

Lesson: Your National Parks!

Grade(s): 3rd and 4th

Standards Addressed:

3rd History-Social Science: 3.1-1, 3.4-3
Reading Comprehension: 2.3

4th History-Social Science:4.1-4, 4.1-5
Reading-/Vocabulary: 1.3
Reading Comprehension: 2.2,

Setting: Classroom

Duration: 45 minutes

Objectives:

Upon completion of this lesson students will:

Identify two national parks in Tulare County or California.

Explain what the National Park Service preserves and/or protects and why.

Vocabulary: (3rd & 4th) preserve, protect, sequoia, national park,
(4th only) immigration, monument, European, explore,

Materials:

- (3rd & 4th) National Park worksheet for grade level.
- 3rd: Tulare Co. map.
- Map of Central Valley and park areas
- 4th : California National Park Information sheets.

Procedure:

This program can extend the learning following a Meet the Parks classroom presentation by a park ranger though it is not necessary in order to use the activities.

If your class has had a classroom presentation use the presentation review questions to introduce these activities:

- What were the names of the two parks the park ranger worked at? (Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park)
- What are some things that are in the park? (General Sherman Tree, sequoia trees, black bears, deer, marmots, bob cats, mountain lions, birds, fish, other plants)
- What are some of the jobs in the park? (park ranger working with people, maintenance, law enforcement/police, wildlife biologist, scientists, mechanics, administrative, computer)

No prior presentation start here:

1. Teachers background information is provided on the enclosed resource: The National Park Service, a brief overview.
2. To provide students with a background on the National Park Service show DVD on NPS for kids or read aloud the book_____
3. Discuss with students the DVD or book before passing out grade appropriate worksheets and resources to students.
 - a. 3rd –worksheet and Map of Tulare County.
 - b. 4th –worksheet and The National Parks of California information sheets.
4. The worksheet can be completed individually, in pairs or in cooperative groups.
5. Use the information students learned in this activity and connect to your social studies lessons on region for 3rd or the state for 4th grade.

Extension:

National Park Service Kids Zone web site:

More fun ways for students to learn about the National Park Service throughout the United States and the different jobs and projects that occur in the parks.

<http://www.nps.gov/kidszone/>

Explore other National Parks in America and the resources they have at this National Park Service web site:

<http://www.nature.nps.gov/views/layouts/Main.html#/Views/>

Meet a Park Ranger!
3rd Grade STAR Test Activity

My name is Linda Sanchez, and I am a park ranger at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. I work with people who come and visit the park. When you come to a park you can find a visitor center where a ranger will help you plan your trip.

When visitors ask me what they can do in the park I make sure they have a map. A map can show them all the things they can see and do. It will show them where all the roads and trails are. It will even have all the picnic areas and campgrounds on it. It can show them where the General Sherman Tree, the largest living thing in the world is found and other special places too.

I tell visitors to be safe too. One important rule to follow is to not feed any of the animals. People food is not good for animals to eat. Some black bears that got some people food now break into cars even if they are locked just to get more food!

Many people come to the national park to hike. Going hiking is my favorite thing to do in the park. Here are things I always do before I go on a hike so I can be safe and not get lost.

1. I never hike alone and always go with a friend.
2. I make sure someone knows where we are going.
3. I pack a map, jacket, food, and water.
4. I make sure I always get back before it gets dark.

I tell everyone who comes to visit that if they ever need to know anything, look for a park ranger. We love to help visitors have a great time in their national park!

1. How should the word ranger be divided into syllables?

- A. ran-g-er
- B. ran-ger
- C. ra-ng-er
- D. ra-nger

2. Why does Linda do certain things before she goes hiking?

- A. To help people have fun
- B. Keep bears from eating people food
- C. To be safe and not get lost
- D. To find a picnic area

3. Which sentence BEST describes what a map can do?

- A. It can keep bears out of people's cars.
- B. It will tell you how to be safe.
- C. It can show you where different things are in a national park.
- D. It will tell you what park rangers do.

4. This passage teaches readers that

- A. bears eat lots of food
- B. park rangers can help you when you visit a national park.
- C. The General Sherman Tree is the largest living thing in the world.
- D. many people go hiking in national parks.

The National Park Service
4th Grade STAR Test Activity

Sample A

Our country's national parks are special public places set aside by the United States government. These places in the National Park Service preserve and protect beautiful natural scenery or tell important stories in America's history. Many people visit national parks because of the many things you can do such as, camping, hiking, and swimming. In California there are 31 national park areas.

