



Devils Tower In Your Classroom (DTIYC) Park Outreach Programs

The DTIYC outreach programs are designed to enhance your own curriculum-based lessons by using resources from Devils Tower National Monument. A park ranger will visit your classroom and engage your students through interactive learning on one of the topics below. Programs are about 45 minutes. Consult the reverse side of this page for recommendations on grade level and content for each topic.

Legends of the Tower

The Tower is considered sacred by many Native Americans. There are 27 tribes affiliated with the Tower, and many have oral histories which connect their people to this place. The program will introduce students to some of these oral histories. We will also discuss the cultural importance of stories and storytelling.



Geology of Devils Tower

The Tower has long been a geologic oddity. Many theories have been posited about the Tower's formation. This program will review basic geologic concepts, and examine some of the theories about how the Tower was formed. Rock samples are provided!

Ecology of the Black Hills

Described as an island amidst a sea of prairie, the Black Hills offer great ecological diversity. The program focuses on the habitats and organisms found at the Tower and in the greater Black Hills region. We will learn about the habitats found here and the adaptations which allow creatures to thrive in these ecosystems.



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Core concepts of DTIYC programs are designed for grades 4-6. Most programs can be modified for different age groups. The listings below highlight concepts for particular grade levels, based on state and national curriculum standards.

Legends of the Tower

Lower Elementary	Upper Elementary	Middle School	High School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American Culture • Basic Story Elements • Oral Comprehension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American History & Culture • Elements of a Story • Sentence Structure & Grammar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American History & Culture • Sentence Structure & Grammar • Cultural Importance of Storytelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tower's Significance to Native Peoples • Cultural Importance of Storytelling • Modern Debate over Name of the Tower

Geology of Devils Tower

Upper Elementary	Middle School	High School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processes of Erosion & Weathering • Rock Cycle • Rocks vs. Minerals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of Rocks • Processes of Erosion & Weathering • Formation of Igneous Rocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation Theories of the Tower • Plate Tectonics • Rock Types & Mineral Composition

Ecology of the Black Hills

Lower Elementary	Upper Elementary	Middle School	High School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Makes a Habitat • Basic Adaptations • Basic Heredity and Characteristics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats & Ecosystems • Adaptations & Survival • Food Chains & Energy Transfer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptations & Survival • Ecosystems & Biodiversity • Human Uses of Natural Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystems & Biodiversity • Human Impacts on Natural Systems • Human Dependence on Natural Systems