

Meet Your National Parks

Rangers in the Classroom — Post-visit Lesson Plan



Grade Level: 3rd

Setting: Classroom

Duration: 1– 1 1/2 hours

Standards Addressed:

° Social Science:
3.2

° Speaking Applications:
2.1, 2.2

° Visual Arts:
1.5, 4.2

Introduction:

Thank you for joining us on an exciting adventure into the world of our nation's natural and cultural treasures with our Meet Your National Parks program. We created this post-visit activity to review, reinforce, and enrich your students' understanding of these unique places. Please refer to the program outline we provided during our visit to your class for additional sources of information. We hope you enjoyed the ranger visit and invite us back soon. Have fun!

Materials:

- ° Pictograph handouts (included)
- ° Blank paper for rough sketches
- ° Cardstock for final pictographs
- ° Colored pencils
- ° Quick dry modeling clay (optional)
- ° Toothpicks for carving petroglyphs into clay (optional)

Instructions:

1. Read and discuss handouts on pictographs and petroglyphs.
2. Show students pictograph pictures using a projector.
3. Students will create their own pictograph on paper, or their own petroglyph with quick-dry modeling clay.
4. As a class, brainstorm ideas about what symbols to use and what to draw.
5. Have students make a rough sketch of their pictograph.
6. Ask students to create a final pictograph on cardstock or petroglyph with clay (if available).
7. Have students write a descriptive story about the meaning of their pictograph, they can share this story along with their art, with the class.

Note: See next page for additional instructions.

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Additional Instructions:

Students may need assistance in deciding what to draw. It is important that they understand that the pictures have meaning. For this activity, the pictures should tell a story, perhaps a story of a trip they took, a dream they had, or the story of where they live.

Discuss with students how pictures and symbols can represent words or ideas. Ask them what symbols they could use to represent themselves or their family. Encourage students to think of images they could draw or create that have meaning to them.

The pictures on the previous pages may help give students ideas on the style of pictograph and petroglyph art, but their final design is completely up to them.

If you are using clay, have each student first sketch out what they want to make. Clay petroglyphs may need to be a single image. Have students first make a clay tablet with their piece of clay. Tablets should be at least 1/2 inch thick in order to be sturdy enough to take home. Students can then use toothpicks to carve their image. If they want to try a more difficult, but authentic method, have them use the toothpick to “peck” a design into the clay.

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Pictographs and Petroglyphs

You may recall that the National Park Service patch has the shape of an arrowhead, which represents the people who have played a role in the history of our parks, as well as the people of today and of the future. Many American Indian groups once lived on the land in and around Sequoia National Park.

Pictographs are pictures or symbols that are painted onto rock.

Petroglyphs are pictures or symbols that are carved into rock.



Both pictographs and petroglyphs are also known as rock art, and use pictures or symbols to represent an idea. Archaeologists (people who study ancient cultures) are not sure why American Indians made these drawings and carvings, nor do they know the specific meanings of the different symbols.

The art may have had ceremonial importance. It may have been used to tell stories about the history of the American Indians who made the art. The true meaning of the art is known only to the people who created it.

Rock art can be found at sites all across the United States, even here in California. Sequoia National Park is home to several different sites containing pictographs.

Hospital Rock is a site in Sequoia National Park that features many different pictographs. Park archaeologists believe the art was created by American Indian medicine men. Many of the pictographs are still visible today.



You can visit Hospital Rock in Sequoia National Park when you bring your family to visit. Look for the location on your park map, or ask a park ranger for directions in the park visitor center.

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Pictographs found in Sequoia National Park

Hospital Rock



Potwisha



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Examples of Native American Pictographs and Petroglyphs

