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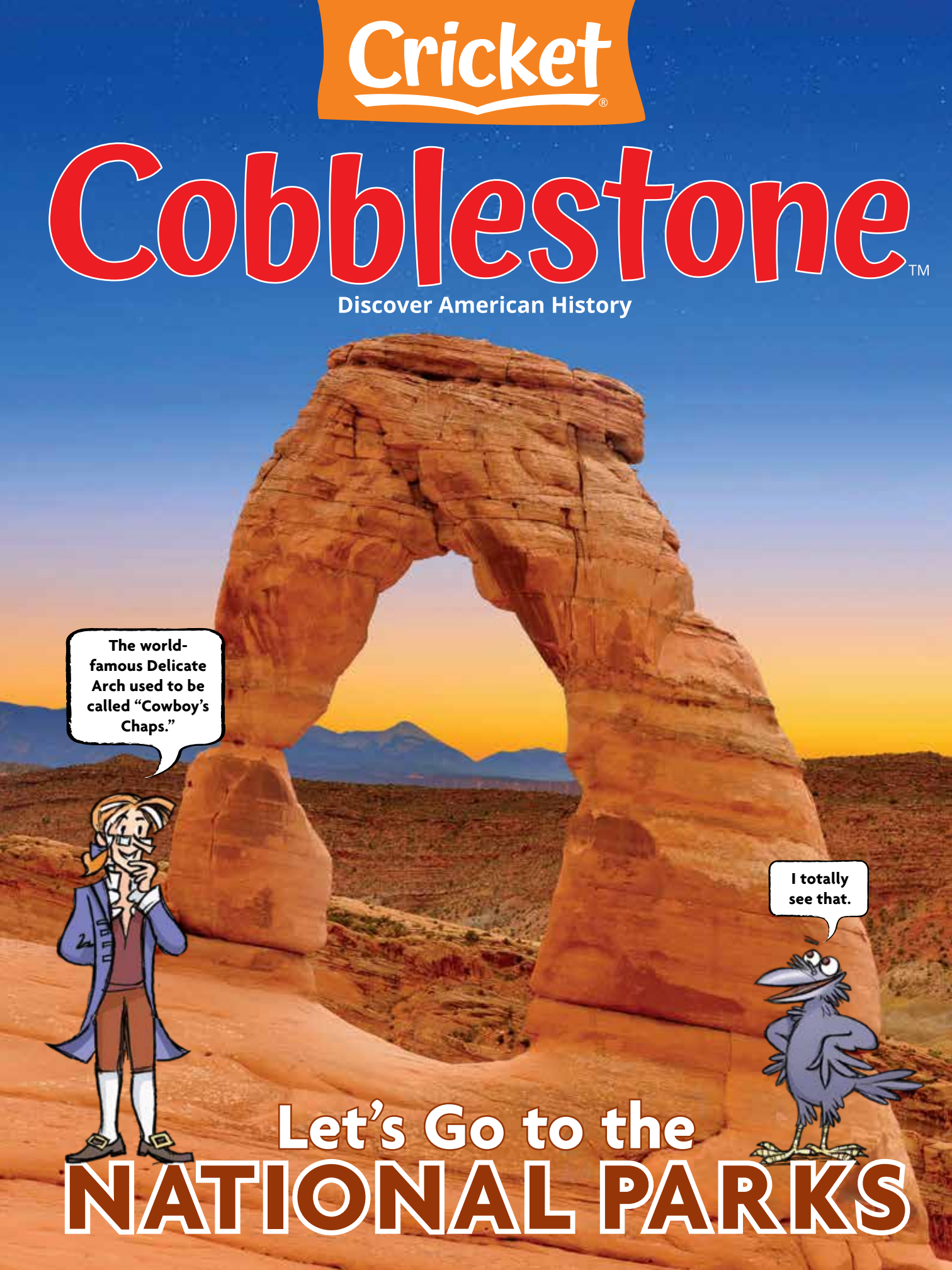

Let's Go to the NATIONAL PARKS

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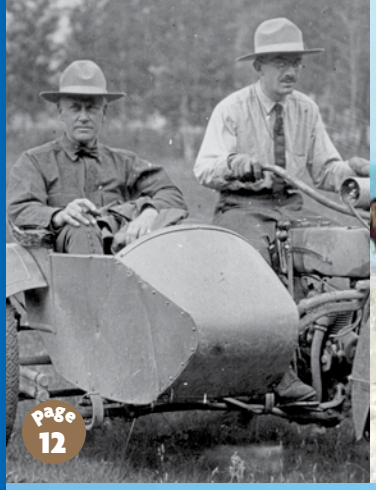
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ABOUT THE COVER

Delicate Arch is an amazing natural stone arch that was 65 million years in the making. It is found in Arches National Park in Utah. The park is just one of more than 400 sites in the National Park Service (NPS) system. In addition to large national parks such as Arches, NPS sites range from monuments and historic homes to seashores and historic battlefields. The system literally has something for everyone!

FEATURES

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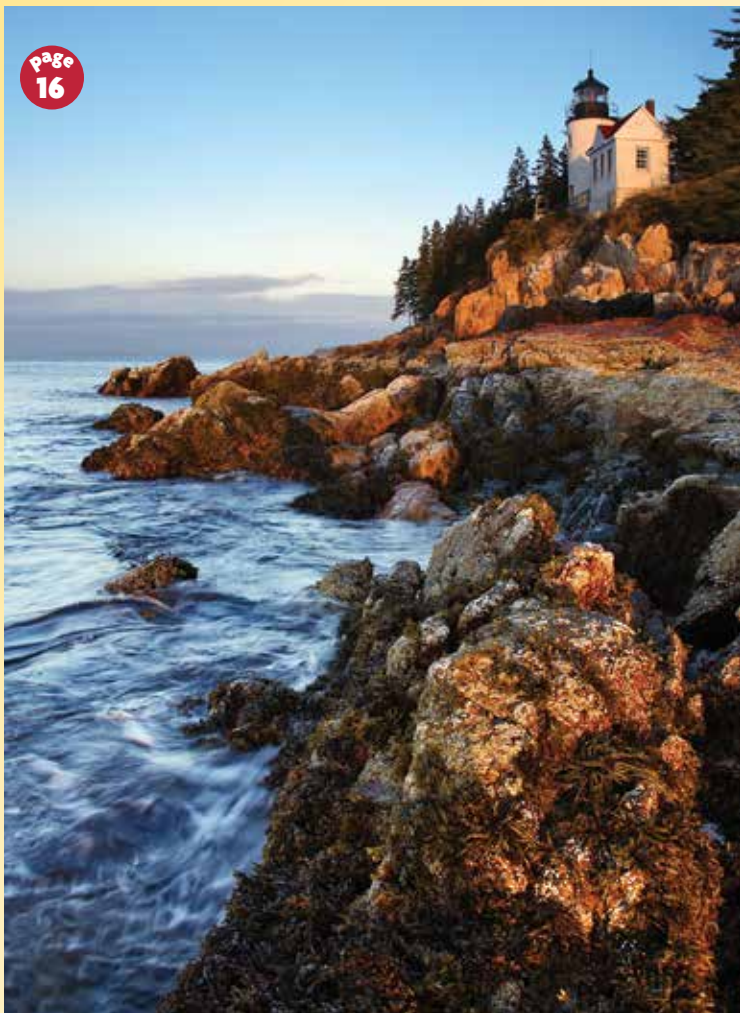
ACTIVITIES

DEPARTMENTS



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Getting Started

Do you like hitting the beach? The National Park Service (NPS) has seashores, lakeshores, and rivers in which to get wet. Do memorials and monuments move you? There are more than 100 such sites in the NPS. Is military history more your thing? Check out the NPS's nearly 50 battlefield sites. Are you fascinated by natural surroundings or thrilled to see wild creatures? More than 60 parks in the system are filled with breathtaking views and are home to fascinating wildlife. Are you curious about people and places in U.S. history? The NPS has got you covered with more than 140 historic sites and parks. In short, the NPS has something for everyone.

The NPS performs a balancing act. It balances protecting its sites and everything in them—from wildlife to historic homes and arti-

facts—with helping people make connections to them. We couldn't possibly cover all the NPS sites in this issue. There are more than 420! We just want to introduce you to some examples that represent the range of what the NPS offers. We hope you will be inspired to visit a site. We hope you'll want to see firsthand how America's history and nature is being preserved and interpreted for future generations.

The Squirrels' Top 10

10. Get familiar with the site before you explore it. Read about the park and the activities it offers.

9. Stop at the visitor center. Pick up a brochure or a guide. Ask a park ranger for recommendations.

8. Check a weather forecast. Don't risk getting caught in bad weather. Be prepared with the right clothing and protective gear.

7. Wear comfortable shoes and socks to keep your feet dry and warm.

6. Carry a water bottle. Sipping water throughout the day will keep you hydrated.

5. Pack some light, healthy snacks to give you the energy you need to finish a tour or a hike.

4. Respect the site's natural surroundings and stay on the marked trails. Staying on trails also makes it harder to get lost.

3. Don't feed or interfere with wild creatures. It's cool to see bears or bighorn sheep or moose in the wild but always observe from a distance.

