Virginia's Gift to the Nation

Research Journal

Name_____

Date_____

Instructions

You have been assigned to a research team that is to answer this question: "What is the historical, cultural, and ecological significance of Shenandoah National Park, past, present, and future?" Your research team will investigate a specific area of focus on the history of Shenandoah National Park.

The Byrd Visitor Center interpretive exhibits allow you to walk through the history of Shenandoah National Park in "chapters" that tell about the culture, the ecology, the environment, and the economics involved in creating and managing this park.

- Use the exhibit hall map to help you find the exhibits that your team has been assigned to investigate. Collaborate with your team members to answer the questions in this research journal for your assigned exhibits.
- Be prepared to summarize your findings for the other research teams.
- If time permits, explore the rest of the exhibit chapters without writing the answers to the questions in the journal.

You will use this research data to create a team project when you return to school.

For all teams:
Beginning with exhibit **Chapter 3: Virginia Vies for the Prize**, notice the artwork on the floor throughout the exhibit hall. What do you think this represents?

Shenandoah National Park
Harry F. Byrd Visitor Center

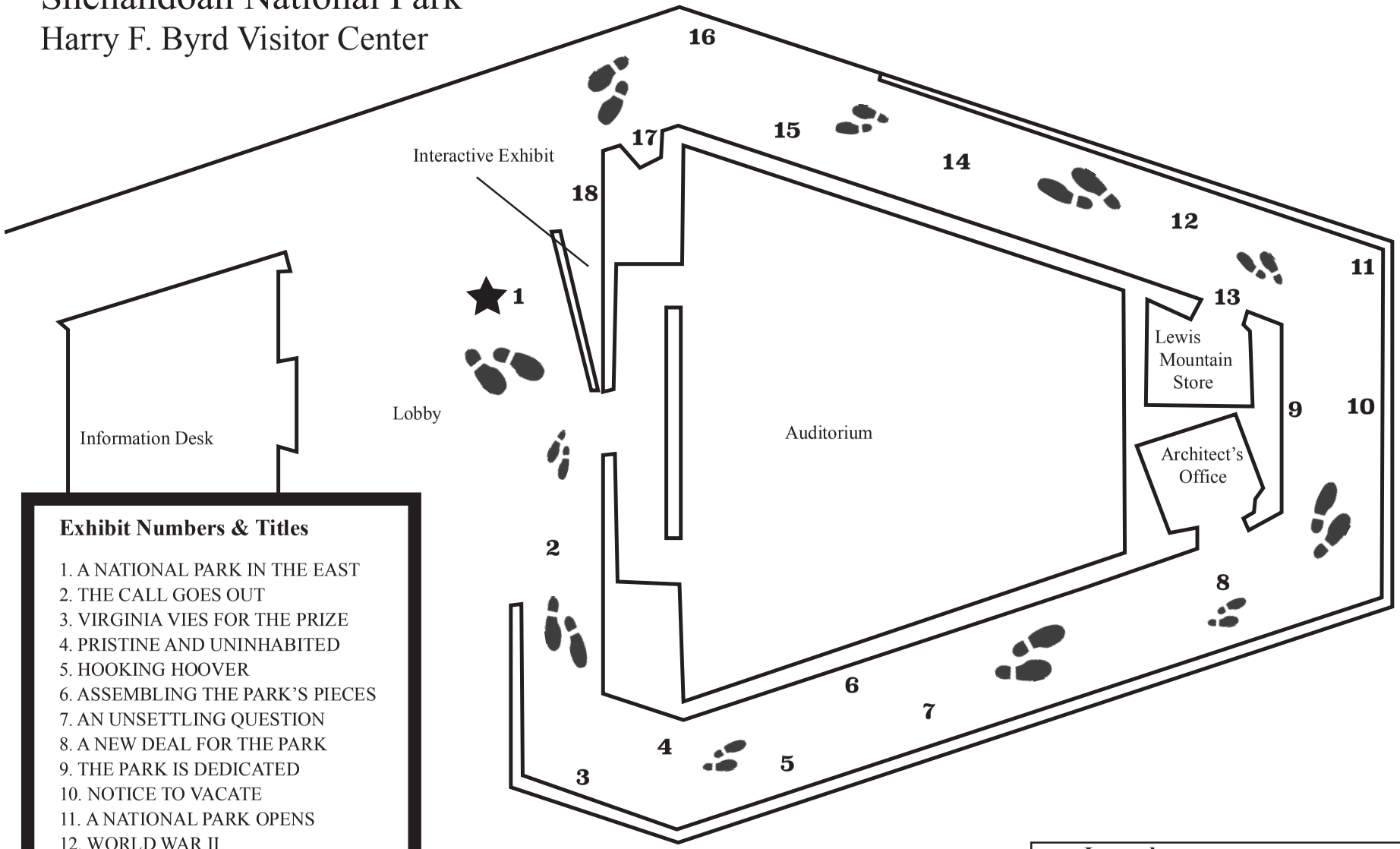


Exhibit Numbers & Titles

1. A NATIONAL PARK IN THE EAST
2. THE CALL GOES OUT
3. VIRGINIA VIES FOR THE PRIZE
4. PRISTINE AND UNINHABITED
5. HOOKING HOOVER
6. ASSEMBLING THE PARK'S PIECES
7. AN UNSETTLING QUESTION
8. A NEW DEAL FOR THE PARK
9. THE PARK IS DEDICATED
10. NOTICE TO VACATE
