

LESSON PLAN

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NATIONAL PARKS

– Worksheet

Part One – Yellowstone National Park

Yellowstone National Park is located in Wyoming (USA), and it is the oldest national park in the world. The park first opened to the public on March 1, 1872. Today there are 419 wonderful national parks in America.

Thousands of visitors go to Yellowstone every year, and summer is the busiest season. It is a big, beautiful park, with high mountains, forests, rivers, lakes and sixty different kinds of animals. Some of these animals are in danger of extinction¹, but they are safe in the park. Here they can start families and avoid the danger of extinction.

Forest rangers live in the park all year and they have a very important job. They look after the animals, trees and plants, and help visitors. There are eight visitor centers, where people can get maps of the park and its trails, a calendar of events and even the weather report for the day. There are also twelve big campsites and a lot of hotels. There are a lot of fun things to do and see in the park, such as taking a boat ride on the lake, riding a horse through the beautiful forests, climbing the mountains, birdwatching and camping. Yellowstone is famous for its geysers²; there are more than 300 in the park! Old Faithful is perhaps the most famous geyser in the world because it sends hot water into the air regularly about every 90 minutes. And it is never late! There are also some beautiful waterfalls in the park, such as Firehole Falls, Tower Falls and Gibbon Falls.

1. Answer these questions.

1. Where is Yellowstone National Park located?
2. When did it open to the public?
3. How many different kinds of animals live in Yellowstone National Park?
4. Who is a Forest Ranger and what is his/her job?
5. What is Old Faithful?

¹ **extinction** : when a kind of animal does not exist anymore

² **geysers** : very hot water that comes up from the earth.



LESSON PLAN

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Part Two - Deforestation – the destruction of our forests and wildlife

Deforestation is when trees are cut down to clear the land for other uses. It is not new but the rate of deforestation has increased, especially in the Brazilian rainforest. More than 130,000 square kilometers of forest, an area the size of Greece, are cut down every year! The world's population is increasing and so more land is needed for other uses such as farming, places to live, industry and land for animals. There are also two important forest businesses—logging and cash crops. Logging companies cut down trees and sell the wood for many different uses. Food such as beans or peanuts are grown on cleared forest land and sold on international markets. These are called cash crops. Money is generally more important for companies than the environment.

Many things we do pollute the air. Industry, vehicles and heating in houses and offices all put polluting gases into the atmosphere. These gases can then enter the water cycle, and even the rain which falls thousands of kilometers away is polluted. This is called acid rain and it can damage and kill trees.

Forest fires are a big problem for forests. Large areas of forest can burn in a very short time, especially if it is windy and the vegetation is dry. Sometimes people start forest fires because they want to use the land for farming.

2. Are these statements true (T) of false (F)?

1. Deforestation means looking after our forests
2. Logging and cash crops are important forest businesses.
3. Acid rain is not caused by pollution.
4. Big forest fires are always caused by strong winds.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

