

A Place of Many Colors:

Yellowstone

Hook & Inspire! Connections to Today

Ignite students' interest by sharing these resources, which demonstrate connections between the past and present. Please be sure to preview all resources.

Yellowstone

Yellowstone National Park continues to be a favorite destination for tourists from all over the world. In 1872, the area was established as a national park in an effort to preserve the historical and geographical elements found within the area. The park is located in Wyoming and has a rich history of Native American tribes who settled in the area prior to the discovery of the Americas. This heritage and the geological features found in the area encouraged the government to develop it as a national park. Yellowstone led the way in becoming the first world national park. The development of the national park allowed over 2 million acres of land to be preserved for future generations. Visitors experience the various wildlife, plants, elevations, hiking trails, and even geysers. Old Faithful is a must see, showing off its magnificent power hourly.

This year Yellowstone National Park experienced a great deal of flooding. Roads were closed and are still closed at this point in time. The flooding took entire roads out, created mudslides, and blocked roads that had been major tourist routes. Homes flooded and residents had to be evacuated to higher elevations. The park rangers and other government officials are still working to fix the issues caused by the flooding.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Share the online resources below with your class to stimulate discussion on these questions. Be sure to preview the clips before showing or sharing them in class to ensure the content is appropriate for your students.

1). What makes Yellowstone such a unique area? Why would the government want to protect it?

Student answers may vary depending on past experiences. Yellowstone has a vast amount of forests, animals, geysers, and human historical representations. The various geographical features allow for research concerning ecological studies and animal migrations. Many students may have visited this area and also have great experiences to discuss.

2). Many tribes, including the Tukudita, resided in the area prior to its discovery by European/American settlers. Do you think it is important to study this tribe? Why would it be important to preserve the history surrounding the Tukudita in Yellowstone?

Student answers may vary depending on past experiences. It is important to preserve people groups in order to learn from their traditions and daily activities. This history can be helpful in learning about Yellowstone and preserving its wildlife and geographical features as well.

3). Wildlife such as bears and moose continue to show up in areas of civilization within the park. Signs show visitors how to avoid interactions with bears and other wildlife. Why is it important for individuals to be respectful of wildlife? What would be one of the most important things to remember when encountering wildlife?

Student answers may vary depending on past experiences. It is important for visitors to realize they are in animal territory. Animals may look cute, but can be very aggressive, especially if protecting their young. One major rule in Yellowstone while camping is to not leave any traces of food outside. This and putting out candles or fires before bed is a major rule. The park rangers will give severe fines if this is not done.

4). Flooding was a huge issue for the Yellowstone area this year. How did this affect the infrastructure of Yellowstone and tourism?

Student answers may vary depending on experiences. Many tourists were rerouted while traveling within the park. Many loops through the park were closed. As of July 22, 2022, the North and Northeast entrances to the park are closed. Other routes have opened as repairs are completed. This would cause congestion in areas formerly less busy with tourists.

5). Yellowstone National Park encourages tourists to stay at least two bus lengths away from bison or moose while photographing these wild animals. For bears and wolves the park encourages tourists eight bus lengths away while observing the animals. Why do you think this is important?

Student answers may vary depending on experiences. Wild animals can be very aggressive with their young. They may also smell various foods on or around humans and become aggressive as well.

LINKS TO RESOURCES

Videos

- 1). <u>Top 10 Things to do in Yellowstone National Park</u>; This video shows the top 10 things to do in Yellowstone if you are in a time crunch.
- 2). <u>Fighting Grizzlies & Hunting Wolf Packs in America's first National Park Yellowstone</u>; This video reviews the wildlife population found in Yellowstone.
- 3). <u>150 Years of Yellowstone</u>; This channel on YouTube provides a large amount of videos concerning Yellowstone.
- 4). <u>Yellowstone National Park Officials Just Detected A Huge Sudden Uplift Inside The Volcano System</u>; This video discusses the seismic activity occurring within Yellowstone.
- 5). Yellow Stone National Park! Virtual Field Trip for Kids!; This video is a virtual field trip for kids to show them the beauty of Yellowstone.

Media

- 1). 18 Things You Didn't Know About Yellowstone National Park; This website gives fun facts that not everyone knows about Yellowstone National Park.
- 2). <u>Woman Gored by Bison at Yellowstone National Park in Third Incident This Year</u>; This article discusses a woman who was gored by a bison at Yellowstone. I would not show this to the students, only the picture to show how large a bison is compared to a human.
- 3). <u>Beyond Old Faithful: A Geyser-Gazing Guide to Yellowstone National Park</u>; This website has a great picture of Old Faithful, the geyser at Yellowstone National Park. It also has some details concerning what to do and not do around the geyser.
- 4). <u>Yellowstone National Park Old Faithful Steaming</u>; This picture shows a map of other geysers surrounding Old Faithful.
- 5). <u>Madison to Old Faithful Map of Yellowstone National Park</u>; This map is very easy to read concerning the major roads in Yellowstone.

Websites

- 1). Yellowstone National Park Rapidly Recovering From Catastrophic Flooding; This website gives details on the improvements the park is making after the flooding.
- 2). Park History; This website gives details on the history of the park and current conditions.
- 3). Yellowstone National Park; This website gives details concerning Yellowstone National Park and other national parks around the United States.
- 4). Volcanic Hazard Map of Yellowstone National Park; This website gives detailed maps concerning the volcanic activity within Yellowstone National Park.
- 5). National Park Service; This website gives you information on the park and a way to plan your trip to the park.

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