11. A NATIONAL PARK OPENS
12. WORLD WAR II
13. AN UPHILL CLIMB
14. A NATURAL BALANCE
15. BIGGER THAN ITS BOUNDARIES
16. MANAGING THE MEADOW
17. WILDERNESS
18. OUR CHANGING WORLD

Legend

★ Start of the exhibits

Path of the exhibits

1 Use numbers to identify exhibits

A "National Park" in the East

Exhibit 1

1. Yellowstone was established in 1872 as the first national park in the world! Were early national parks mostly located in the western part of the U.S. or in the east? Circle your answer on the map below.

2. The National Park Service was established in 1916. What is the agency's mission?

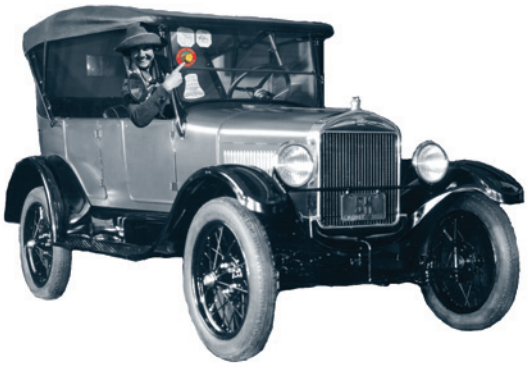
3. Why was the proposed location for Shenandoah National Park important to the nation?

The Call Goes Out...

Exhibit 2

I am:

1. What did this early conservationist mean, when he suggested national parks were needed as "fountains for life"?



2. Circle the main way visitors traveled to national parks in the late 1800's to early 1900's?

horse train car

3. What form of transportation made travel more affordable in the early 20th century?

4. Why did Stephen Mather, first director of the National Park Service, want to create a national park in the eastern United States?

Virginia Vies for the Prize...

Exhibit 3

1. William Carson stated in a 1932 radio address, that _____ was going to be Virginia's next cash crop. What do you think he meant?

2. What resort was promoted to the Southern Appalachian National Park Committee (SANPC) as the perfect location for the new national park?

3. Write out the role each of these men played as supporters for a national park in Virginia.

   Harry F. Byrd_____.

   William Carson_____.

   Ferdinad Zerkel_____.