2. No littering. Bring everything you carry into a natural space back out with you.

1. Have fun! Take photographs. Make memories.

For the PUBLIC to ENJOY

by Marcia Amidon Lusted

Geysers shooting water into the air. Bubbling hot mud springs. Herds of bison. What do these things make you think of? If you said Yellowstone National Park, you'd be right. Yellowstone is the nation's oldest and most familiar national park. People come from all over the world to see its famous landmarks, such as Old Faithful Geyser, Mammoth Hot Springs, and the Yellowstone River with its beautiful waterfall and canyon.

In the mid- to late 1800s, the land that would become Yellowstone was one of the last unexplored regions of the American West. Early mountain men had shared fantastic stories of waterfalls and hot springs, but it was hard to know how much was true. Then, Ferdinand Vandiveer Hayden led the first formal scientific expedition there in 1871. He was given $40,000 by Congress to make a detailed study of the region. Hayden brought artists, scientists, and mapmakers with him. After the expedition, he compiled a 500-page report of what he found. He presented it to Congress to help convince lawmakers to protect about 2 million acres of the land.

The idea of setting aside a park of almost 3,500 square miles was unusual at the time. Most people thought that the nation's natural resources were unlimited. They did not see a need to preserve them from development. But by the mid-1800s, cities such as New York were beginning to set aside land for public parks. A growing philosophy called "romanticism" also encouraged viewing nature as something that was good for people's health.

FAST FACT

How faithful is Old Faithful? Park personnel estimate that it erupts in intervals that average about 90 minutes.

By early 1872, Congress approved a bill to establish a park at the headwaters of the Yellowstone River. On March 1, 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed the bill into law. It set aside Yellowstone as a "pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people in order to protect for all time this outstanding natural area." At that time, only territories existed in the area, not states, so Yellowstone came under the protection of the federal government.

By the late 1800s, the U.S. Army had built a military post inside the park to help protect it from vandalism and poaching.

But the area remained vulnerable. Some people wanted to develop it as a tourist attraction. Others tried to hunt animals illegally. Poaching and vandalism, as well as the construction of several large hotels, raised concerns that Yellowstone would be ruined. The area's size and remoteness made protecting it difficult, and funds to support a national park did not exist.

Poaching is the taking of fish or game in a forbidden area.

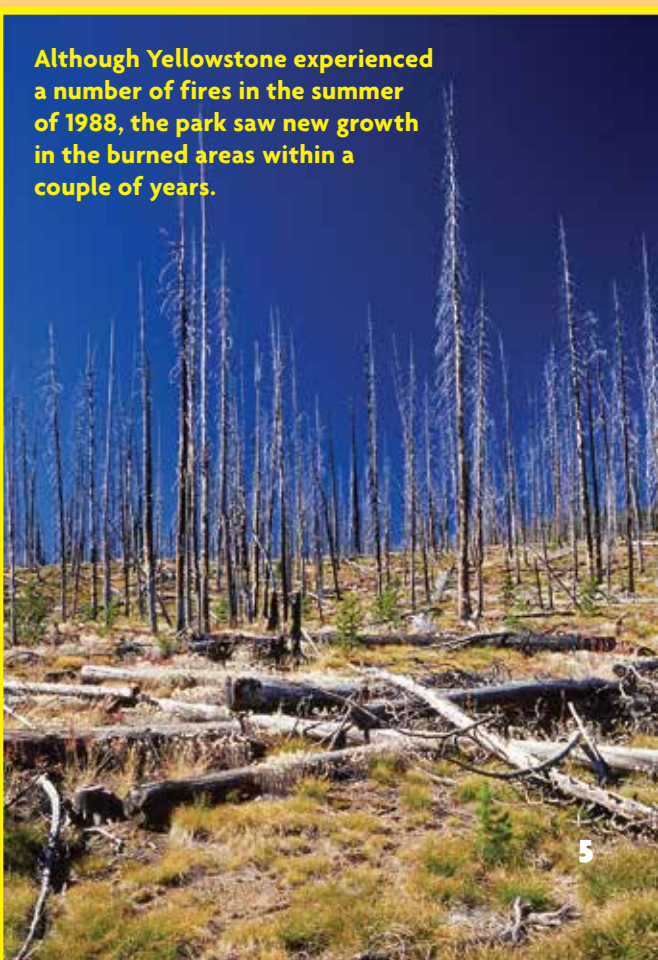
The secretary of the Department of the Interior asked the War Department for assistance. From 1886 to 1918, Army personnel protected Yellowstone. They built Fort Yellowstone at Mammoth Hot Springs as a command post for soldiers. In 1900, Congress also passed the Lacey Act. It became the first federal law to specifically protect wildlife. It also established a legacy of controlling or eliminating large predator populations.

As railroads and then cars made it easier to get to Yellowstone, increasing numbers of visitors traveled to the park. President Theodore Roosevelt visited in 1903 and spent two weeks "roughing it"—camping and exploring. As more and more Americans visited the park, though, it became difficult to preserve its fragile features and wildlife.

By 1914, 29 more national sites had been identified around the country. Each site was managed separately. Visitors wanted help understanding and interpreting them. And the military forces that had lent a protective presence at the sites were needed elsewhere—World War I (1914–1918) had broken out in Europe. Finally, the National Park Service (NPS) was established in 1916 as a separate organization to manage and preserve Yellowstone and the other national parks and monuments.

Yet some of the ecological decisions made by the NPS on behalf of the park have been controversial. A series of forest fires between June and December in 1988 burned about a third of Yellowstone before snows finally extinguished them. Park officials were criticized for not doing more to put out the fires. After first suppressing them, officials had decided to let the fires burn as a natural and healthy process.

The biggest issue facing Yellowstone may be the increasing number of visitors that come each year. High volumes of people, automobiles, and pollution have an impact on natural places. In 1994, Yellowstone was actually listed as a World Heritage Site in Danger. Snowmobiles are allowed in the park in the winter. The pollution from those machines was found to be at a higher level than urban pollution levels



Although Yellowstone experienced a number of fires in the summer of 1988, the park saw new growth in the burned areas within a couple of years.

Old Faithful Geyser is one of Yellowstone's most popular features.

FAST FACT

Yellowstone, which includes parts of present-day Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, was the first national park in the world.

in Los Angeles. So, in 2004, the park limited the number of snowmobiles and enforced the use of cleaner-running machines. Conservationists remain concerned about Yellowstone's future, however. Many of the nation's environmental laws have been weakened. Over the past 20 years, attempts to restrict the number of snowmobiles and snowcoaches in the park have resulted in lawsuits.

If you visit Yellowstone today, you'll likely have to deal with large numbers of cars, buses, and recreational vehicles clogging the roadways. Huge crowds of people often are found around the best-known sites of the park. But you can still hike or ride a horse through more remote areas. You can see herds of bison and elk, as well as 65 other species of mammals, 322 species of birds, 16 species of fish, 6 species of reptiles, and 4 species of amphibians. You can admire the beautiful colors of bubbling mud on the Fountain Paint Pot Trail and see the amazing pools and terraces at Mammoth Hot Springs. Perhaps efforts to preserve this place "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people" has been too successful—despite the huge crowds, visitors keep coming!

Marcia Amidon Lusted is the author of numerous nonfiction children's books and loves to visit national parks.

CHECK OUT YELLOWSTONE

PARK ACREAGE: more than 2 million acres

COOLEST FEATURES: Old Faithful Geyser, Yellowstone River, Mammoth Hot Springs and more than 10,000 other hydrothermal features, an active volcano, one of the world's largest petrified forests, and 290 waterfalls. Experiences 1,000 to 3,000 earthquakes every year.

ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY: Camping, more than 950 miles of hiking trails, fishing, nonmotorized boating, wildlife viewing

WANT TO LEARN MORE? Go to www.nps.gov/yell

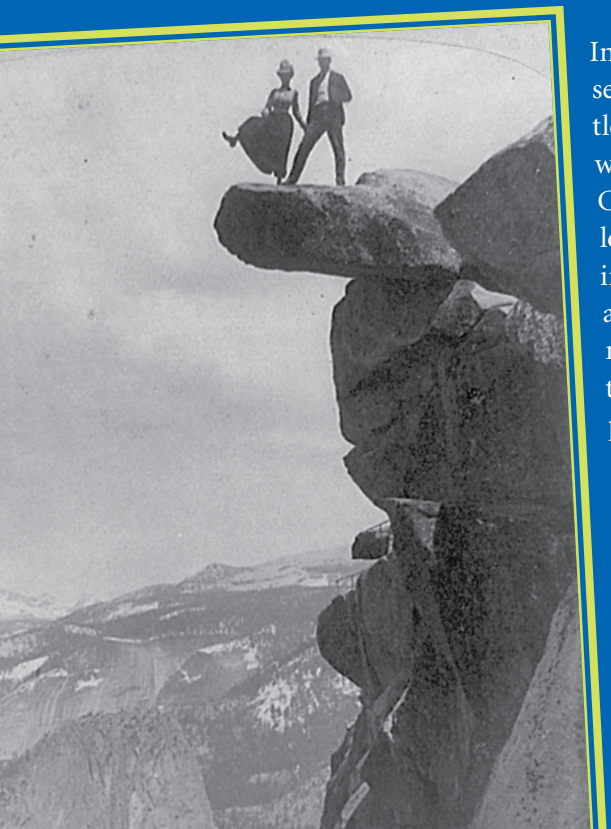
Make way for buffalo! Yellowstone rules state that people must stay at least 25 feet away from most wildlife.

