Post-Site Activity
Explore Your National Parks

Grade Level: Second

Subject Area: Science

Activity time: 30 minutes

Setting: Indoors

Skills: Varying skills depending on activities selected

Vocabulary: Varying vocabulary depending on activities selected

Objectives: To teach students about the various aspects of the National Park Service.

Materials: Internet access

Background:

The Great Smoky Mountains are world renowned for their diversity of plant and animal species. This great variety makes the park an exemplary outdoor laboratory for the study of relatively undisturbed native flora, fauna, physical environs, and processes of the Southern Appalachians. The park is the largest federally preserved and protected upland area east of the Mississippi River offering park visitors a refuge from the stresses of everyday life.

You and your students can learn more about this special place as well as participate in on-line activities to further your knowledge of the National Park Service and other federally protected lands. Please check out the following web addresses:

Especially for Kids

To learn how to become a web ranger for the National Park Service, go to:
www.nps.gov/webrangers
To learn how to become a Junior Park Ranger at Great Smoky Mountains National Park or other parks, go to:
www.nps.gov/learn/juniorranger.htm

Especially for Teachers

For a comprehensive understanding of the background and development of the National Park Service, that is perfect for teachers and others those who need the maximum amount of accurate information in the minimum amount of time, go to:
http://www.ParkTraining.org
The U.S. Department of Education is pleased to announce the newly remodeled and updated Federal Resources for Education Excellence (FREE) website.
It now provides richer, more expansive resources to teachers and students alike. There are over 1,500 resources to take advantage of at FREE ranging from primary historical documents, lesson plans, science visualizations, math simulations and online challenges, paintings, photos, mapping tools, and more. This easily accessible information is provided by federal organizations and agencies such as the Library of Congress, National Archives, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian, National Science Foundation (NSF), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Go to:
http://www.free.ed.gov/