4. Why was it necessary to raise funds to create the new national park?

5. List two ways money was raised for the creation of the park.

"Pristine and Uninhabited"

Exhibit 4

1. Notice the many livelihoods of the inhabitants of the Blue Ridge. List three ways they made a living.

   1)

   2)

   3)

2. List three hardships that hit rural VA in the 1920s and 1930s?

   1)

   2)

   3)

3. Early park promoters depicted the land as "pristine and uninhabited." Was that accurate?

4. Why do you think they stretched the truth?

Hooking Hoover

Exhibit 5

1. Why did William Carson arrange for Herbert Hoover to visit the Blue Ridge Mountains?

2. What was it that "hooked" Hoover?

3. Where did Herbert Hoover and his wife, Lou, build a "rustic haven"? How did the Hoovers use it?

4. According to the Southern Appalachian National Park Committee (SANPC), what would be the new park's "greatest single feature"? How did President Hoover support this idea?

Assembling the Park's Pieces

Exhibit 6

1. Why was it so difficult for William Carson to acquire enough land to create the new park?

Reality Sets In: Reduction and Resistance

2. How did the Commonwealth of Virginia overcome the difficulties of acquiring land for the new park?

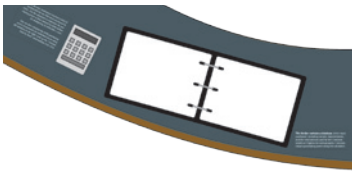
3. Use the small display panels on the wall to learn about some of the mountain residents from each of the eight counties. What information can you find in the primary source documents in the display panels? Give three examples.

CONTINUED...

Myth vs Reality

4. In the end, land owners received a total of $____,_____,_____ for the 958 tracts purchased in 1934.

   - Use the calculator and the formula on the table to convert what land owners received in 1934 to how much money that would be in today's terms. Answer $_____.



5. Look through the binder which contains a database of the tracts of land purchased. Select a land tract. Record the landowner's name, total acreage, total value of tract, and amount paid. Then, use the calculator and the formula to convert the amount paid to what that would be today.

   1) Landowner's Name:_____

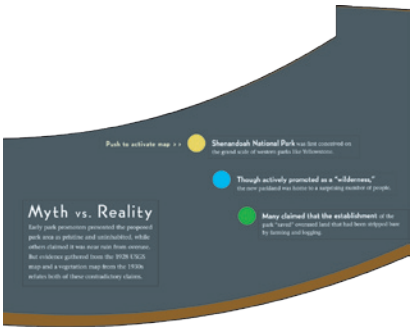
   2) Total Acreage:_____

   3) Total Value of Tract:_____

   4) Purchase Price:_____

   5) What the Amount Paid Would be Today:_____

   Was that amount paid **more** or **less** than the total value of the tract?



6. Activate the map and listen through the telephone headpiece to learn more about the formation of the park. Document at least five new facts you learned.

An Unsettling Question

Exhibit 7

1. What was the Hoover Administration's opinion on the mountain residents?

2. Why did many mountain residents support the coming of the new park?

3. Read about Miriam Sizer. Why did she promote the idea of relocating the mountain residents?

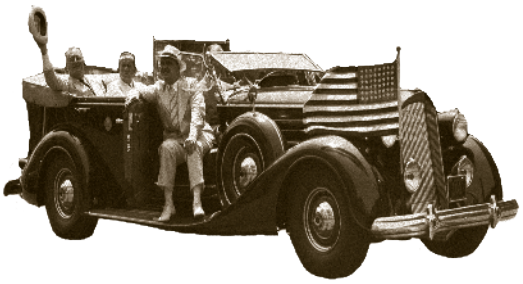
4. How did the mountain residents feel about her description of their culture and communities?

Digging Up the Truth: The Archeological Record (table display)

5. In what ways did modern archeological research **support** or **disprove** Miriam Sizer's conclusions that the mountain residents were isolated and unable to care for themselves?

A New Deal for the Park

Exhibit 8



1. What were the economic conditions of the nation when Franklin Roosevelt became President?

2. What was the purpose of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)? Why was the CCC important to the nation?

3. Watch the video of Great Depression era footage and the CCC at work. What were some interesting things you noticed in the video?

