



Every Kid Outdoors

Pre-Visit Resources, Lesson Plan, and Activity

4th Grade

Social Studies

BACKGROUND

The National Park Service is a federal government agency that manages land and water for all people to enjoy. Established in 1916 by President Wilson, the National Park Service was created to protect our nation's natural and cultural heritage. The mission of the National Park Service is to *preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration for this and future generations*. The National Park Service uses an arrowhead symbol to depict the different resources it protects.

With a still-growing system of national park units, the natural and cultural resources protected in national parks are incredibly diverse. The nation's first national park, Yellowstone, was created in 1872. It is known for its plant life, wildlife, water features and rugged landscape. National seashores like Cape Hatteras protect our nation's coastlines and unique ecosystems. National parks also protect human history and culture. Manzanar National Historical Site offers lessons learned from the incarceration of Japanese Americans by the U.S. government during World War II. National Battlefields, like Antietam in Maryland, preserve our nation's identity during times of war. Sites like New York's Harriet Tubman National Historical Park share the stories of American heroes. At Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, we share the rural and environmental influences of our nation's 36th President as well as the backdrop of his beloved Texas ranch as he made important decisions and policies that shaped history. Our nation's rich cultural and natural resources offer numerous possibilities to explore and learn!



Yosemite National Park (NPS Photo/Damon Joyce)



Antietam National Battlefield (NPS Photo)



Harriet Tubman National Historical Park (NPS Photo)

The Every Kid Outdoors Program was launched by President Obama in 2015 (then called Every Kid in a Park) in celebration of the National Park Service centennial in 2016. This program provides U.S. fourth graders and their families free access to over 2,000 federal lands and waters so they can discover wildlife, resources and history. Every Kid Outdoors builds important connections to public lands and inspires the next generation of stewards. The program was extended for seven more years in 2019.

- Every Kid Outdoors begins each year on September 1 and goes through August of the following year.
- To obtain passes for students, teachers can visit <https://everykidoutdoors.gov> and click 'Educators' to download information and print paper vouchers for students.
- View a PDF about Every Kid Outdoors here:
https://everykidoutdoors.gov/media/EKO_4thGrade_Brochure_Update.pdf

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will be able to:

- Describe the mission of the National Park Service
- Create their own national park by incorporating natural/cultural resources
- Identify a public land near their community that they can use the Every Kid Outdoors Pass

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How do national parks protect natural and cultural resources?
- What would you protect in your own national park?

MATERIALS

- "Create Your Own Park" activity sheet (pre-visit activity)
- Coloring and writing utensils (pre-visit activity)

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Introduce students to the National Park Service by watching "[Here's How the National Park Service Got Started](#)" by the History Channel.
2. Following the video, students will complete the "Create Your Own Park Activity" below.

Create Your Own Park Activity

Background

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The mission of the National Park Service is to

preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration for this and future generations.

The National Park Service uses an arrowhead symbol to depict the different resources it protects. (You can find a small arrowhead in the header of this page).

With a still-growing system of national park units, the natural and cultural resources protected in national parks are incredibly diverse. The nation's first national park, Yellowstone, was created in 1872. It is known for its plant life, wildlife, water features and rugged landscape. National seashores like Cape Hatteras protect our nation's coastlines and unique ecosystems. National parks also protect human history and culture. Manzanar National Historical Site offers lessons learned from the incarceration of Japanese Americans by the U.S. government during World War II. National Battlefields, like Antietam in Maryland, preserve our nation's identity during times of war. Sites like New York's Harriet Tubman National Historical Park share the stories of American heroes. Around the country, national parks of all shapes and sizes tell stories of our shared human history and conserve our natural features for all people!

Activity

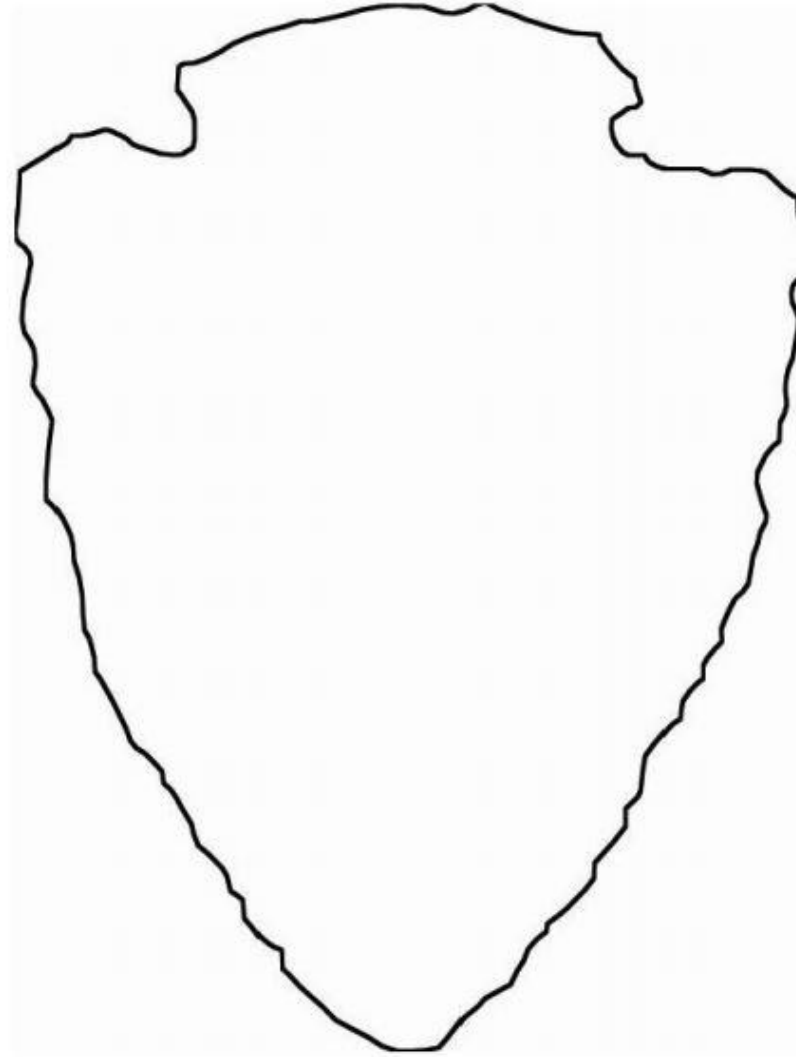
1. Read the mission statement of the National Park Service again. **What words stick out to you?** Consider these keywords as you complete the activity.
2. **What would you protect in your own national park?** Use the blank arrowhead template to draw, write about or collage your ideas. They can be your favorite food, pet, insects, or a special place...get creative!
 - a. Create a key for the cultural/natural resources that your symbols represent.
 - b. Be prepared to share something that your park protects with the park ranger.
3. Give your national park its own name.
4. We'd love to see what your national parks look like! With the help of an adult, scan or take a photo of your national park. Email it to us at lyjo_education@nps.gov

Lyndon B. Johnson

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



National Park Name:



What do your symbols represent?

ASSESSMENT

Educators can lead a discussion based on the “Create Your Own Park” activity and ask students to share with the class their park. In addition, educators can have students generate questions based on what they learned to ask the park ranger during presentation.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Find national park sites in your state!](#)
- [Find Federal Public Lands near you!](#)
- [Plan your visit to Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park!](#)
- [Take a virtual tour of the Texas White House!](#)