A FAMOUS SECRET VALLEY

by Jerry Miller

To squat means to settle on unoccupied land without legal claim.

More than a century ago, hikers and campers discovered Yosemite's natural wonders.



Only one road enters Yosemite Valley. The road circles the narrow, seven-mile-long valley, then exits where it entered. This small valley, lying in the center of California's Sierra Nevada, is one of the most visited in the world. It forms the heart of Yosemite National Park—a park almost as large as the state of Rhode Island.

For the native people who lived in the valley for thousands of years, it provided the perfect place of safety. Carved by glaciers, the valley's sheer walls of granite stretch a staggering 4,000 feet high. They hid a rich supply of plants, fish, and other animals.

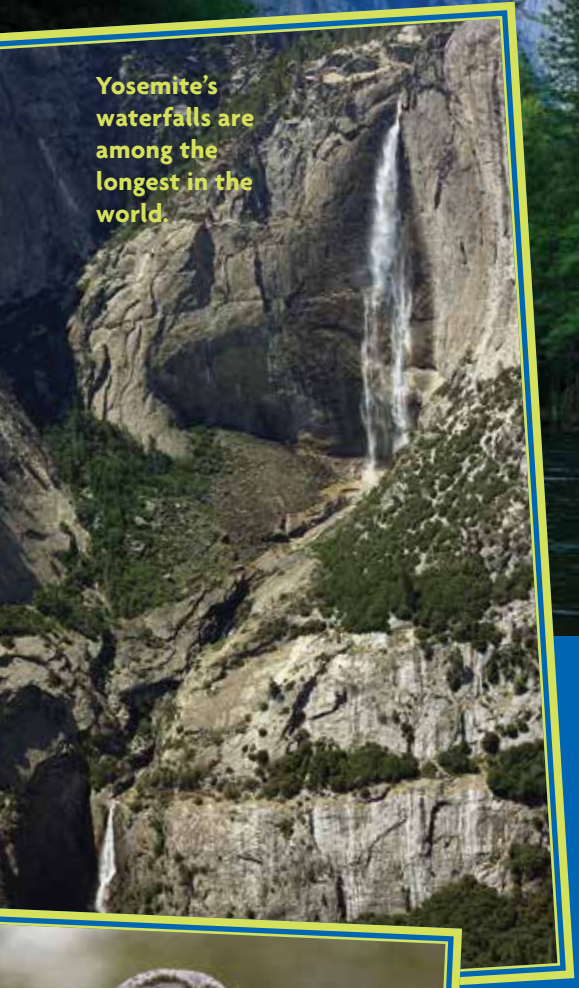
The Ahwahneechee Indians kept their valley a secret from European settlers until 1851. The first white people to enter were California militia who followed native raiders back into their valley home after conflicts with gold miners. The soldiers eventually forced the native people to abandon their natural fortress. They also spread the news about the wonders of Yosemite Valley. In 1855, a writer, James Hutchings, and a painter, Thomas Ayres, visited the valley. Publication of their articles and pictures attracted even more writers, artists, and tourists.

By 1864, many Californians had decided that the area should be preserved for tourists. In the midst of the Civil War (1861–1865), Congress and President Abraham Lincoln gave the Yosemite Valley and a nearby grove of giant sequoias to the state of California. The area became the nation's first park set aside by the federal government for its scenic value.

Becoming a state park, however, did not provide adequate protection for the valley. Settlers continued to squat on park land. Large herds of sheep and pigs nearly destroyed the meadows. In 1899, John Muir, a writer and lover of wilderness, joined forces with Robert Underwood Johnson, a wealthy magazine editor. They began a campaign to protect Yosemite by making it a national park. The campaign succeeded. An area almost the same size as the present park was set aside for preservation in 1890.

The battle over the proper use of Yosemite continued, however. Many people wanted the resources of public lands to be open to practical and profitable use for the public good. Others wished to preserve those

Beautiful Yosemite Valley, framed by enormous granite rocks and cliffs, is a showstopper.



Yosemite's waterfalls are among the longest in the world.

The great gray owls in California's Sierra Nevada are on the state's endangered species list.

resources forever, also for the public good. As a result, use of the park has changed over time.

The bitterest battle began in the early 1900s. After a great earthquake and water shortage in 1906, the city of San Francisco asked to build a dam that would cover the park's magnificent Hetch Hetchy Valley in water. Environmentalists fought for years to block it, but the dam was finally authorized in 1913. The valley disappeared beneath an artificial lake by 1923. Today, the dam provides fresh water and electric power to much of San Francisco. But conservationists argue that the dam should be torn down and the valley restored.

In 1984, preservationists won one of their largest victories. That's when the park was declared a World Heritage Site. It was identified as having "outstanding value" to humans for its cultural and natural heritage. Take a look at what you can experience at this world heritage site. . . .

Visitors enjoy viewing the park's magnificent cliffs, domes, and spires of granite. El Capitan is one of the largest granite monoliths in the world, rising more than 3,000 feet above the valley floor. Half Dome at 8,842 feet high may be the world's most photographed rock. With a pair of binoculars, you can watch rock climbers from around the world scrambling up the great cliffs. Yosemite offers rock climbing classes and guides to safely navigate the steep cliffs.

The cliffs also are home to some of the world's tallest and most breathtaking waterfalls. The Upper, Middle, and Lower Yosemite Falls

represent the world's biggest total water fall drop at 2,425 feet. Ribbon Falls boasts the world's tallest continuous drop, 1,612 feet. In addition to rivers, streams, and hundreds of falls, the park has 3,200 lakes.

Aside from granite and water, what you see depends on what part you visit. Yosemite ranges from 2,000 to 13,000 feet in altitude. Hiking from the park's lowest to highest places takes you through almost as many landscapes as hiking from Mexico to Alaska. The park has 800 miles of wilderness hiking trails.

Do you like wildflowers? Discover 1,400 species of flowering plants, and shrubs. Trees of all sorts—oaks, maples, aspens, pines, and many others—are plentiful. The world's largest trees, the giant sequoias, are a popular attraction. Some of the trees are 3,000 years old, 300 feet high, and measure 50 feet around.

With 95 percent of Yosemite designated as wilderness, the park provides plenty of space for wild creatures, too. They range from trout to black bears, from rattlesnakes to river otters, and from chipmunks to mountain lions. Two hundred forty-seven species of birds can be found in the park. One of those is the great gray owl, an endangered species in California. With all these attractions, it's no wonder that Yosemite's once-secret valley draws millions of visitors each year.

Jerry Miller has many fond memories of family trips to Yosemite. He also has a very scary memory of getting lost there when he was six.

CHECK OUT YOSEMITE

PARK ACREAGE: 760,000 acres

COOLEST FEATURES: Yosemite Valley, El Capitan, Yosemite Falls, giant sequoias in Mariposa Grove, Bridalveil Fall, Half Dome

ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY: Hiking, skiing, rock climbing, swimming, bird watching, taking photographs

