

National Park Project

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Objective:

Develop a brochure for or a report on a National Park based on the following criteria. This project will count ten points on the Earth Science Program Modification Regents exam.



Lassen National Park

Directions:

You will develop a descriptive and informative brochure (or a report) which tells about various human, geological, geographical, and environmental aspects of the park. This report should be aimed at an audience of adults who are interested in visiting the park.

Section 1, Introduction

- Name of park, continent it is on, country it is in, state(s), territory, or province it is in, and what part of that state, territory or province the park is in.
- Latitude and longitude of the park.
- Name of any body of water the park is on the coast of and/or the name of any significant lake or river that lies within the park.
- Is it on an island, on the coast of a continent, near the coast of a continent, or in the interior of a continent?

Section 2, Human history of the park

- What Native American groups historically lived in the region that is now the Park?
- When was the area discovered and/or settled by people of European descent; and who were they?
- What happened to the Native Americans that historically lived in the region?
- What features and resources attracted people of European descent to the area in the beginning?

- What development, such as farming, grazing, mining, or tourism, took place between the time the area was discovered by people of European descent and the official establishment of the park?
- When and why did the area become a National Park?
- Tell about the motivation and actions of any person or group primarily responsible for its designation as a national park?

Note that these questions can be modified if the park is outside the United States.

Section 3, Geology of the park

- Describe, in correct sequence (past to present), the major geologic events that shaped the landscape of this region. **You must refer to the correct geological time periods as you describe these events.**
- See pages 8-9 of the Earth Science Reference Table (New York State) to see the eras and periods of geologic history. The book Geology of the National Parks, by Harris and Tuttle, should provide the information you need.
- Describe the major geological and geographical attractions that a visitor to the park should see. The information that you request from the Park will get you started on this.
- Why are the geological and geographical attractions of the park special or unique enough to be preserved for future generations?

Section 4, Illustration and captions

Create an original (no Xerox, no tracing) an illustration or diagram of one or two of the most important geological features of the Park. Label the important parts or features of the diagram. Write a brief caption for the illustration describing the main reason the illustration diagram is important geologically. The illustration must be directly related to a feature discussed in your report. We stress that there is a high standard expected and that we expect to see substantive and relevant information conveyed by this illustration and an appropriate level of artwork for 9th grade.

Section 5, Environmental problem

Describe a substantive environmental problem in the Park. By an environmental problem we mean a problem involving the hydrosphere(water), lithosphere(land), and/or atmosphere(air).

ACCEPTABLE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS INCLUDE: air pollution, water pollution, solid waste disposal problems, noise pollution, problems caused by dams, erosion caused by humans. Consult the teacher for help if you're not sure. Sources of information are: Park brochures including the resource management documents, official National Park web site for your park, articles in newspapers or journals such as National Parks magazine.

NOT ACCEPTABLE: endangered species, forest fires, littering, wildlife problems, traffic jams and parking problems.

When writing about this problem discuss what caused this problem and how long has it been happening. Is any research being done, or action being taken with regard to this problem?

Section 6, Visitor actions

Describe what visitors to the park must do to help eliminate this and other environmental problems in

the park. If you have problems with this, see your teacher for help well before the due date. Individuals may not be able to do much regarding some pollution sources, but many of the park regulations exist so visitors can have less impact on the environment in the park, see the park newspaper for this.

Section 7, Bibliography

Give a **minimum of 4** references that you used in preparing your brochure.

- One must be an article from a periodical. (Xerox a copy and hand it in with this project).
- One must be from the internet (print and hand in a copy with the project). Caution regarding web sites: use material only from official web sites of the National Park or National Park Service. There are many web sites that are not official that are sponsored by communities or businesses outside the parks.
- One must be material that you sent for and received from the Park (hand in with the project).
- One must be Geology of the National Parks by Tuttle and Harris.
- Any encyclopedias you cite must be ones I can find in the school or public library.

Web sites that will be of use:

- [National Park Service](#)
- [Ice age trail](#)
- [Natural resources year in review](#)
- [Protected areas air resources](#)
- [National Park visibility information](#)
- [National Park geology information](#)
- [Mesa Verde](#)
- [Lassen National Park](#)
- [Hawaii Volcanoes National Park](#)

[Science labs web page](#)

[Pedagogy web page](#)

[Kurt Hollocher](#)

[Geology Department](#)

[Union College](#)

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