

National Parks Webquest

http://www-tc.pbs.org/nationalparks/media/pdfs/tnp_lesson_plan_mapping_the_national_parks.pdf

Geography is the study of Earth and its features. Geographers also study the distribution of plant and animal life on the planet, including people and cities.

It's helpful to look at geography through these five themes:

LOCATION – *Where is it?* The term can refer to absolute location, such as an address or geographic coordinates. It can also refer to relative location, or where something is in relation to something else.

PLACE – *What is it like?* This term refers to the characteristics that make a place unique. Those characteristics can be physical, such as landforms and vegetation. They can also be human, referring to an area's culture, economy and government. Every place has a special combination of physical and human characteristics.

HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION – *What is the relationship between the environment and humans?* The term refers to ways that humans adapt to an environment, how they change it, and how they depend on it. Bridges and dams are examples of ways that humans have interacted with the environment to meet their needs.

MOVEMENT – *How have people, goods or ideas moved from one place to another?* Examples of movement include America's westward expansion and the Internet.

REGIONS – *What characteristic is shared by a group of places?* Putting places into regions allows us to organize our knowledge of the world. A region can be defined by specific boundaries, such as a county or the United States. But a region such as the "Rust Belt" or "Tornado Alley" can also be based on our perceptions of places.

Watch the clip "[Mapping the National Parks](#)" Following the segment, answer the following questions:

a. According to the segment, what is a park's purpose?

-A park's purpose is to preserve natural wonders, and to protect them from harm. It also serves as a location for inspiration and recreation for people.

b. What types of environments were among those shown and described in the segment?

-Forests, lakes, deserts, mountains, tundra, hot springs, caves, volcanoes

c. In what ways do those environments compare to your idea of a "park"?

-I believed that parks were gated areas that offered tours to anyone that passed by, but the environments shown in the video are definitely more massive than my previous thoughts about parks.

d. Which of those environments would you like to know more about?

I'd like to learn more about the tundra, since I like the cold and snow.

PARK PROFILE

America's national parks represent a wide variety of environments, from glacial ice to fiery volcanoes and dry deserts to deep fjords. To explore a specific park, start with the Web site of the National Park Service at www.nps.gov. Use the site's "Find a Park" tool to locate your park. Then research its dedicated pages for facts about the park that you can share with others. Organize your information using the following table.

EXPLORING

LOCATION State and Region (formal or informal)	Redwood National Park: Located in Del Norte and Humboldt counties, CA.
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS Park borders (area) Size of the park (acres) Climate Landforms Vegetation Wildlife	- Park borders: - 131,983 acres - Cool temperatures; mid 40s to low 60s Fahrenheit - Landforms: watersheds, rivers, streams, prairies, and the ocean coastline - Vegetation: Redwoods, spruce, beach pea, beach strawberry, sand verbenas, maples, azaleas, assorted wildflowers - Wildlife: Black bears, mountain lions, elk, beavers, sea lions, gray whales, salmon, trout, gobies and eulachons, sea birds, raptors, assorted small birds
HUMAN CHARACTERISTICS Visitors per year Most popular visitor sites History of development (movement) Changes in landscape over time (human-environment interaction)	- Visitors per year: Around 550,000 people - Popular sites: Howland Hill Road, Ender's Beach, Klamath River Overlook, Elk Meadow, Trillium Falls - History: Started as a Native American settlement, home to many tribes - Discovery of gold in the Trinity River in 1850 caused outsiders to overwhelm the population and natives - Natives endangered by people, massacred, hunted In 1910, logging concerns stopped logging activity, park established 1968 - Landscape changes: 90% of redwoods were consumed by logging by the 1960s until conservation attempts - Park expanded in 1978 by 40,000 acres, 2005 expanded by 25,000 acres (currently 131,983 acres)

Google Earth

Using Google Earth, zoom in and explore the park you researched. See if you can find the features of the park that you have learned about in your research

Optional National Park Choices

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska
Denali National Park, Alaska
Yosemite National Park, California
Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado
Everglades National Park, Florida
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Kansas
Isle Royale National Park, Michigan
Crater Lake National Park, Oregon
Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming
Glacier National Park, MT
Rocky Mountain National Park, CO

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, CO
Olympic National Park, WA
Shenandoah National Park, VA
Great Smoky Mountain National Park, TN/NC
Mammoth Caves National Park, KY
Arches National Park, UT
Grand Teton National Park, WY