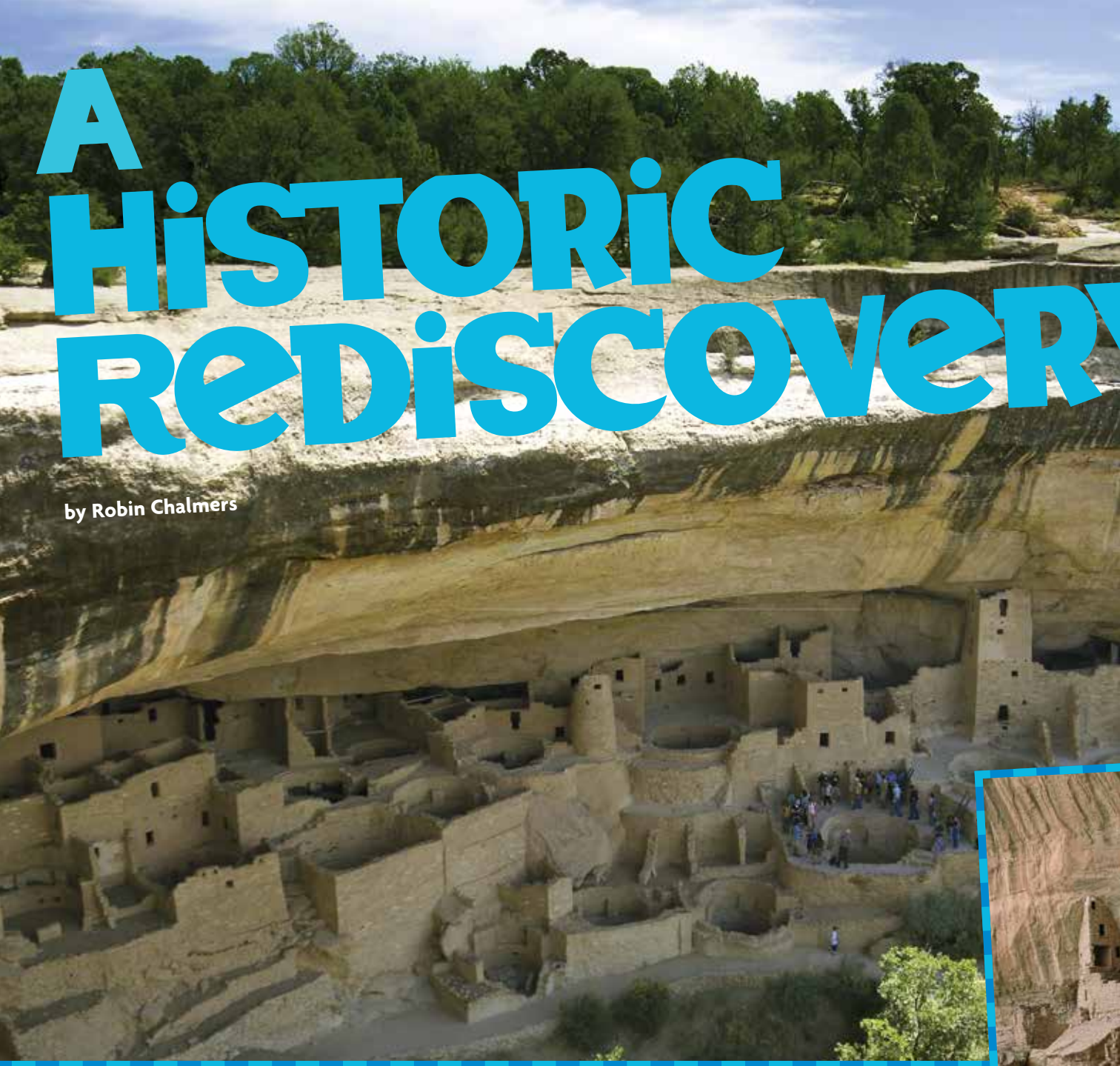
WANT TO LEARN MORE? Go to www.nps.gov/yose

FAST FACT

Yosemite Museum was the first building constructed as a museum in the national park system in 1925.

A Historic Rediscovery

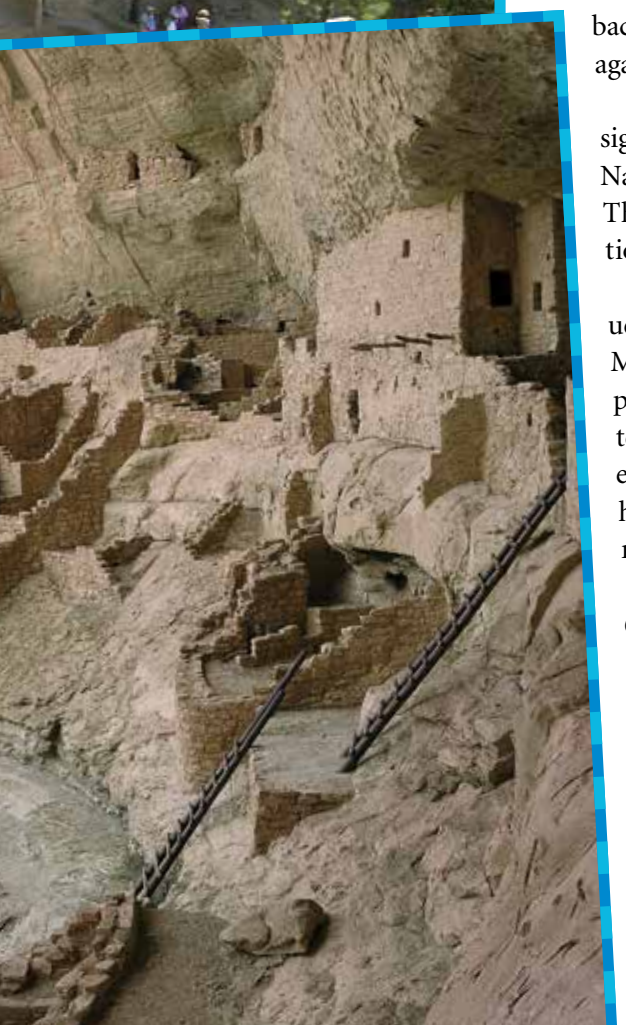
by Robin Chalmers



Richard Wetherill and his brother-in-law Charles Mason were searching for stray cattle on December 18, 1888. Through the falling snow, they saw "a magnificent city" built into the alcove of the mesa across the canyon.

Almost 600 years had passed since the ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellers had left Mesa Verde in present-day Colorado. It is believed the Pueblo people lived in the area from 550 C.E. to 1300 C.E. The two ranchers knew that ancient sites had been found in the canyons. Still, they were awestruck by their view of clear outlines of walls, towers, windows, and doorways. They decided to explore.

ABOVE: Views from an overlook reveal the ancient dwelling known as Cliff Palace tucked below the mesa. RIGHT: The National Park Service added ladders to make the site more accessible.



The two men had found one of the largest cliff dwellings in North America. The alcove, which they named Cliff Palace, contained 150 rooms and 23 kivas. Parts of the structure were four stories high. The walls were plastered and painted with designs.

FAST FACT

Mesa Verde is Spanish for "green table."

Archaeologists believe that Cliff Palace's construction most likely started around 1200 C.E. and continued through the early 1270s. They also determined that about 100 people lived there. As the Pueblo families grew, they created more rooms. Fire pits were used for heating the rooms and cooking. Above the living areas, small rooms stored dried corn, beans, and squash. Those crops were harvested from the flat top of the mesa. To reach the farmlands and hunting grounds, the cliff dwellers used hand-and-toe holds carved into the steep sides of the mesa.

Wetherill and Mason spent two days exploring the site. They collected artifacts and searched for more cliff dwellings. They found Spruce Tree House, with 130 rooms and 8 kivas. They also walked through Square Tower House, with more than 80 rooms and 7 kivas.

In 1891, Swedish scientist Gustaf Nordenskiöld explored Mesa Verde. He excavated some sites and took more than 150 photographs. He published a book that described the buildings, tools, skeletal remains, and pottery he found. He also sent a collection of artifacts back to Sweden. At that time, there were no laws against treasure hunting or selling artifacts.

In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt signed a bill into law creating Mesa Verde National Park "to preserve the works of man." The act helped protect the park from destruction and from the further removal of artifacts.

Over the years, archaeologists have continued to learn more about the original people of Mesa Verde. In addition to cliff dwellings, the park includes reservoirs, dams, and farming terraces. In 1992, kilns were discovered at the edge of the mesa top. Refuse areas below the cliffs offered clues to how the ancestral Puebloans ate and lived. Wildfires also exposed nearly 700 new sites.

A mesa is a broad, flat-topped elevation with one or more cliff-like sides.

It is believed that kivas were used as ceremonial or meeting rooms.

Excavated means uncovered or exposed by digging.

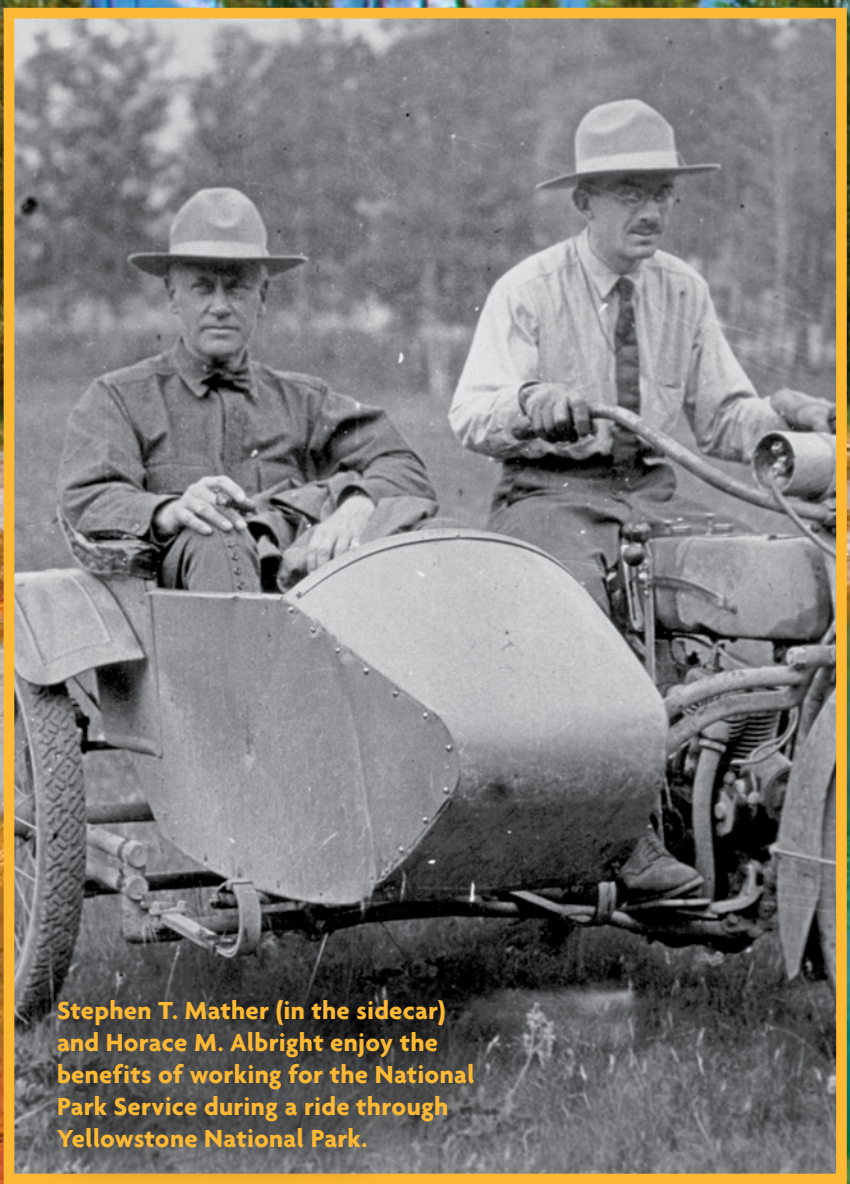
Kilns are types of ovens or pits used to make or fire pottery.

