

Meet Your National Parks

Rangers in the Classroom — Pre-visit Lesson Plan



Grade Level: 2nd

Setting: Classroom

Duration: 45 min -1 hour

Standards Addressed:

- ° Social Science:
2.5
- ° Reading Comprehension:
2.5
- ° Writing Applications:
2.1

Introduction:

Welcome to Rangers in the Classroom! We are looking forward to visiting your class for our Meet Your National Parks program. To help prepare your class for the ranger visit, we have created a pre-visit activity to introduce your students to some of the concepts we will cover in our program. If you are interested in additional preparation, the program outline includes a vocabulary list and can easily be found on the website at:

<http://www.nps.gov/seki/forteachers/index.htm>.

By exploring a few concepts and vocabulary words with your students prior to our visit, you will help us hit the ground running.

Have fun and we'll see you soon!

Materials:

- ° Biography Handouts (included)
- ° Scissors (2 sets for each group)
- ° String, yarn, or staples to bind biography books
- ° Construction paper
- ° Crayons or colored pencils

Instructions:

1. Print, cut-out, and assemble biography handouts into books.
2. Read or paraphrase the activity introduction to students (next page).
3. Separate students into four groups.
4. Assign each group an historical figure: Roosevelt, Muir, Edge, or Young.
5. Hand out a copy of the appropriate biography book to each member of the group.
6. Ask students to take turns reading the biographies to each other within their small groups.
7. Have each group member complete the "Three Things I Learned" worksheet.
8. Using this information, have each group create a poster illustrating important facts about their historical figure.
9. Have each group present their historical figure to the class.

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Activity Introduction For Historical Figures Activity

Today we are going to learn about a few people who were very important in our country's history. We are going to read about four different people who all worked to help protect natural places in the United States. Each one of our historical figures come from different backgrounds, and each person played a different role in protecting the plants and animals and their natural habitats.

In a few days (or weeks, or tomorrow) a Park Ranger from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks will be coming to visit our classroom. The ranger is going to teach us about how s/he helps to protect nature in our National Parks today. The ranger will also help us learn what we can do to help protect natural places so that we can follow in the footsteps of the historical figures we will meet in today's activity.

People Who Made A Difference:

Colonel Charles Young



By _____

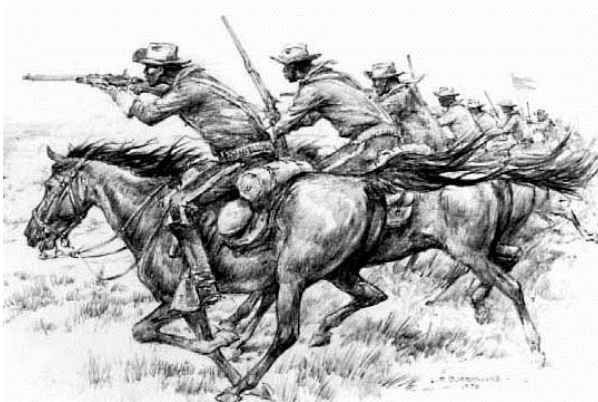
1

Charles Young was a soldier in the US Army. He was put in charge of a group of men called "Buffalo Soldiers".



2

The Buffalo Soldiers were a group of African-American soldiers who rode horses into battle.



3

Charles Young and the Buffalo Soldiers were sent to Sequoia National Park to help keep the park safe.



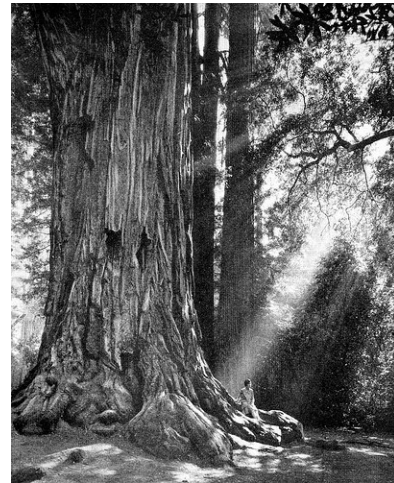
4

Charles Young was the first African-American to be in charge of a National Park.



5

Charles Young and the Buffalo Soldiers helped to build the first road to the Giant Forest, allowing more people to see the Giant Sequoia trees!



