

## National Parks Webquest

[http://www-tc.pbs.org/nationalparks/media/pdfs/tnp\\_lesson\\_plan\\_mapping\\_the\\_national\\_parks.pdf](http://www-tc.pbs.org/nationalparks/media/pdfs/tnp_lesson_plan_mapping_the_national_parks.pdf)

Geography is the study of Earth and its features. Geographers also study the distribution of plant and animal life on the planet, including people and cities.

It's helpful to look at geography through these five themes:

**LOCATION** – *Where is it?* The term can refer to absolute location, such as an address or geographic coordinates. It can also refer to relative location, or where something is in relation to something else.

**PLACE** – *What is it like?* This term refers to the characteristics that make a place unique. Those characteristics can be physical, such as landforms and vegetation. They can also be human, referring to an area's culture, economy and government. Every place has a special combination of physical and human characteristics.

**HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION** – *What is the relationship between the environment and humans?* The term refers to ways that humans adapt to an environment, how they change it, and how they depend on it. Bridges and dams are examples of ways that humans have interacted with the environment to meet their needs.

**MOVEMENT** – *How have people, goods or ideas moved from one place to another?* Examples of movement include America's westward expansion and the Internet.

**REGIONS** – *What characteristic is shared by a group of places?* Putting places into regions allows us to organize our knowledge of the world. A region can be defined by specific boundaries, such as a county or the United States. But a region such as the "Rust Belt" or "Tornado Alley" can also be based on our perceptions of places.

Watch the clip "[Mapping the National Parks](#)" Following the segment, answer the following questions:

- a. According to the segment, what is a park's purpose?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. What types of environments were among those shown and described in the segment?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. In what ways do those environments compare to your idea of a "park"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- d. Which of those environments would you like to know more about?

## PARK PROFILE

America's national parks represent a wide variety of environments, from glacial ice to fiery volcanoes and dry deserts to deep fjords. To explore a specific park, start with the Web site of the National Park Service at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov). Use the site's "Find a Park" tool to locate your park. Then research its dedicated pages for facts about the park that you can share with others. Organize your information using the following table.

### EXPLORING

<b>LOCATION</b> State and Region (formal or informal)	
<b>PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS</b> Park borders (area) Size of the park (acres) Climate Landforms Vegetation Wildlife	
<b>HUMAN CHARACTERISTICS</b> Visitors per year Most popular visitor sites History of development (movement) Changes in landscape over time (human-environment interaction)	

### Google Earth

Using Google Earth, zoom in and explore the park you researched. See if you can find the features of the park that you have learned about in your research

#### Optional National Park Choices

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska

Denali National Park, Alaska

Yosemite National Park, California

Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado

Everglades National Park, Florida

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park,

Hawaii

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Kansas

Isle Royale National Park, Michigan

Crater Lake National Park, Oregon

Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah

Yellowstone National Park,

Wyoming

Glacier National Park, MT

Rocky Mountain National Park, CO

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, CO

Olympic National Park, WA

Shenandoah National Park, VA

Great Smoky Mountain National Park, TN/NC

Mammoth Caves National Park, KY

Arches National Park, UT

Grand Teton National Park, WY

Name \_\_\_\_\_