Today, the park contains nearly 5,000 archaeological sites. About 600 of them are cliff dwellings. Most of the sites have not been excavated. But the National Park Service has stabilized certain dwellings. Access to some of them has been made easier for visitors, mostly through guided tours. Other cultural sites can be viewed from overlooks. A visit to Mesa Verde is a journey back in time, offering a unique peek at how people lived more than 700 years ago.

Want to learn more? Go to www.nps.gov/meve.

Laying the Foundation

by Mark Clemens



Stephen T. Mather (in the sidecar) and Horace M. Albright enjoy the benefits of working for the National Park Service during a ride through Yellowstone National Park.

Americans were concerned. Signs of vandalism, overgrazing, and game poaching were evident in their national parks. The parks were supposed to be protected, but Congress provided no laws or funds to enforce that protection.

California businessman Stephen T. Mather was horrified by the overgrazing in Yosemite National Park. He wrote to Secretary of the Interior Franklin Lane to express his concerns. To Mather's surprise, Lane responded by inviting Mather to come to Washington, D.C., to run the parks himself. In 1915, Mather headed to Washington. He expected to straighten out the administration of the park system in one year. It turned into a much longer stay.

Lane could not have chosen a better man for the job. Mather had a gift for persuasion and a commitment to the cause of conservation. But he found it difficult to cut through the red tape that surrounded government projects. To assist Mather, Lane appointed a young lawyer from California, Horace M. Albright.

Mather and Albright understood that they needed first to convince Congress to provide funding for the parks. Mather put his talents as a promoter to work. He arranged a mountain trip in Yosemite for several congressmen and editors, including the editor of *National Geographic*. That strategy succeeded. The next year, Congress provided $50,000 for park purchases, and *National Geographic* donated an additional $20,000.

Equally important, Congress established a separate bureau within the Department of the Interior to oversee the parks in August 1916. Mather became the first director of the National Park Service (NPS) the following year. He was charged with the responsibility of administering the parks to ensure that they would be around for generations to come.

When Mather took an 18-month leave of absence in 1917, Albright took over as director of the NPS. During this time, the United States entered World War I (1914–1918). Many Americans demanded that the parks be opened to commercial uses to support the war effort. Albright barely managed to block their efforts.

Attempts to commercialize the parks continued even after Mather returned to his post. By 1922, however, the park service was established enough for Mather and Albright to focus on improving the parks. To make them more accessible, Mather encouraged extending railroads to reach remote parks. He and Albright also worked to improve roads. They added hotels, campgrounds, and other services to make visits pleasant for tourists. Mather established a corps of uniformed rangers and educational programs at the parks. And he encouraged the creation of state parks.

By the time Mather retired in 1929, he had achieved all he had set out to do and more. He left the NPS in the capable hands of Albright, who served as director until 1933.

When Mather died in 1930, a year after retiring, Congress decided to create a memorial to him. A plaque was designed and copies of it were distributed to different sites. The plaques read: "He laid the foundation of the National Park Service, defining and establishing the policies under which its areas shall be developed and conserved, unimpaired for future generations. There will never come an end to the good that he has done."

Mather's name also lives on in specific features at NPS sites. Mather Gorge is in the Maryland side of Virginia's Great Falls Park. Mather Point is on the south rim of Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona. Mather District is in Yosemite National Park in California. The Stephen Mather Memorial Parkway weaves through Mount Rainier National Park in Washington. Mather Pass is in Kings Canyon National Park in California. And Mount Mather is in Denali National Park in Alaska.

Step by Step

by Mark Clemens

The National Park system began with Yellowstone (1872), Yosemite (1890), and a handful of other large natural parks in western states. The very idea of setting aside land represented a new way of looking at nature. It signaled that nature was more than a resource to be used—it was a treasure to be preserved.

Around the same time, a group of scientists and concerned citizens had been working to protect ancient cliff dwellings, pueblo ruins, and early missions in the Southwest. Vandals were destroying those man-made sites. They were robbing them of historic artifacts. Acting on the group's studies, President Benjamin Harrison established the Casa Grande Ruins in Arizona in 1892. It became the first prehistoric archaeological site protected by the federal government.

Initial efforts to preserve the nation's nature and history were uncoordinated, however. They lacked funding and leadership at the national level. Sites identified for protection grew more varied and more spread out. They were managed by a variety of organizations. Today, the National Park Service (NPS) oversees more than 400 sites covering millions of acres. Civil war battlefields, prehistoric dwellings, the Washington Monument, and presidents' homes all are part of the system. Getting to this point happened step by step:

1906 Antiquities Act is passed. The act gives the president the authority to proclaim "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" to be national monuments and therefore under the protection of the federal government.

1916 National Park Service (NPS) is created. President Woodrow Wilson signs legislation to establish the NPS within the Department of the Interior. It begins to unify the various sites under one organization. The NPS is charged with balancing the needs of visitors with the need to protect and maintain the various national sites themselves and to "leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." By this time, more than 15 national parks and 20 national monuments have been designated.

1933 The nation's parks, monuments, memorials, military parks, and cemeteries are reorganized to fall under the central authority of the NPS. Before this change, other government agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service and the Department of War, managed some sites.

1935 Historic Sites Act is passed. It sets "a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States."

DID YOU KNOW?

Becoming a National Park Service site requires an act of Congress. The process usually begins with a recommendation by the secretary of the Interior. The president also can create national monuments on land that is already protected by the federal government.

1955 Mission 66 is initiated. Looking ahead, the NPS establishes a plan to improve its facilities and provide modern visitor centers in time for the 50th anniversary of its founding in 1966.

1969 Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) Act is passed. The program encourages people to volunteer in the parks.

1970 National Environmental Policy Act is passed. It is the nation's oldest environmental law. It requires the federal government to share its plans for any large projects with the community that it will impact. The act pushes the government to maintain "conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony."

1970 General Authorities Act is passed. The law is an amendment to the original 1916 act creating the NPS. It acknowledges the NPS's history and culture. It clarifies its authority to administer the many sites that have come under its jurisdiction.

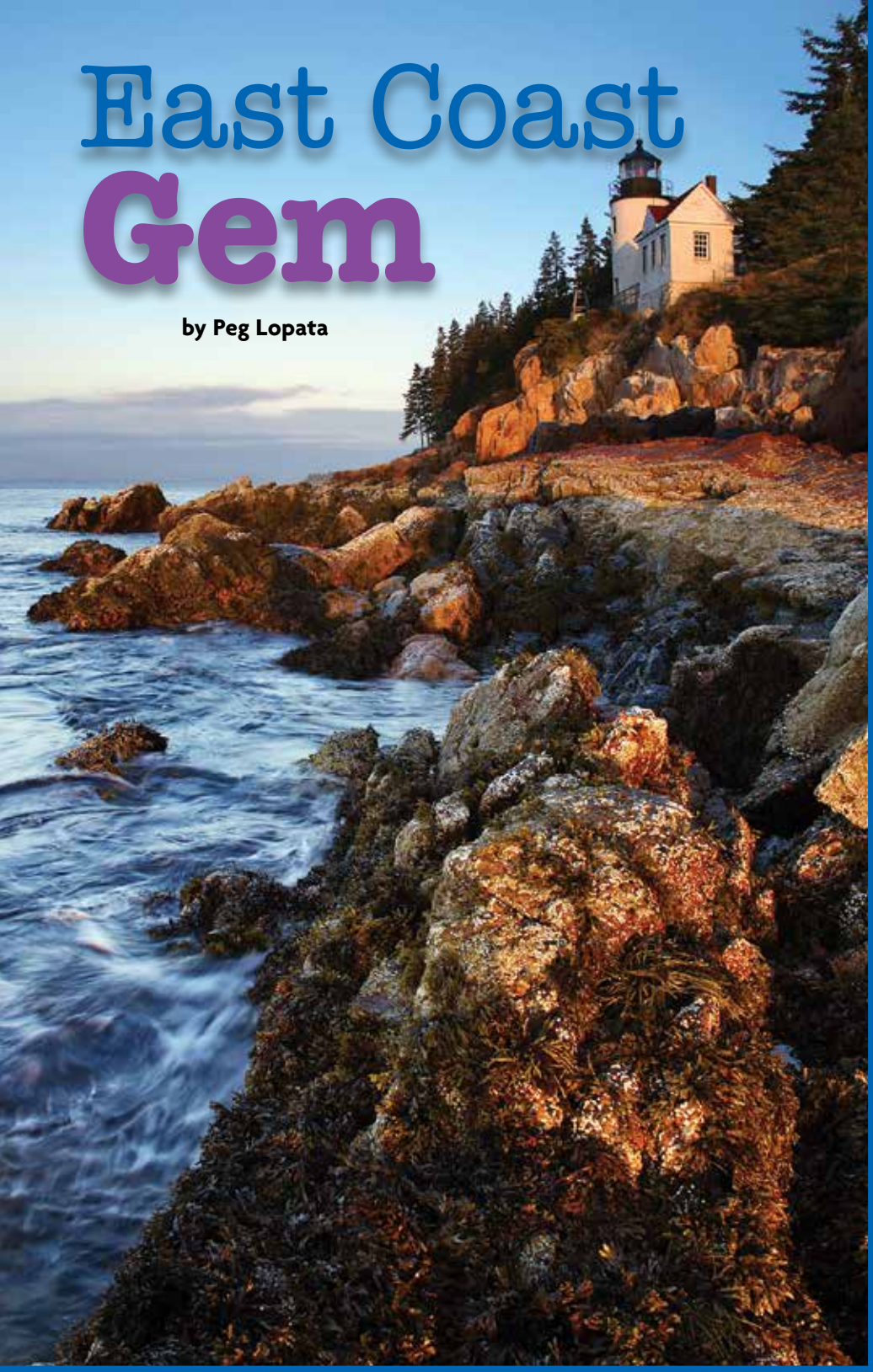
2016 National Park Service Centennial Act is passed. It confirms a commitment from the federal government to support the mission and work of the NPS into its second century.