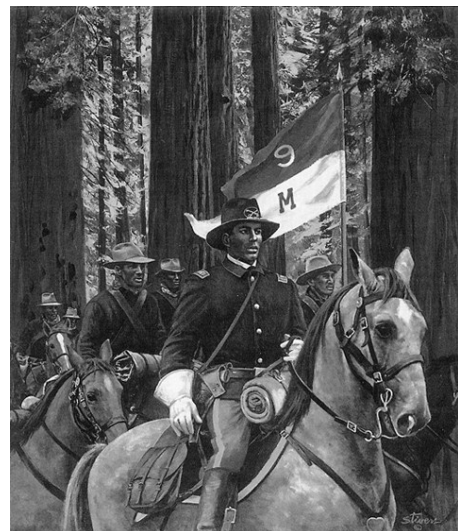
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The Buffalo Soldiers also built the first trail to the top of Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in California.



7

Many of the roads and trails built by Charles Young and the Buffalo Soldiers are still used today.



8

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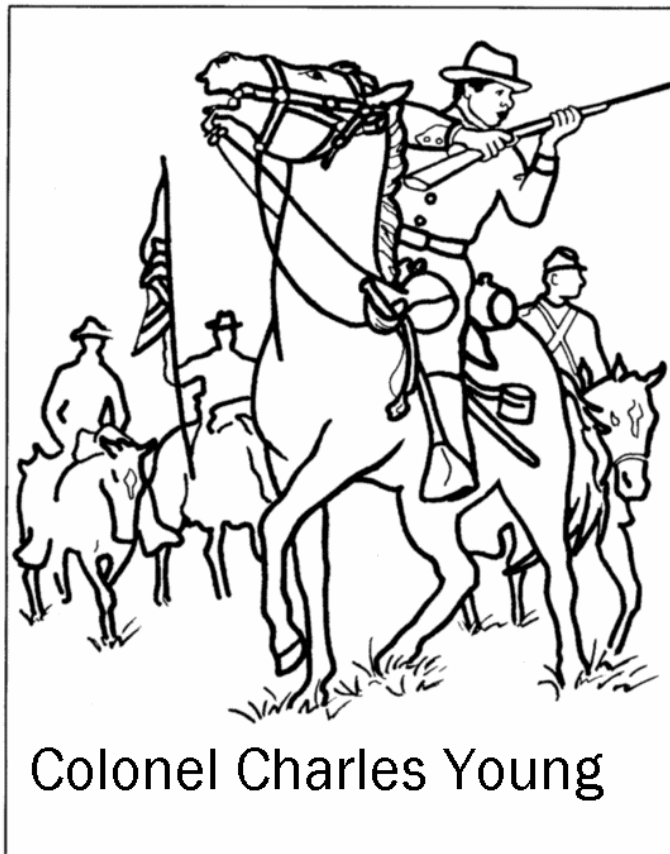


Three things I learned about Charles Young.

1.

2.

3.



People Who Made A Difference:

Theodore Roosevelt



By _____

1

Theodore Roosevelt was the 26th President of the United States.



2

Before he became President he had worked as a writer, a cowboy, a soldier, and a politician.



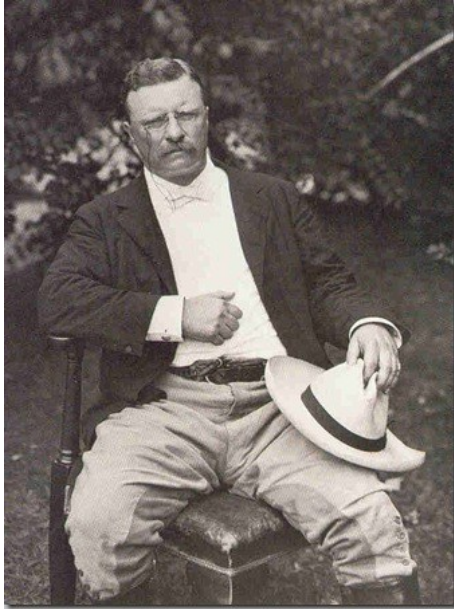
3

Mr. Roosevelt loved the outdoors. His hobbies included hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and boxing.



4

As President, he passed laws protecting many different natural places.



5

Theodore Roosevelt created 5 National Parks and 18 National Monuments.



6

One of the most famous National Monuments set aside by Roosevelt was the Grand Canyon.



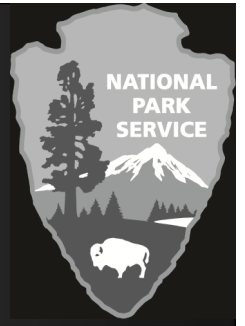
7

Today there is a national park named after him, Theodore Roosevelt National Park.



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Three things I learned about Theodore Roosevelt.

1.

