

Joshua Tree National Park Education Office

Video Checkout

Revised August, 2010

All videos are available to teachers to borrow. We will ship to you. You must pay for shipping back to the park. General borrowing period is for 2 to 4 weeks, depending on your distance and other requests. The videos are separated into categories and rated for your convenience (☺☺☺☺☺ = Best). Some videos have educator guides or activities with them (📖).

Deserts

Title	Length	Description	Grade Level	Rating
Desert Song	55 minutes	Focusing on the Mojave Desert, this video has remarkable wildlife photography. Your students will see many different desert animals caring for their young, building homes, searching for food and competing for dominance.	3 rd grade & up	☺☺☺☺☺
Joshua Tree National Park	30 minutes	A general introduction to the park's plants, animals, and early human inhabitants.	5 th grade & up	☺☺☺
The Desert	15 minutes	Although this video does not talk about Joshua trees or the Mojave Desert, it explores the interesting adaptations and relationships between desert plants and animal species.	4 th grade & up	☺☺
Challenge of the Desert	28 minutes	The Keys family learned to survive as homesteaders in what is now Joshua Tree National Park. Learn about their experiences. (5 VHS)	4 th grade and up	☺☺☺☺
Shifting Sands: Climate Change and the Mojave	19 minutes	This video presents climate change in the Mojave desert and its effects on diverse plant and animal species.	4 th grade and up	☺☺☺☺

National Parks

Title	Length	Description	Grade Level	Rating
Where in the World? – Kids Explore America's National Parks 📖	40 minutes	Five friends travel to Yosemite, Olympic and Fort Vancouver and discover fabulous things to see, do and learn in national parks. Narrated by kids, your students will enjoy learning fun park facts and even meet a park ranger from Yosemite.	3 rd to 6 th grade	☺☺☺☺
Meet the Mentor: Veronica Gonzales-Vest, Park Ranger 📖	10 minutes	Learn about what some rangers do through a visit with a Sequoia National Park Ranger. This is part of the Nature Guide series by Scholastic.	3 rd grade and up	☺☺☺☺
Untold Stories from America's National Parks	60 minutes	A PBS documentary by Ken Burns exploring the unexpected history in the National Parks.	6 th grade and up	☺☺☺☺☺
This is America	45 minutes	PBS documentary. Spanish language available.	6 th grade and up	☺☺☺☺☺
Conviction of the Heart	6 minutes	Kenny Loggins' 1992 Conviction of the Heart is an inspirational music video that portrays the need to preserve our country's cultural heritage, natural resources and National Parks.	Pre-K and up	☺☺☺☺

Animals

Title	Length	Description	Grade Level	Rating
The Turtle Family	30 minutes	Explains differences among turtles, tortoises, and terrapins with footage of species from all over the world.	3 rd grade & up	☺☺☺☺☺
Coyoteland	17 minutes	Filmmaker Jay April captures a real-life conflict between urban development and wildlife when a coyote carries a domestic pet away. Hear from the animal trapper called to destroy the coyote and a citizen who doesn't see this as the answer.	5 th grade & up	☺☺☺☺
Catch Me If You Can – The Grazers and The Predators	20 and 26 minutes	Animal young learn by playing just as humans do. This video is made up of sequences showing how the carefree activities of young animals help them survive in their adult lives.	2 nd grade & up	☺☺☺☺☺
Endangered	30 minutes	Explains what the Endangered Species Act is and why we need it. Introduces biodiversity and how it is important. Points not only to aesthetic, but also economic and medical reasons to save species and ecosystems.	7 th grade & up	☺☺☺☺
Very Elementary Bats	7 minutes	An introduction to the diversity of bats with many fun photos. (Available on DVD and VHS.)	Kindergarten & up	☺☺☺☺☺
On Nature's Terms	25 minutes	Explores cases of how people and wild predators can live in harmony.	6 th and up	☺☺☺☺
The Heat is On: Desert Tortoises and Survival	30 minutes	This DVD reveals the plight of the desert tortoise, the causes of tortoise issues and what scientists are doing to restore its fragile population in our deserts. (2 DVDs)	6 th grade and up	☺☺☺☺☺