FAST FACT

Every U.S. state and some U.S. territories have at least one national park site.

East Coast Gem

by Peg Lopata



Acadia offers a unique combination of ocean setting, rocky shore, and mountain heights.

Visitors to Acadia National Park never forget it. Beauty often is about dramatic contrast—for example, sea and mountains side by side. Acadia's location on Maine's rocky offshore islands gives visitors plenty of both.

Outside artists and journalists first visited Mount Desert Island (which is part of Acadia today) in the mid-1800s. Painters, such as Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, captured the rugged scenes of crashing sea and dramatic hills on their canvases. Their work inspired others to visit. Those first summer tourists, or rusticators, enjoyed the country life. They forged friendships with the island's local residents. The hard-working and hardy year-round residents continued to make their living off the waters. By the end of the 19th century, however, tourism was a major industry.

Eventually, wealthy and famous people from eastern cities came to enjoy the wilderness, too. They built mansions, referred to as "cottages," to make their visits comfortable. On Mount Desert Island, they enjoyed less formal and more relaxing summer vacations than they experienced at their extravagant homes in Newport, Rhode Island. They appreciated the site's invigorating salt air, slow-paced life, and spectacular natural beauty.

Fearing development would ruin the things that made the island area so beautiful, conservationist George B. Dorr worked to preserve the land.

He and several other men, including Harvard University president Charles W. Eliot, formed a land trust. They gave 6,000 acres of donated land to the federal government in 1916 for the purpose of creating a national monument. It was named Sieur de Monts for an early French explorer. By 1919, the land became the first national park east of the Mississippi and was called Lafayette National Park. The park's name changed again in 1929 to Acadia.

Among Acadia's unique features, the 45 miles of carriage roads and bridges that were built from 1913 to 1940 stand out. They were a gift of multimillionaire John D. Rockefeller Jr., son of the founder of Standard Oil. Rockefeller wanted the network of roads and bridges to make Acadia available to all. They were designed for horses and carriages, not cars. They are considered the best example of broken stone roads still in use in the United States today. The material used was quarried from local granite sites. Rockefeller incorporated 17 stone-faced bridges, too, each with a unique design.

Rockefeller got caught up in an exciting era of road building. He supervised the project using state-of-the-art techniques. He made sure the roads were laid out to include scenic views. He also took into account the hilly terrain and avoided flattening hills or felling trees unnecessarily. Native plants were used beside the roads to keep them in harmony with the natural surroundings.

Traveling along the carriage roads is just one way to explore Acadia's history. The park also has historic trails that once were used by indigenous people and European settlers. By the end of the 1800s, trails that had been cut through rock and forest as a way to connect villages or carry on forestry were being enjoyed for the pleasure of experiencing the natural world. Some of the trails included iron rung ladders and stone stairways.

Within Acadia's more than 47,000 acres are Mount Desert Island, Isle

Wealthy visitors built "cottages" on Mount Desert Island to enjoy their rustic summers in comfort.

CHECK OUT ACADIA

PARK ACREAGE: 47,000 acres

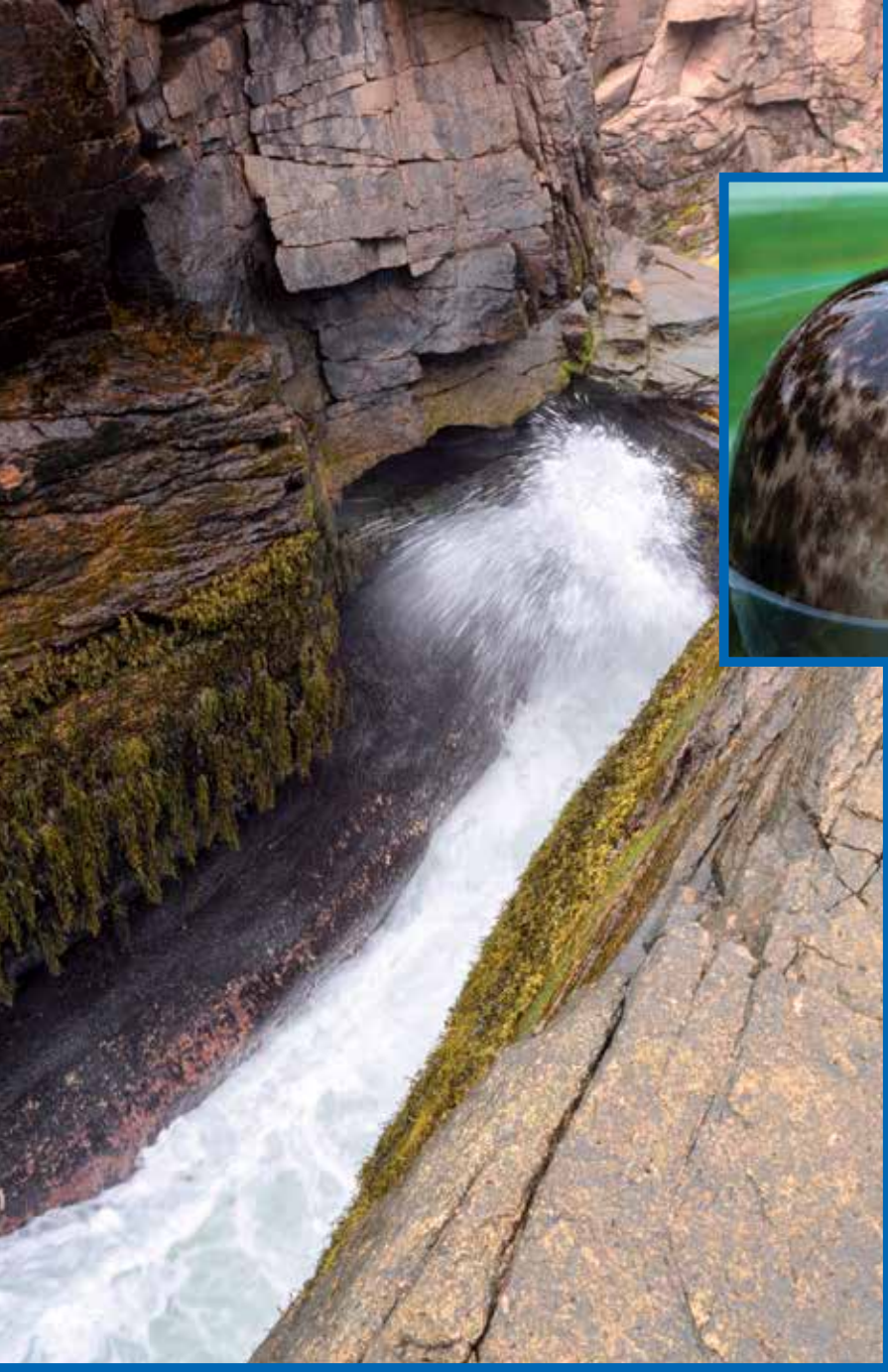
COOLEST FEATURES: 45 miles of historic carriage roads and bridges, Cadillac Mountain, Thunder Hole, more than 120 miles of historic hiking trails

ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY: Biking, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hiking, swimming (both ocean and freshwater), bird watching, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing

WANT TO LEARN MORE? Go to www.nps.gov/acad

FAST FACT

Explorer Giovanni da Verrazzano is credited with giving Acadia its name. When he sailed by its shoreline in 1524, he claimed it reminded him of Arcadia, Greece.



