

SUMMER ADVENTURES
ON THE ROAD

Where Are We Going?





YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

DID YOU KNOW?

Yellowstone National Park, established in 1872, is a 2,221,766-acre wilderness area maintained by the National Park Service. It is located at the intersection of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, with the majority of its area in Wyoming. The park is popular for its abundant natural features, including calderas, geysers, hot springs, and wildlife. It was the country's first national park, and it remains one of the largest national parks in the United States.

Millions of people have visited the park to take advantage of its hiking trails, scenic views, glimpses of popular sites such as the geyser called Old Faithful and one of the largest hot springs in the United States, the Grand Prismatic Spring, which is known for its rainbow waters.

PG 3

Yellowstone Fun Facts
All Ages

PG 4

The Four Seasons
Ages 4-8

PG 6

Map the Park
Ages 4-8

PG 7

Peaks and Valleys
Ages 9+

PG 9

Plan your Visit
Ages 9+

Book List



READY TO EXPLORE?





YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

GEOLOGY

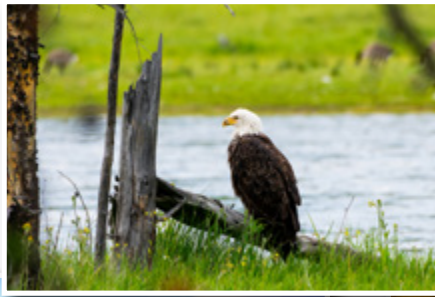
The geology of Yellowstone makes it unlike any other place on Earth. Magma under Earth's crust is close to the surface, making the region volcanically active.

The park includes three **calderas**, formed from volcanic eruptions 2.1 million, 1.3 million, and 640,000 years ago, respectively. Many features of the park are a result of heat from the magma transforming Earth's surface.

BIODIVERSITY

Yellowstone also boasts a large variety of animal and plant species. More than 1,000 species of native plants grow in the park. Over 150 species of birds live in the park, along with reptiles and fish, in a number of distinct ecosystems.

Notably, the park contains a dense mammal population, including herds of **bison** and elk and large predators such as **wolves**, **grizzly bears**, and **mountain lions**.



THE FOUR SEASONS

ACTIVITY | Ages 4-8

MATERIALS

Crayons or colored pencils
Device with internet connection (optional)

TO DO

Yellowstone National Park has four seasons, and each season brings a fresh look and feel to the park's environment. In this activity, make a Yellowstone drawing for the season labeled in each box. Put at least one Yellowstone animal or feature in each drawing: a buffalo, wolf, fox, eagle, geyser, mountain scene, or an animal or feature of your choice.

THINK ABOUT...

- what colors to use to show each season in Yellowstone.
- if the weather is cold, hot, or warm. How might you show that?
- the time of day or night.
- the kinds of trees and plants.

To get some ideas, view photographs of Yellowstone at the [National Park Service](#). Which photos show the four seasons? What do you see?

For more ideas, check out a book on Yellowstone at your local library.



The Four Seasons

Winter

Spring

Summer

Fall



MAP THE PARK

ACTIVITY | Ages 4-8

MATERIALS

Device with internet connection

WATCH AND READ

Yellowstone National Park is one of the most visited parks in the world. For an overview of the park, [watch](#) wildlife biologist Jeremy Schmidt explore the park and read this [article](#) from [National Geographic Kids](#).

TO DO

There is a lot to see in Yellowstone, and today on your virtual (or real!) visit, travel around the park to see some of its sites and destinations. To get started, study [this map](#) then use the entry points and destination on the chart to discuss what routes to take. Explore each site and destination by clicking on the resource links. Enjoy your visit!

ENTRY POINT

South Entrance
East Entrance
Northeast Entrance
North Entrance
West Entrance

DESTINATION & LINKS

[Old Faithful](#)
[Mammoth Hot Springs](#)
[Fishing Bridge](#)
[Grant Village](#)
[Tower Fall](#)

SHARE

- Which sites would you like to visit?
- What interests you about these sites?