Natural History

Title	Length	Description	Grade Level	Rating
Biological Diversity: It Makes All the Difference in the World	14 minutes	Explains three kinds of biological diversity: species, genetic and ecosystem. National parks are important places where we can preserve biological diversity.	4 th grade and up	☺☺☺
Beyond the Backyard	35 minutes	Join high school students as they plan a backpacking trip, learn about public lands and leave no trace camping.	7 th and up	☺☺☺
The Wilderness Idea	58 minutes	This documentary explores early environment politics by tracing the paths of the leaders of the two factions: John Muir and Gifford Pinchot.	7 th grade and up	☺☺☺☺
The Last Parable	30 minutes	Great footage of wilderness areas while helping students understand what wilderness is and why it is preserved.	4 th grade and up	☺☺☺
Canyon Soft Paths	20 minutes	Using Leave No Trace ethics, this video explores visiting an arid landscape and how to leave little impact.	6 th grade and up	☺☺☺
Soft Paths	31 minutes	This video explores how to visit a wilderness area without harming it. Leave No Trace ethics are demonstrated.	5 th grade and up	☺☺☺
Living History – The Ancient Bristlecone Pines	19 minutes	Explores the natural history of one of the world's oldest living things: the ancient bristlecone pine.	8 th grade and up	☺☺☺
Evolution	1 hour and 25 minutes	Seven videos make up the PBS Doc: Darwin's Dangerous Idea, Great Transformations, Extinction, Evolutionary Arms race, Why Sex, the Mind's Big Bang, What About God?	6 th grade and up	☺☺☺☺
Learning and Teaching Evolution	2 hours	PBS selected shorts segments on evolution, including a teacher's guide to teaching evolution.	6 th grade and up	☺☺☺☺

Cultural History

Title	Length	Description	Grade Level	Rating
Silent Witness – Protecting American Indian Archeological Heritage 📖	30 minutes	Narrated by Robert Redford, this video explores the destruction of American Indian archeological sites on public lands. With beautiful photography and words from Pueblo Indians, archeologists and national park rangers, your students will understand the importance of these disappearing artifacts.	7 th grade and up	☺☺☺☺☺
The Free Land 📖	18 minutes	This video explains the Homesteading Act of 1862 and the effects of the western movement regarding homesteading. Produced by Homestead National Monument of America Produced by the Cahokia Mounds Museum.	4 th grade and up	☺☺☺☺

Recycling and the Environment

Title	Length	Description	Grade Level	Rating
We Can Make a Difference	20 minutes	This documentary, made by a high school class in Ojai, California, shows the desire of today's young people to help make our planet a better place to live. This video is a good introduction to an environmental unit to instill in your students a sense of ownership and responsibility for our pollution problems.	6 th grade and up	☺☺☺☺
This Was Your Planet	20 minutes	Litter is a big problem in our society. This video shows how one "messy" boy learns the error of his ways and encourages his friends to clean up our environment	4 th to 6 th grade	☺☺☺
Environmental Issues: Water Management and California	1 hour each	Two DVDs consisting of seven short segments on California water history, reclamation, and conservation.	6 th to 9 th grade	☺☺☺
Environmental Issues in California	1 hour and 15 minutes	Seven short segments on various conservation projects throughout California.	4 th to 9 th grade	☺☺☺
Children's Programs: California Dept. of Water Resources	52 minutes	Four short segments discussing water education: the water cycle, water conservation, the importance of water and the history of water in California.	3 rd to 5 th grade	☺☺☺

For Teachers

Title	Length	Description	Grade Level	Rating
Parks As Classrooms	12 minutes or 28 minutes	Explains what the National Park Service program "Parks As Classrooms" has to offer teachers in their pursuit for "active education." Teachers should think parks as "branch campuses of the world's largest university" and use them to reinforce their curriculum. Students learn by "doing" and parks are great places for hands-on experiences.	Teachers	☺☺☺☺
Explore Your World: GIS in K-12 Education	17 minutes	The video assist educators in determining how GIS can be used in the classroom to assist students.	Teachers/ Staff	☺☺☺☺
Professional Development	Each DVD is over and hour	Discovery Channel School presents three DVD's for elementary grade teachers on: Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science.	Teachers and 7 th to 12 th grade	☺☺☺☺☺