



National Parks



September Project

Throughout the four-week project, students will actively engage with each National Park, learning about its history, significance, and natural beauty through art activities, simulated adventures, and interactive lessons. These activities will help foster an appreciation for nature and the importance of preserving these incredible places for future generations.

Each week, students will explore a different National Park through active learning, art activities, simulated adventures, and interesting facts. The parks included are Yosemite National Park, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, and Crater Lake National Park.

Lesson Plan Format

Objective:

Students will learn about the history, significance, and key features of each National Park through interactive and creative activities.

What you will need:

- Poster boards
- Markers, crayons, and colored pencils
- Construction paper
- Scissors and glue
- Maps and images of the parks
- Books or online resources about each park
- Natural materials (rocks, leaves, etc.)
- Binoculars (for simulated adventures)
- Large sheets of paper for murals
- Small plastic animals and trees (for dioramas)
- Access to video players

September 6 Yosemite National Park

Introduction and Fun Facts

Briefly introduce Yosemite National Park, located in California.



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Please share this virtual field trip of Yosemite with the youth

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=youtube+video+for+kids+on+Yosemite+National+Park&mid=F8E7850246E29B73E5ABF8E7850246E29B73E5AB&FORM=VIRE>

Five “Must Sees” in Yosemite

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=youtube%20video%20for%20kids%20on%20Yosemite%20National%20Park&mid=1028D9C83C5808874EC21028D9C83C5808874EC2&ajaxhist=0>

Yosemite National Park

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=youtube%20video%20for%20kids%20on%20Yosemite%20National%20Park&mid=0BB221417ACB4288E8E80BB221417ACB4288E8E8&ajaxhist=0>

Fun Facts:

- Yosemite is famous for its giant sequoias, waterfalls, and stunning granite cliffs like El Capitan and Half Dome.
- It became a National Park in 1890.
- It is home to diverse wildlife including black bears, deer, and various bird species.

Historic Information

Youth can look up this information on the internet

- Discuss the park’s establishment and its significance.
- Talk about John Muir’s role in the preservation of Yosemite.
- Activity: Create a timeline of important events in Yosemite’s history.

Art Activity

- Create a mural of Yosemite’s landscape.
- Divide students into groups, each responsible for a different feature (e.g., waterfalls, cliffs, forests).
- Use large sheets of paper, markers, and crayons.

Simulated Adventure

- Simulated hike through Yosemite.
- Set up a trail in the classroom or outdoors.



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- Include "stops" at different landmarks (use images or replicas).
- Students use binoculars to "spot" wildlife and plants.

Debriefing Questions:

- What was your favorite part of learning about Yosemite?
- Why do you think it's important to protect places like Yosemite?
- What new fact did you learn about Yosemite?



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September 13 Yellowstone National Park

Introduction and Fun Facts

Please show youth the following videos about Yellowstone National Park

Yellowstone National Park virtual fieldtrip

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=youtube+video+for+kids+on+Yellowstone+National+Park&&mid=194B28C62C1512987BBF194B28C62C1512987BBF&&FORM=VRDGAR>

Yellowstone National Park Ecosystem —Animals

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=youtube+video+for+kids+on+Yellowstone+National+Park&&mid=3932BF4C6CDA67198DE73932BF4C6CDA67198DE7&&FORM=VRDGAR>

Top 10 Things to Do in Yellowstone

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=youtube%20video%20for%20kids%20on%20Yellowstone%20National%20Park&mid=67921345B4029F94AE5067921345B4029F94AE50&ajaxhist=0>

Introduction:

Briefly introduce Yellowstone National Park, spanning Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho.

Fun Facts:

- Yellowstone was the first National Park, established in 1872.
- It is known for geothermal features like Old Faithful geyser.
- It has one of the largest petrified forests and is home to many animals, including bison and wolves.

Historic Information

- Discuss the significance of Yellowstone as the first National Park.
- Talk about the park's geothermal activity and how it was formed.
- Create a "Yellowstone National Park" booklet with key historical events.

Art Activity

- Create a diorama of Yellowstone's geothermal features.