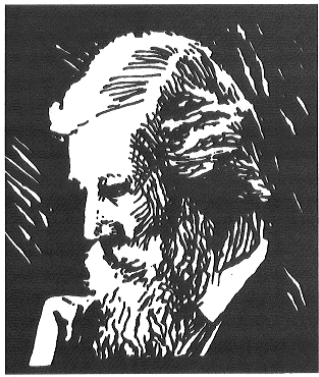
2.

3.



People Who Made A Difference:

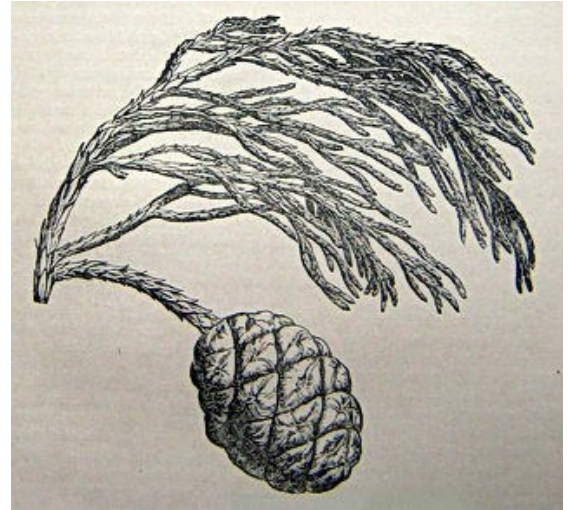
John Muir



By _____

1

John Muir loved science and nature. He loved to hike and to collect wild plants.



2

In 1868, John moved to California. There he saw the Giant Sequoia trees for the first time.



3

John worked to protect the Giant Sequoias because they were the biggest trees in the world.



4

He asked President Theodore Roosevelt to protect the trees by passing laws to make national parks.



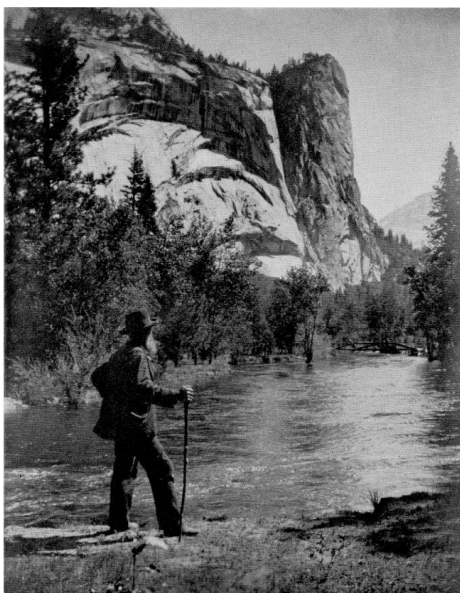
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National parks became places where no one could harm any plants or animals.



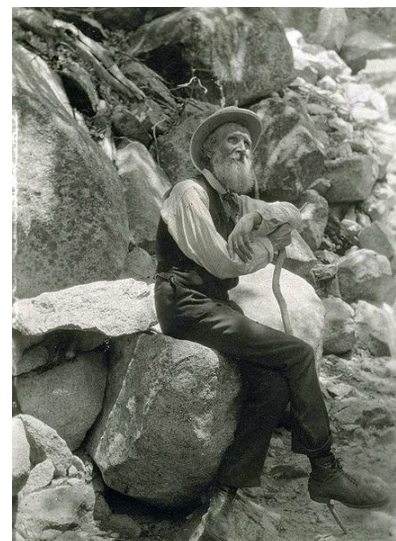
6

John Muir helped create many different parks where nature is protected.



7

John Muir worked his whole life to protect nature so that everyone could enjoy the beauty of the outdoors.



8

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Three things I learned about John Muir.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



People Who Made A Difference:

Rosalie Edge



By

Rosalie Edge spent much of her life protecting nature.



2

Rosalie enjoyed watching birds in the outdoors. Some of her favorite birds to watch were hawks and eagles.



Rosalie worried that hunters were killing too many hawks and eagles.



3

4

Rosalie bought land in the forests where birds would be safe from hunters.



5

One of the places she built to protect birds was Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania.



6

Rosalie also helped convince congress to create both Olympic and Kings Canyon National Parks.



7

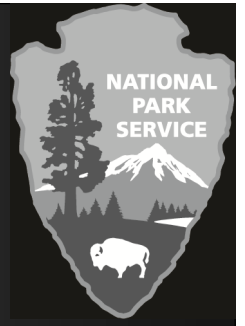
Both of these parks and the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary are places where nature is still protected today.



8

Meet Your National Parks

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Three things I learned about Rosalie Edge.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

