

Petersburg National Battlefield Flat Ranger Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Flat Ranger: National Park Explorer

Key Question: Why are National Parks important?

Student Learning Objectives:

Students will learn about different National Parks.

Students will practice geography and math skills.

Provided Materials

- Flat Ranger Template
- Sample Student and Class Letter
- Park Guides Teacher-Supplied Materials
- See page 3 for optional materials.



Virginia SOL's

Targeted Standards of Learning:

Writing
Geography
Mathematics
Science

Targeted Grade Levels

3-6th

National Standards

Targeted National Standards:

Writing
Geography
Mathematics
Science

Targeted Grade Levels

3-6th

BACKGROUND: The National Park Service cares for national parks, a network of nearly 400 natural, cultural and recreational sites across the nation. The treasures in this system - the first of its kind in the world - have been set aside by the American people to preserve, protect, and share, the legacies of this land. People from all around the world visit national parks to experience America's story, marvel at the natural wonders, and have fun. Places like the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Gettysburg are popular destinations, but so too are the hundreds of gems like Rosie the Riveter in California and Palo Alto Battlefield NHS in Texas. The National Park Service is was established by the Organic Act of 1916. This Act states that "the service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks . . . which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and objects and the wildlife 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." For more information on National Parks, see the attached FAQ sheet or visit the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov.

LESSON

Introduction

1. Tell students National Parks (NPs) preserve special places that are important to our country. The people who take care of NPs are called Park Rangers.
2. Tell students they will create a Flat Ranger (FR) to mail to NPs. Together you will track FR's journey.
3. Tell students that each National Park FR visits will send us information so we can find about National Parks.
4. Tell students that some people who visit NPs carry a National Park Passport to learn more about NPs. Visitors stamp their passports for a collection of the NPs they've visited.

Guided Lesson

1. Here are three ideas to create a FR:
 - Design one FR for the entire class
 - Have each student design a FR
 - Give students a copy of the FR template to color
 - Give FR a name
2. Here are three ideas to write a letter:
 - Write one letter for the class
 - Have each student write a letter
 - Use the FR letter template
3. Select a National Park. Mail the letter to that Park. Park listings and address can be found at www.nps.gov.

Management

1. Preview the activity.
 2. Decide how to create the Flat Ranger, letter, and brochure.
 3. Gather all materials needed.
- Vocabulary:** None.

Discovery

1. When information arrives from a park, have students
 - Using the National Park map, put a marker on the
 - National Park that FR visited
 - Complete a journal entry or write an essay with the
 - following information:
 - Name of the National Park visited
 - State National Park is in
 - Direction FR traveled
 - # of miles FR traveled
 - Why the National Park is important
 - What visitors can see/do at the National Park
 - Draw a picture of the National Park
2. See the next page for an idea for making a journal.

Wrap-Up Activities

1. Tell students that each National Park has a guide describing why that Park is important and what visitors can do at that National Park. Tell students they will make a guide for each Park FR visited.

2. Here are ideas on creating park guides

- Divide students into groups and have each group make a Guide
- Have each student make a guide (make sure there is a guide made for each Park visited)

3. See below for information on making a National Park guide.

National Park Guide

1. Tell students they will make National Park guides for each National Park Flat Ranger visited.

2. Tell students that National Park guides tell why the Park is important and have pictures, maps, and what activities are available for visitors.

3. Here is an idea to create National Park guides:

- Give each student/group of students a piece of construction paper
- Have students fold the construction paper into a pamphlet form

4. The following information should be included:

- National Park name
- State the Park is in
- Why the Park is important
- Activities available to visitors
- Drawing or picture of the Park

Extensions

1. Have students write an essay describing what it would be like to travel with Flat Ranger.

2. Have students make their own passport.

3. Make a display of National Parks your students have visited.

4. Have students study the climate of one or more National Parks visited and compare to our climate.

5. Search the Internet for information on National Parks and the National Park Service at www.nps.gov.

Student Evaluation/Assessment: Observe each student for class participation.

Provided Materials

- Park Brochures
- Information sent by National Parks

Teacher-Supplied Materials

- Markers or crayons
- Computer Paper
- Scissors Glue Fabric
- Construction Paper or Posterboard
- Hole Punch
- String

How to Make a Journal

1. Decide what size journal you want to make. A half or quarter sheet of computer paper is good. Cut paper to desired size and punch holes in the side where you want to bind the book.

2. Decide what to use for a cover. Construction paper or posterboard is good. Cut to fit over paper so it's 1/4" bigger on the unfolded sides.

3. Punch holes in the computer paper and cover.

4. Now you are ready to bind the book. Use string or anything you have available.