Harbor seals can be seen along Acadia's cold-water shores.

au Haut, the Schoodic Peninsula, and other conserved areas. For a small park, it offers much: ponds, lakes, coves, marshes, beaches, forests, and 26 mountains.

The park lies in two types of plant zones, northern coniferous forest and temperate deciduous woods. So the fields and forests are filled with a great variety of plants—more than 1,100 species. About 30 freshwater plants are considered locally rare.

Wildlife abounds at Acadia as well. More than 40 species of mammals, including harbor seals and eastern coyotes, reside there. It is home to bald eagles and peregrine falcons. Herons nest on the offshore islands. The park is considered one of the country's best places to watch birds. In the fall, visitors can join a ranger on top of Cadillac Mountain to watch and identify migrating raptors flying south.

The drama of water pouring through Thunder Hole is a site to see . . . and hear!

Geologically, Acadia is unique because it includes the East Coast's only fjord, Somes Sound. At Thunder Hole, water pouring into the rock chasm sometimes makes a roar like the sound of thunder. Sand Beach offers an interesting shoreline made almost entirely of broken shells. Cadillac Mountain, the highest point on the U.S. Atlantic coast, challenges hikers. A short loop around Jordan Pond, a lake formed by glaciers 10,000 years ago, offers a more relaxing hike. Acadia's dramatic setting and natural beauty truly make for an unforgettable visit.

Coniferous refers to an evergreen, needle- and cone-bearing tree.

Deciduous refers to trees that shed leaves.

A fjord (also spelled "fiord") is a long narrow inlet with steep cliffs.

Peg Lopata has been a regular contributor to *COBBLESTONE*.

Mist-Covered Mountains

by Peg Lopata

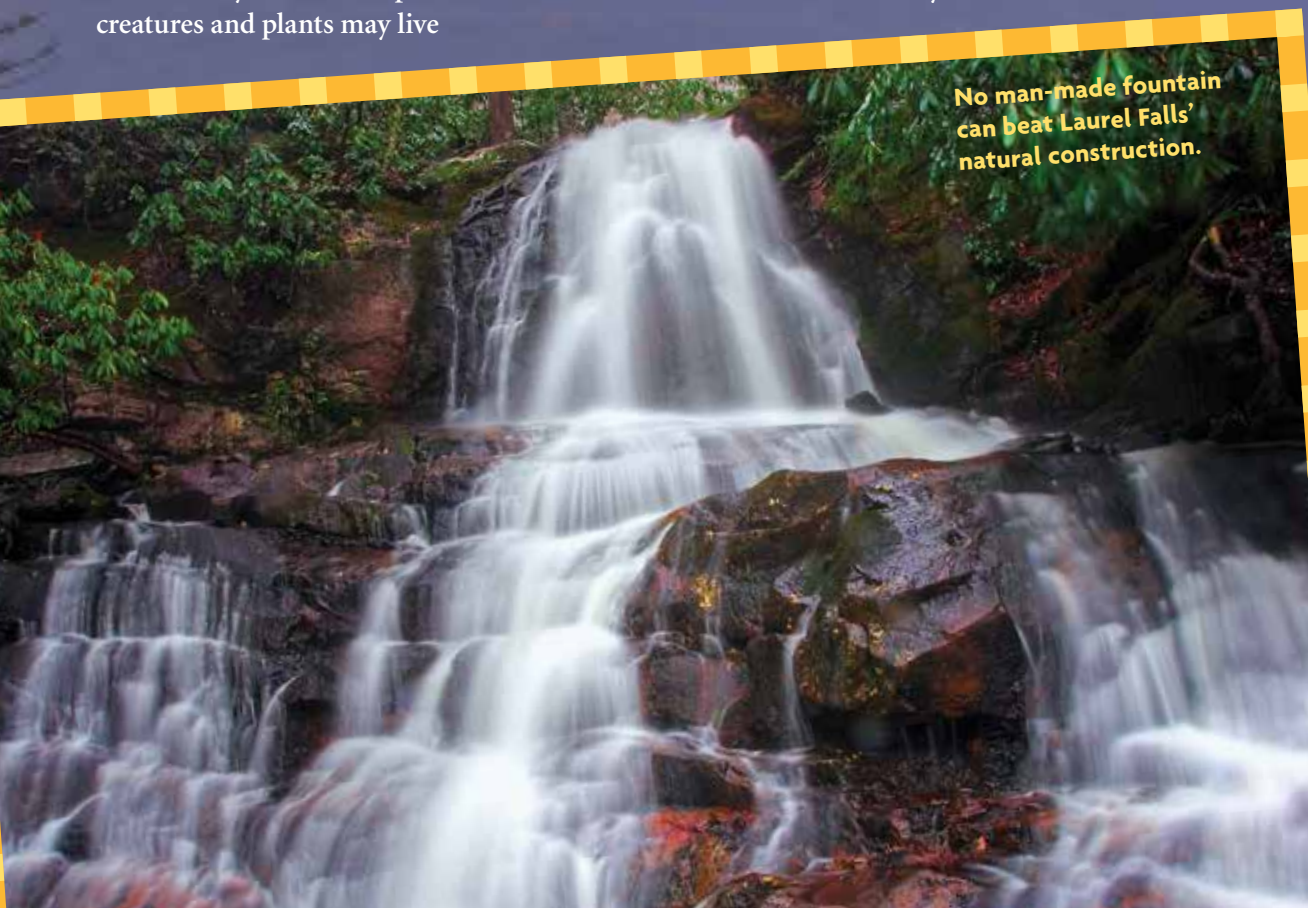
You might want to watch where you step when you walk in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The place is loaded with salamanders. In fact, at least 30 different species can be found here, including hellbenders, a salamander that can be as long as a tennis racket from top to bottom!

What else can you find in this national park that straddles the two states of Tennessee and North Carolina? Fireflies, black bears, rare pygmy shrews, elk, five forest types, and more than 1,000 flowering plants. Scientists believe that as many as 100,000 species of creatures and plants may live here. Biodiversity is one of many reasons why millions of visitors come to the park every year. In fact, the United Nations lists the park as an International Biosphere Reserve. That means it has successfully balanced the conservation of its biological resources with safe, sustainable use.

Biodiversity is the variety of life in a particular habitat.

Mountain History

Today's visitors are far from the first people to walk the paths that wind through the park's southern Appalachian Mountains. From indigenous people to European settlers, humans have lived in the mountains for thousands of years.



No man-made fountain can beat Laurel Falls' natural construction.

CHECK OUT GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

PARK ACREAGE: more than 522,000 acres

COOLEST FEATURES: Fontana Dam, the tallest concrete dam east of the Rocky Mountains, is 480 feet high. Beautiful waterfalls, touring roads

ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY: Hiking, biking, camping, motoring, horseback riding, fishing

WANT TO LEARN MORE? Go to www.nps.gov/grsm

For most of that time, though, humans had little impact. That's why Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of the nation's most pristine national parks.

When the first European settlers ventured into the hills in the 1700s, they met the long-time residents, the Cherokees. The Cherokees had established lives with towns, crops, political systems, and an extensive trail network. By the 1830s, however, the Cherokees had been forcibly removed west to make way for the growing numbers of white settlers. Many Cherokees endured a deadly march to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma) known as the Trail of Tears. The few who remained are the ancestors of the Cherokees living near the park today.

The European settlers lived much as the native people had lived. They farmed and hunted and later logged. But they, too, were moved out once a park was officially established in 1934. Their homes still can be seen today. The National Park Service (NPS) has preserved 78 buildings that include mills, barns, schools, and churches. It is the largest collection of historic log buildings in the East. Open to the public for tours, they are a testament to the southern Appalachian people's way of life.

Pristine means unspoiled.

Motorists Lead the Way

In the 1920s, motorists were the first group to try to raise the idea

Preserved historic log buildings capture what life was like in the mountains in the early 1900s.

of turning the area into a national park. Auto clubs wanted to use the beautiful place to travel through in their new automobiles—a novel concept at the time. Eventually, motoring tourists joined with other individuals and groups to buy 150,000 acres. Schoolchildren participated by collecting pennies, too. A final donation of $5 million from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Fund helped make the park happen. The park commissions of Tennessee and North Carolina then bought 427,000 acres of land.

It's All Here

The Great Smoky Mountains are part of the Appalachians, among the oldest mountains in the world. The Appalachian Mountains stretch about 2,000 miles from Georgia to Maine and include some breathtaking summits. The park includes 16 peaks taller than 5,000 feet and more than 800 miles of trails. The highest mountain is Clingmans Dome at 6,643 feet. It is the third tallest peak east of the Mississippi River.

About a quarter of the forests in the park are old growth. That makes the park one of the largest blocks of these types of forests remaining in North America. The trees have been around for more than 150 years. Adding to the beauty is the nearly 100 species of native trees that grow there. The park's southern location makes it possible to enjoy the forests almost any time of year.

