



What is a National Park? Pre-Program Teacher Lesson Plan

Revised 7/9/2018

General Lesson Overview:

The National Park Service, established over 100 years ago, strives to protect various resources in over 400 sites across the country. These resources are represented in the National Park Service emblem, which is proudly displayed in the NPS uniform, Rocky Mountain National Park, and all park sites.

School Subjects:	Social Studies; Reading, Writing & Communicating
Grade Level:	3-5
Time Requirement:	Two class periods (one for the pre-program lesson and one for the live distance learning program)

Pre-Program Lesson Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- 1) Describe one symbol within the NPS emblem and what it represents
- 2) Explore the variety of meanings one symbol may represent
- 3) Recognize the variety of resources protected within NPS sites

Background Information:

The National Park Service was created in 1916 with the foundation of the Organic Act, whose goals were "*....to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.*"

There are 417 National Park Sites across the country with each site proudly displaying the Park Service emblem, the arrowhead. Each symbol within the arrowhead represents objects that the Park Service vowed to protect in every site that was created.





National Park Service
Rocky Mountain National Park

The **Bison** represents the wildlife protected by the National Park Service.

The **Sequoia Tree** represents plants protected by the National Park Service.

The **Lake** represents the natural resources (clean air and water, dark night skies, etc.) protected by the National Park Service.

The **Mountain** represents the scenery and the recreational activities protected by the National Park Service.

The **Arrowhead** itself represents the cultural story of people in our nation protected by the National Park Service.

Pre-Program Lesson:

Complete the following “Build an Arrowhead” activity prior to the live distance learning program to introduce the National Park Service Emblem and the idea that National Park sites protect various resources.

Materials:

- White poster paper/construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils, other art supplies for decorating symbols

Pre-Program Lesson Procedure:

“Build an Arrowhead”

1. Break the students into five groups.
2. Show the class the NPS emblem and assign each group one of the following symbols within the NPS emblem:
 - Bison
 - Lake
 - Mountains
 - Tree
 - Arrowhead
3. Have students brainstorm and consider the following questions:
 - What is your symbol?
 - What could your symbol represent the park service is protecting?
 - i. Encourage students to think broadly (the bison doesn’t solely represent the protection of bison- do all National Park sites have bison?)
 - What is an example of your symbol that is protected within Rocky Mountain National Park (consider visiting the park website at www.nps.gov/romo)
4. Have students create their symbol using the provided materials (poster paper/construction paper, markers, pencils, etc.) NOTE: the Arrowhead symbol should be large enough to fit all of the other symbols within it.
5. Prepare the students to present their symbol to the ranger and compile the full emblem (taping symbols together) during the live distance learning program.



What is a National Park? **Live Program Teacher Lesson Plan**

Revised 7/9/2018

General Lesson Overview:

The National Park Service, established over 100 years ago, strives to protect various resources in over 400 sites across the country. These resources are represented in the National Park Service emblem, which is proudly displayed in the NPS uniform, Rocky Mountain National Park, and all park sites.

School Subjects:	Social Studies; Reading, Writing & Communicating
Targeted Grade Levels:	3-5
Time Requirement:	Two class periods (one for the pre-program lesson and one for the live distance learning program)

Live Program Lesson Objectives:

Students will be able to...

- 1) Recognize the variety of Park Service sites
- 2) Name one National Park and explain why it is protected
- 3) Name one way people use National Parks
- 4) Describe at least one symbol in the Park Service emblem and what it represents in detail
- 5) Explore various ranger careers within the Park Service

Materials for Live Program with Ranger:

- Symbols prepared by each group of students
- Something to affix the different symbols together to form the full emblem at the end of presentations

Live Program Lesson Procedure:

1. The ranger(s) will begin by introducing themselves, Rocky Mountain National Park, and give a brief introduction to the NPS emblem.
2. The ranger(s) will then invite each group up individually to present their symbol, drawings, and answer the following questions:
 - a. What is your symbol?
 - b. What does it represent for the park service as a whole?
 - c. What is an example of your symbol found in RMNP?
3. After each symbol is presented, the ranger(s) will elaborate and reinforce what each symbol represents with examples found at RMNP.



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4. At the end of the presentations, all symbols should be pieced together to form the NPS emblem.
5. The ranger(s) will then elaborate more on various park sites within the NPS and touch on the foundation documents of the NPS.
6. Ranger(s) will conclude with 5-10 minutes of Q&A with the students. Encourage your students to come up with a few questions for the ranger(s).



Colorado Academic Standards Addressed

Reading, Writing and Communicating

High School

RWC10-GR.12-S.1-GLE.1-EO.a/b

Effective speaking in formal and informal settings requires appropriate use of methods and audience awareness

RWC10-GR.12-S.1-GLE.2- EO.a/c/d

Effective collaborative groups accomplish goals

RWC10-GR.11-S.1- GLE.1- EO.b/c

Verbal and nonverbal cues impact the intent of communication

RWC10-GR.10-S.1-GLE.2- EO.a

Effectively operating in small and large groups to accomplish a goal requires active listening

RWC10-GR.9-S.1-GLE.1- EO.f

Oral presentations require effective preparation strategies

Middle School

RWC10-GR.8-S.1-GLE.2- EO.a/b

A variety of response strategies clarifies meaning or messages

RWC10-GR.7-S.1-GLE.1- EO.a/d/e/b

Formal presentations require preparation and effective delivery

RWC10-GR.6-S.1-GLE.1- EO.a/b

Successful group discussions require planning and participation by all

Elementary

RWC10-GR.5-S.1-GLE.1- EO.a/b/d

Effective communication requires speakers to express opinion, provide information, describe a process, and persuade an audience

RWC10-GR.5-S.1-GLE.2-EO.a/c

Listening strategies are techniques that contribute to understanding different situations and serving different purposes

RWC10-GR.4-S.1-GLE.1- EO.b/e/d

A clear communication plan is necessary to effectively deliver and receive information

RWC10-GR.3-S.1-GLE.1- EO.a/c/e/f/g

Oral communication is used both informally and formally

RWC10-GR.3-S.1-GLE.2- EO.a/b

Successful group activities need the cooperation of everyone



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Social Studies

High School

SS09-GR.HS-S.1-GLE.3- EO.e

The significance of ideas as powerful forces throughout history

SS09-GR.HS-S.2-GLE.3

The interconnected nature of the world, its people and places

Elementary

SS09-GR.3-S.1-GLE.2- EO.c

People in the past influence the development and interaction of different communities or regions

SS09-GR.2-S.1-GLE.2-EO.c

People have influenced the history of neighborhoods and communities

SS09-GR.1-S.1-GLE.2-EO.d

Family and cultural traditions in the US in the past

SS09-GR.K-S.1-GLE.1

Ask questions, share information and discuss ideas about the past

Visual Arts

Elementary

VA09-GR.3-S.1-GLE.1- EO.a/b/c

The identification of characteristics and expressive features in works of art and design help to determine artistic intent

VA09-GR.3-S.1-GLE.2- EO.a/b

Art has intent and purpose

VA09-GR.2-S.1-GLE.1- EO.b/c

Artists make choices that communicate ideas in works of art