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- Use shoe boxes, construction paper, and small plastic animals.
- Students can recreate geysers, hot springs, and wildlife.

Simulated Adventure

- Simulated exploration of Yellowstone's geothermal areas.
- Set up stations representing different features (geysers, hot springs).
- Students can observe and "study" these features using magnifying glasses.

Debriefing

- What did you find most interesting about Yellowstone's geothermal features?
- How do you think being the first National Park influenced the way we protect nature today?
- What would you like to see if you visited Yellowstone?



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September 20 Grand Canyon National Park

Introduction and Fun Facts

Please show youth the following videos about Yellowstone National Park

A Brief History of Grand Canyon

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=youtube+video+for+kids+on+Grand+Canyon+National+park&&mid=AEDD4ACC612E0E7441C4AEDD4ACC612E0E7441C4&&FORM=VRD GAR>

Jaw Dropping Grand Canyon

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=youtube%20video%20for%20kids%20on%20Grand%20Canyon%20National%20park&mid=EFB568AE3B8E297F2180EFB568AE3B8E297F2180&ajaxhist=0>

Best of Grand Canyon

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=youtube%20video%20for%20kids%20on%20Grand%20Canyon%20National%20park&mid=CE6E610C294017C2B947CE6E610C294017C2B947&ajaxhist=0>

Introduction:

Briefly introduce Grand Canyon National Park, located in Arizona.

Fun Facts:

- The Grand Canyon is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.
- It is 277 miles long and over a mile deep in some areas.
- It became a National Park in 1919.

Historic Information

- Discuss the geological history and the formation of the Grand Canyon.
- Talk about the indigenous peoples who lived in the area and early explorers.
- Create a cross-section model of the Grand Canyon showing different layers of rock.

Art Activity

- Paint a panoramic view of the Grand Canyon.
- Use watercolor paints to capture the colors and depth of the canyon.



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- Students can add animals and plants found in the canyon.

Simulated Adventure

- Simulated rafting trip through the Grand Canyon.
- Use a large blue sheet or tarp to represent the Colorado River.
- Students can “raft” down the river, learning about different points of interest.

Debriefing

- What did you learn about the formation of the Grand Canyon?
- Why do you think the Grand Canyon is considered a natural wonder?
- What would you like to do if you visited the Grand Canyon?



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September 27 Crater Lake National Park

Please show youth the following videos about Yellowstone National Park

Welcome to Crater Lake

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=youtube+video+for+kids+on+Crater+lake+National+Park&&view=riverview&mmscn=mtsc&mid=DA01EF4B08C6169E9CD0DA01EF4B08C6169E9CD0&&aps=1&FORM=VMSOVR>

Top 10 Things to Know Before Visiting

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=youtube%20video%20for%20kids%20on%20Crater%20lake%20National%20Park&view=riverview&mid=11DC8AC5DC60F7391E7411DC8AC5DC60F7391E74&ajaxhist=0>

Crater Lake National Park

<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=youtube%20video%20for%20kids%20on%20Crater%20lake%20National%20Park&view=riverview&mid=0CE3A57067ADE92D20B00CE3A57067ADE92D20B0&ajaxhist=0>

Introduction and Fun Facts

Introduction:

- Briefly introduce Crater Lake National Park, located in Oregon.

Fun Facts:

- Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the United States, formed by a collapsed volcano.
- It became a National Park in 1902.
- The lake is known for its stunning blue color and clear water.

Historic Information

- Discuss the volcanic activity that created Crater Lake.
- Talk about the discovery of the lake and its significance.
- Create a poster showing the formation of Crater Lake.

Art Activity

- Make a 3D model of Crater Lake.
- Use clay or paper-mâché to create the caldera and lake.



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- Paint it to show the deep blue color of the lake and surrounding landscape.

Simulated Adventure

- Simulated exploration of Crater Lake.
- Set up a “lake” area with a blue tarp and surrounding “forest” with plants and trees.
- Students can “hike” around the lake and “dive” to explore its depth.

Debriefing Questions:

- How did Crater Lake form?
- What makes Crater Lake unique compared to other lakes?
- What did you enjoy most about learning about Crater Lake?