PEAKS AND VALLEYS

ACTIVITY | Ages 9+



MATERIALS

Device with internet connection

WATCH AND READ

Yellowstone National Park is diverse in many ways. Its landscape accommodates the needs of a diverse group of animals and plants. Topographical maps reflect the types of earth and elevations in an area. In this activity, read a topographical map to better understand the valleys, peaks, and waterways inside the park.

When reading a topographical map, use the circular lines to understand elevations. To learn more, watch [How to Read a Topo Map](#).

TO DO

- 1 Study this [Yellowstone map](#). Contour lines indicate the shape of landforms, and the closer together the lines are, the steeper or higher the elevation. The reference point is sea level.
 - What kinds of landforms do you see?
 - Where do you see peaks, valleys, and plains?
 - Can you tell if Yellowstone is above, below, or at sea level?
 - Are there any canyons?
 - Which is higher, Mt. Holmes or Joseph Peak?
 - Where would you find mountain sheep?
 - Where would you find bison?
 - What landforms do the roadways follow?
 - How would you describe the area around the lake?
- 2 If you took a hike in the park, what areas would you like to hike to?
- 3 How would you describe the topography of Yellowstone National Park to someone who has never been there?

BLANK PAGE TO CAPTURE YOUR NOTES



PLAN YOUR VISIT

ACTIVITY | Ages 9+



MATERIALS

Device with internet connection

WATCH AND READ

Yellowstone National Park is one of the most visited national parks in the United States. People from all over the world come to experience its grandeur. But before you visit, whether in-person or virtually, you need a plan! Explore Yellowstone's destinations and decide which routes to take to visit them.

Read about park sites and destinations and select up to five you would like to visit. Then, use the [road map](#) to decide what routes you would take to enter the park, get to the sites, and exit the park.

TO DO

- 1 Explore [Plan Your Visit](#) and [Places to Go](#) on the park website.
- 2 Choose five sites to visit and list them on the chart in any order.
- 3 Using the official map, decide in what order it makes the most sense to visit the sites. You can use the "draw" feature to trace each route in a different color.

REFLECT

- What highway entrance would you enter through if you were traveling from your home?
- Which destination would you like to see first?
- What are your second, third, fourth, and fifth stops?
- At which entrance would you exit? Why?

YELLOWSTONE SITES TO VISIT

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____

FULL LINKS

PG 2

Yellowstone National Park

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/yellowstone/>

PG 3

Calderas

https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/types-calderas/?utm_source=BiblioRCM_Row

Bison

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/american-bison>

Wolves

https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/gray-wolf?source=partner_kids.aol.com

Grizzly bear

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/grizzly-bear-family/>

Mountain lion

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/mountain-lion>

PG 4

National Park Service photos

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/photosmultimedia/photogallery.htm>

PG 6

National Geographic video

https://www.nationalgeographic.org/video/yellowstone-first-national-park/?utm_source=BiblioRCM_Row

National Geographic Kids article

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/nature/article/yellowstone>

Yellowstone map

<https://www.yellowstonepark.com/park/faqs/where-is-yellowstone-national-park/>

Old Faithful

<https://www.yellowstonepark.com/things-to-do/geysers-hot-springs/about-old-faithful/>

Mammoth Hot Springs

<https://www.yellowstonepark.com/things-to-do/geysers-hot-springs/mammoth-hot-springs-inside-cave/>

Fishing Bridge

https://www.yellowstoneparknet.com/lake_village_area/fishing_bridge.php

Grant Village

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/westthumbgrantvillage.htm>

Tower Fall

<https://www.yellowstonepark.com/things-to-do/natural-wonders/tower-fall-beautiful/>

PG 7

How to Read a Topo Map

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoVcRxza8nl>

Topographic map

<https://yellowstone.net/maps/yellowstone-topo/>

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Yellowstone Map

https://s3.amazonaws.com/pom-static-yellowstonepark/public/Yellowstone-official-road-map_2016-2.pdf

Plan Your Visit

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/index.htm>