SUMMER ADVENTURES
ON THE ROAD
Mapping the Journey
To explore a place for the first time, you need curiosity. And you need questions! Where is this place? How do we get there? What can we do when we’re there? What’s the place like?

Maps help us answer questions like these. They help us envision a place before we go. And they help us better understand it while we’re there—even a place as wild as Yellowstone National Park.

There are many kinds of maps. Some are digital, and some are printed on paper. Some are static, while others are interactive. Cartographers, or mapmakers, combine art and science when they design maps. You can hone your own creative cartography skills by making maps, too.

Now, have fun exploring these maps—while also exploring Yellowstone National Park!
**MAP YOUR FAVORITE PARK**

**ACTIVITY**  |  All Ages

**MATERIALS**
Something to draw with - crayons, markers, or colored pencils

**TO DO**

1. Think about your favorite park. Maybe it’s near your house or far away. You may have visited it yourself, or maybe you saw it in a video. Picture it in your head.

2. Now think about this list of questions. If you can’t answer them yourself, ask a family member or friend to help, or make your best guess.
   - What’s the name of the park?
   - Are there any streams, lakes, rivers, pools, or other water features there?
   - What are the plants like? Are there trees, flowers, or grassy fields?
   - What animals do you see there? Make a list.
   - Are there mountains or hills? Is it flat?
   - Are there any buildings, playgrounds, or other human-made structures?
   - What can you do in the park? Are there trails you can hike or bike? Can you row a boat on a lake?

3. Create a map of the park, using colors and symbols to represent different features, such as water, grass, trees, mountains, different plants and animals, buildings, and other human-made structures. Include these important parts of a map:
   - Title (the name of the park)
   - Orientation (which way is north?)
   - Author (you!)
   - Date (when did you draw it)
   - Scale (how far apart are the things on the map?)
   - Legend (what do the symbols and colors mean?)

4. Share your finished map with your friends and family and explain why this is your favorite park.
WORDPLAY IN THE PARK
ACTIVITY  |  Ages 4-8

MATERIALS
Device with an internet connection (optional)

TO DO
You can explore Yellowstone National Park—even from far away! Get to know the park’s amazing sights with this interactive park map to help you answer the questions below. (Scroll down the page a bit to get to the map.) Then see what the highlighted letters from the answers spell.

1. _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______
   What park entrance is closest to Mammoth Hot Springs?

2. _______ _______ _______ _______ _______
   Which Prismatic Spring is a colorful “hotspot” in the western part of the park?

3. _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______
   What winding, watery feature leads to the park’s own Grand Canyon, near the middle of the park?

4. _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______
   Where might you find trumpeter swans in the park?

5. _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______
   Which park entrance is closest to the Absaroka Mountains?

6. _______ _______ _______ _______ _______
   What mountains are in the northwest corner of the park?

7. _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______
   What “elderly” but reliable geyser is on the edge of the Yellowstone Caldera?

8. _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______
   In what valley might you find wolves?

9. _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______
   If you want to go to Yellowstone Lake, which entrance is closest?

Mystery Word
MAPMAKER WORDPLAY QUEST
ACTIVITY  |   Ages 9+

MATERIALS
Device with an internet connection

TO DO
Search for each location below using MapMaker. Look at the places below using two basemaps (found in Map Settings): National Geographic and Imagery (a satellite image taken from space). Zoom in and out to explore and help you answer the questions. Then combine and unscramble the highlighted letters to solve the puzzle!

1. ___________ What road would you travel to get to Grand Prismatic Spring?

2. ___________ Name the river to cross to get to Grand Prismatic Spring.

3. ___________ ROYGBIV represents___________ colors, also seen in Grand Prismatic Spring.

4. ___________ Find the largest island in Yellowstone Lake.

5. ___________ If you are drive along Grand Loop Road, what road do you turn on to get to the Fishing Bridge?

6. ___________ What’s the closest park entrance to Mammoth, WY?

7. ___________ The buildings with red roofs in the Imagery basemap are on what road, named for people of rank in the military?

8. ___________ What natural feature of the Yellowstone River southeast of Canyon Junction, WY stands out in the Imagery (satellite) basemap?

9. ___________ What smells rotten on this mountain south of Canyon Junction, near Hayden Valley?

Solve: What Yellowstone animal’s name sounds like a cross between a part of a fork and a musical instrument?
ANSWERS

PG 5
1. NORTH ENTRANCE
2. GRAND
3. YELLOWSTONE RIVER
4. YELLOWSTONE LAKE
5. NORTHEAST ENTRANCE
6. GALLATIN
7. OLD FAITHFUL
8. LAMAR
9. EAST ENTRANCE

Answer: ADVENTURE

PG 6
1. GRAND LOOP ROAD
2. FIREHOLE
3. RAINBOW
4. FRANK ISLAND
5. EAST ENTRANCE
6. NORTH ENTRANCE
7. OFFICERS ROW
8. GRAND CANYON
9. SULPHUR

Scrambled Letters: NORNHRHOGP

Answer: PRONGHORN
Full Links

PG 5
Interactive park map
https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/kidsyouth/index.htm

PG 6
Mapmaker
https://mapmakerbeta.nationalgeographic.org/map/89bbef79a0264eb19681d4268321fce9