FDR's "Tree Army"

4. How much were CCC enrollees paid per month? Circle one.

   a) $20

   b) $30

   c) $40

5. How much were they allowed to keep?

6. Where did the rest of their wages go? Why?

7. What was one of the CCC's first projects along Skyline Drive?

8. What was the challenge of this project?

Landscape Architect's Office: Designing Nature (room on left)

9. What types of facilities and services were originally planned for the new park?

10. Every curve and overlook of Skyline Drive was carefully planned. How did the landscape architects and CCC boys help in the building of Skyline Drive?

11. Notice the tools used by the CCC. (Across from the Architect's Office entrance) How have these tools been replaced by modern technology?

12. Map: CCC Work Completed 1938
    Record the missing data. Why was all this work so important for the park?

Miles of trails built: _____ Sewage/water systems installed: _____

Signs/markers made: _____ Miles of horse trails built :_____

Acres of soil prepared: _____ Miles of telephone line installed: _____

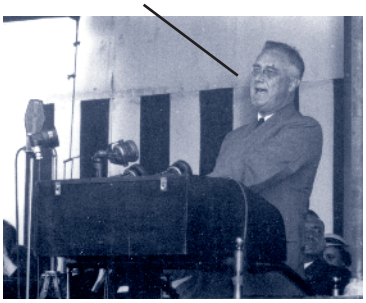
Acres of vista cut: _____ Acres of land seeded or sodded: _____

Miles of fire hazard trails built: _____ Trees/shrubs planted or moved: _____

This Park is Dedicated

Exhibit 9

1. In 1936, I dedicated Shenandoah National Park at a ceremony held in Big Meadows. Who am I?



2. Watch the video to see and hear the dedication speech at Big Meadows on July 3, 1936. What do you think the President meant by the phrase "for the recreation and re-creation which we find here"?

Notice to Vacate

Exhibit 10

1. How was the Roosevelt Administration's policy on the parkland residents different from President Hoover's?

2. Read about Herbert Melanchton Cliser on his life-size picture. How did he battle to keep his property?

Last Minute Challenge

3. Robert Via claimed the state's condemnation law violated his constitutional rights and challenged the use of *eminent domain* for the sole purpose of giving the land to the federal government. How did the case end?

Road to Removal and Relocation

4. Study the timeline in the window. How long did it take to decide to remove and relocate the residents?

5. Look closely at the family in the door of the house. List three pros and cons of moving off the mountain. Would you be willing to voluntarily move to benefit others?

Pros:	Cons:
1)	1)
2)	2)
3)	3)

A National Park Opens

Exhibit 11

1. About _____ visitors came to the Shenandoah National Park in 1936!

2. The new park was attracting more visitors than even the most popular western parks. Why did Shenandoah National Park become so popular in such a short time?

World War II

Exhibit 12

1. What became of the "CCC boys" when World War II began?

2. How was the park used during the war? Circle one.

   a) The park was a place to store extra arms and supplies for the war.

   b) The park was used as a rehabilitation center for wounded soliders.

   c) The park was used as a training ground for the military.

3. The _____ _____ Trail Club volunteered to help maintain Shenandoah during the war. Who were the main volunteers?

4. Circle the arrow that best indicates what happened to public visitation during the war years. Explain why this happened.

   ↑ ↓

5. Circle the arrow that best indicates what happened to visitation **after** World War II. Explain why this happened.

   ↑ ↓

6. Watch the videos on the small screen. What message is conveyed?

An Uphill Climb

Exhibit 13

1. Why were there plans to have separate (segregated) facilities for black visitors?

2. What is the historical significance of Lewis Mountain area?

3. Inside the Lewis Mountain Store, take a moment to flip through the photo album and listen to the audio descriptions. How did they feel about visiting and working in the park?

Timeline for Desegregation: The Lewis Mountain Story

4. What is important about the 1938 event on the timeline?

5. Write out the milestones for the desegregation of facilities in the park using the dates below.

   1939_____

   1945_____

   1950_____

6. In what year was Shenandoah National Park completely desegregated?

7. Was the Commonwealth of Virginia desegregated at this time?

   YES or NO

The Debate

8. Study the letter correspondences posted on the wall. List two observations you make regarding the debate on segregation.