Sample B

July 4, 2006

Today we are visiting Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park to camp for the first time! My family is staying at the Lodgepole Campground and we got a great campsite surrounded by trees. A park ranger named Linda told us how to protect our food from bears by putting everything in a metal box we have near our tent. She said to put anything that has a smell in the box—even our toothpaste. We have not seen a black bear yet but we have seen two deer and heard an owl . This is the best vacation I

Sample C

Special Places in Sequoia National Park

Our national parks often have something unique that makes them special and that is why so many people visit each year.

Sequoia National Park is home to the General Sherman Tree. It is the world's largest living thing because of the volume of the tree. The trunk is so large that if you could fill it with water you would have enough water for 9,844 baths or one bath everyday for 27 years!

Moro Rock is a granite dome with a steep staircase to a summit. From there you get a view of the mountain range called the Great Western Divide.

1. Read this sentence from Sample A.

These places in the National Park Service preserve and protect beautiful natural scenery or tell important stories in America's history.

In which sentence does the word natural have the same meaning that it has in the sentence above?

- D. Her dad said she is a natural at playing basketball.
- E. The actor wore no make-up to look more natural.
- F. At the lake the artist found the natural setting she was looking to draw.
- D. It was natural to assume that they needed their warm coats for playing in the snow.

2. Which fact about Sample B helps you know that it is a journal entry instead of a letter?

- A. It has a date at the beginning.
- B. It doesn't have a greeting or closing.
- C. It has only one paragraph.
- D. It doesn't have pictures or illustrations.

3. You can tell from the title of Sample C that the author is probably going to

- A. tell you about a news event.
- B. describe places in the park.
- C. persuade you to buy something.
- D. how to make a craft.

4. Information in *all* of the samples supports the idea that

- A. bears eat lots of food
- B. people visit national park areas.
- C. The General Sherman Tree is the largest living thing in the world.
- D. many people go swimming in national parks.

The National Park Service

3rd Grade Introduction

The National Park Service takes care of special places. Some parks protect something like the deep lake at Crater Lake National Park. The lake is 1,943 feet deep! Parks can be home to animals. At Yellowstone National Park they have wolves. Can you howl like a wolf?

In Tulare County you have two national parks. They are Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. These two parks have many special things. There is a mountain called Mt. Whitney. If you don't count Alaska it is one of the tallest mountain in the United States. It is 14,491 feet high!

In Sequoia and Kings Canyon you can see the giant sequoia trees. Did you know they are one of the largest living things in the world? The park even has special things underground. There are over 200 caves too! Many animals live in the parks. If you come to visit you might see a black bear, chipmunk, or a deer.

Every national park is special and different. And the National Park Service protects them all for you and me!

3rd Grade worksheet

Use map of Tulare County handout to answer questions

Name _____

1. What are the names of the two national parks in Tulare County?

2. What are two special things you can find in these parks?

3. Look at the map of Tulare County. What four other counties surround Tulare County?

What two lakes are on the map?

4. How many rivers are there on the map?

5. National forests are part of the United States Forest Service, not the National Park Service. What are the names of the two national forests in Tulare County?

The National Park Service

4th Grade Introduction

The National Park Service takes care of special places in the United States. Did you know that all national parks belong to you—and me, to all of us? Each national park is different in what they protect and preserve. It can be something natural as the Grand Canyon in Arizona or Crater Lake in Oregon. It may be an important story or event in American history, as the story of immigration and the Statue of Liberty in New York. All of this is preserved for you and for all future Americans.

In the state of California there are 31 National Park Service areas! In Tulare County are two parks, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks home to the giant sequoia trees. Other places are known for their geology like Pinnacles National Monument in San Benito County. At Cabrillo National Monument in San Diego County tells the story of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the first European to explore the coast of California.

In these national parks areas in California not only can you learn a lot but you can do many things. People visit these places to go camping, hiking, picnicking, boating, and fishing, just to name a few things. You might see animals such as the black bear or hear the bark of a sea lion in the ocean. There is so much to explore at a national park. We hope you will come and visit your national parks soon!

Name _____

Use the California National Park Service information sheets to help you answer these questions.

1. Write down the names of the two national parks areas in California ?
Look at the map and name two national park sites in the San Francisco Bay Area?

2. What is the name of first European explorer to the coast of California?

3. Look at the map and name two parks located the very northern part of California?

4. What two national parks are in Tulare County?

5. Pick one national park area in California and write three sentences explaining why you would like to visit that park. Or write down three words that are new to you and their definition.
