Chaperones _____

Type of Program/Field Trip _____

Have you gone to the park or had a ranger come to your class before? ___ yes ___ no; # of times ___

Please describe the previous program/field trip.

Did the pre-visit lessons prepare your students for their field trip to the park? ___ yes ___ no

Which lessons did you complete? ___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ 6 ___ 7

Please provide feedback on the lessons and suggestions for improvement.

Describe your field or laboratory experience.

Who was the park ranger assigned to your group?

Describe your experience with the ranger.

Did your students create final research projects for the classroom? ____yes ____no

Describe examples of research projects produced and how students learned from and enjoyed them.

What would you change about the program if you could? Please provide additional comments, suggestions, or recommendations, including both the education program and manual.

Please mail this evaluation to:

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Petrified Forest, AZ 86028

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR HELP!**