9. How would you feel if you were only allowed in certain places in the park or your community because of your skin color? What would you do?

A Natural Balance

Exhibit 14

1. Study the map of Shenandoah today. Why are there far fewer developed facilities and services than were originally planned?

2. What happened to the forests and park lands after World War II?

3. Forty years after Shenandoah's establishment, nearly _____ acres had the characteristics required to become federally designated wilderness.

Applachian Trail

4. How did Benton MacKaye describe his idea for a 2000-mile footpath in 1924?

5. Find the trail marker with the symbol for the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). Draw the symbol on the marker below.

6. How much of the A.T. traverses Shenandoah National Park? Circle one.

   a) 2,100

   b) 697

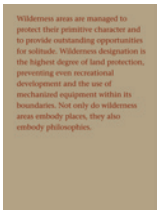
   c) 100

7. How does the A.T. help with the park's preservation and recreation mission?

8. If you walked the 2,100 miles of the A.T., list three benefits and three challenges you think you would experience.

Benefits:	Challenges:
1)	1)
2)	2)
3)	3)

What's Wilderness...And What's Not?



9. What makes *designated* wilderness areas special and different from other park lands?

10. How does the park manage wilderness areas - what is allowed and not allowed? Why is this important?

11. Pick your favorite quote from one of the translucent forest walls. Write it down and explain why you chose it.

12. Who will shape the future of Shenandoah?

Bigger than Boundaries

Exhibit 15

1. Why is protecting and preserving the park resources for the future such a challenge?

2. Starting in the late 1950's through to modern day, the nation has been pursuing and enacting policies and laws designed to _____ and_____ our environment.

3. List three major threats to Shenandoah National Park resources.

   1)

   2)

   3)

4. How are plant and animal habitats affected by those threats?

5. How are these environmental threats important to the communities that surround the park?

Managing for the Future

6. What are some of the environmental conditions that are measured and monitored at the park?

7. Because Shenandoah National Park is a protected area, it has become an "environmental indicator." What does this mean and why is this important for scientists and park managers?

Managing the Meadow

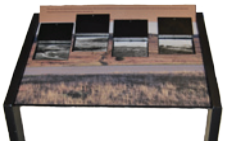
Exhibit 16

People and the Meadow

1. How is Big Meadows a unique and important landform in the Blue Ridge Mountains?

2. Study the timeline of Big Meadows. List two ways the Big Meadows area has been used by people throughout history.

3. Archeologists use artifacts found at Big Meadows to learn the history of the land use by humans. Which artifacts show evidence of early native people using Big Meadows?



4. Lift the panels to see historic photos of Big Meadows.

Nature and the Meadow

5. Examine the Forest Pre-history graph and soil core sample. What have scientists determined from this data?

6. Has this area always been a meadow? How have scientists found clues to the meadow's past?

7. Explore the meadow diversity panel. What makes Big Meadows so special?

Managing the Meadow

8. Study the wheel activity to learn about the potential management decisions and consequences of those decisions. How is the park managed: for resource preservation or visitor recreation or both? Why?

Wilderness

Exhibit 17

1. Watch the short video. Note the tremendous variety of different wilderness areas around the nation. How is Shenandoah's wilderness the same and different from those seen in the video?

Our Changing World

Exhibit 18

1. Learn more about what you can do! You are the future of Shenandoah National Park and our environment. Try the interactive station to increase and test your knowledge of air quality, climate change, and your carbon footprint.

   Average North American carbon footprint = 20 tons

   Average Global carbon footprint = 4 tons

   Record your carbon footprint:_____

   How can you reduce this number?

"We are stewards of an irreplaceable environment. This is an awesome task as well as a precious gift."
-President Jimmy Carter, 1980

2. What can you do to help protect and preserve this "irreplaceable environment" for the future?