The park's many waterfalls also are popular destinations. Well-worn trails guide hikers to view Grotto, Laurel, Rainbow, and other cascades of water in the park. Abrams Falls is known for its deep pool at the base and the sheer volume of water that plunges over a rocky ledge. The spectacular Ramsey Cascades is the tallest waterfall in the park at 100 feet high. That's as tall as a 10-story building. There also are more than 2,000 miles of streams.

The park offers many ways to enjoy its wilderness and the animals that live here. More than 66 species of wildlife can be found in the park. Whitetail deer are common. With any luck, you may catch a glimpse of a coyote or a bobcat. Whatever your reason for coming to the most visited national park, you'll be glad you did.

An estimated two black bears per square mile can be found in the Great Smoky Mountains.

FAST FACT

River otters, barn owls, and elk are some of the creatures that have been successfully reintroduced to Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

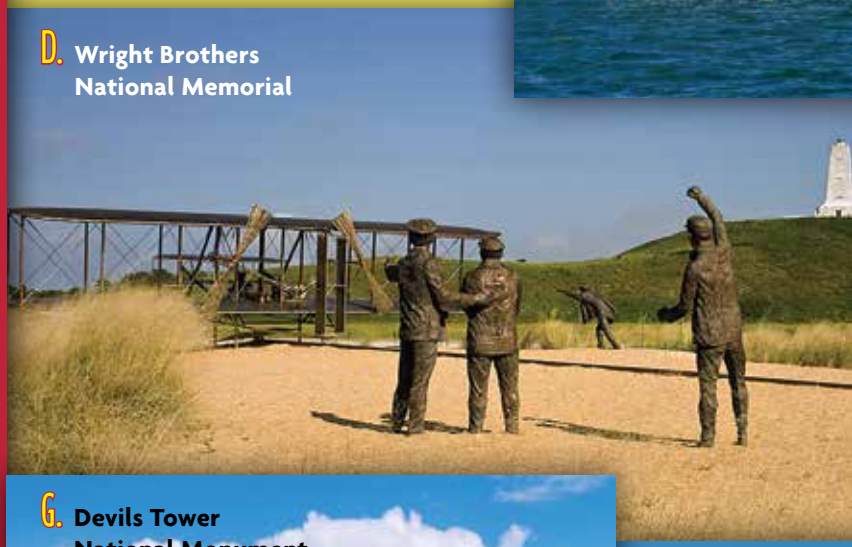
A Park for Everyone

by Andrew Matthews

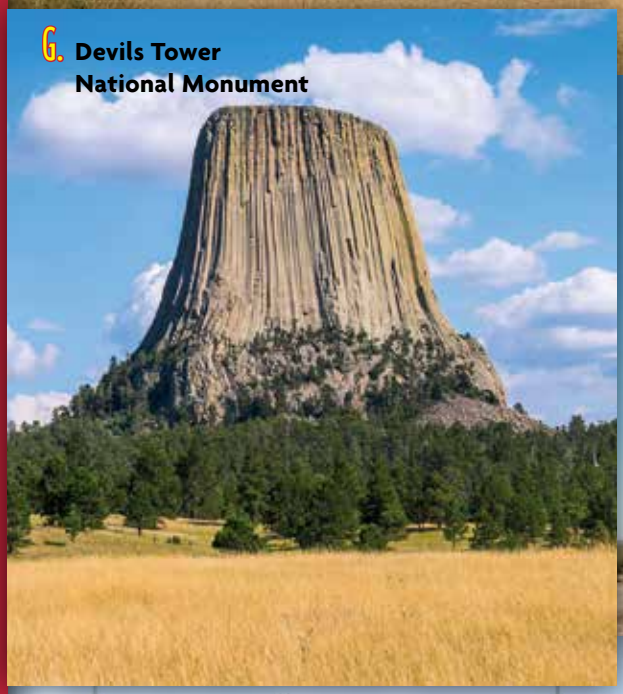
Can you match the descriptions below with the correct National Park Service site shown in the photos? Answers are on page 49.

1. Admirers of the famous inventor of the incandescent light bulb (and holder of 1,093 patents) can tour his laboratory complex here in West Orange, New Jersey.
2. This major port of arrival for immigrants from late 1892 to 1954 is just a ferry ride away in New York Harbor.
3. This Florida park is the only place in the world where both alligators and crocodiles live together.
4. Two brothers fascinated by the concept of flight put this site in North Carolina on the maps and in the history books.
5. A landmark 1954 U.S. Supreme Court case that decided that separate is not equal in public schools is commemorated in Kansas.
6. This Utah site is where the two sets of tracks met to complete the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869.
7. Declared the first national monument in 1906, this monolith in Wyoming appeared in the 1977 movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind.*
8. This site remembers those who died during the Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval Base in Hawaii on December 7, 1941.
9. This 1863 Civil War battlefield in a small Pennsylvania town became a turning point in the war.
10. In 1892, this prehistoric site in Arizona became the first to be considered an archaeological reserve in need of federal protection.

H. Pearl Harbor National Memorial

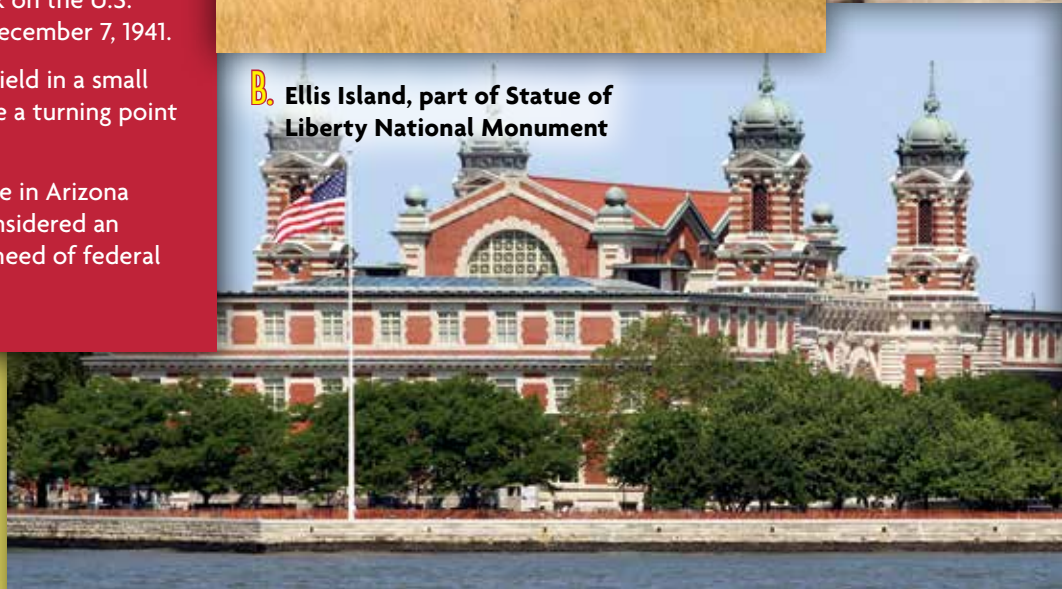


D. Wright Brothers National Memorial



G. Devils Tower National Monument

J. Casa Grande Ruins National Monument

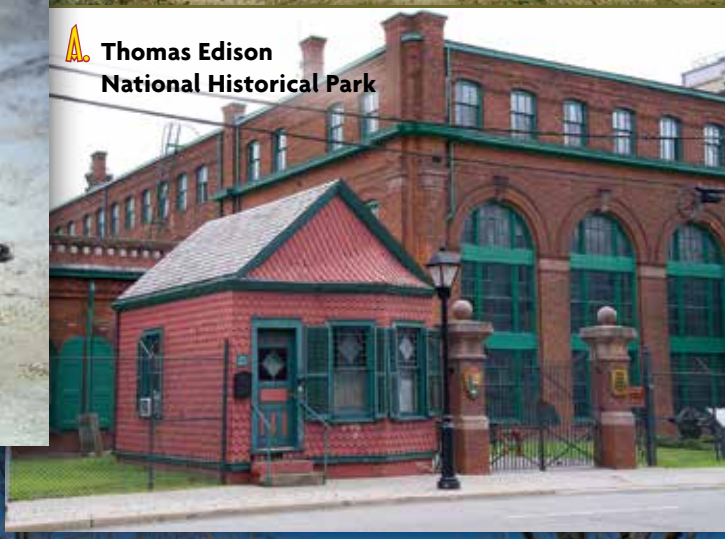


B. Ellis Island, part of Statue of Liberty National Monument

I. Gettysburg National Military Park

C. Everglades National Park

A. Thomas Edison National Historical Park



E. Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site

F. Golden Spike National Historical Park

Did you KNOW?

illustrated by Chris Ware

The longest known cave system in the world is found in Kentucky's Mammoth Cave National Park. It stretches across more than 400 miles of surveyed passages beneath the surface of the ground.

General Sherman, a giant sequoia tree in California's Sequoia National Park, is the world's most massive living thing above ground. It measures nearly 275 feet tall and nearly 83 feet around its trunk. (Kelp, a type of underwater seaweed, is considered the largest known plant.)

Home to a diverse marine ecosystem, Biscayne National Park in Florida is made up of 95 percent water.

Oregon's Crater Lake National Park is home to the nation's deepest lake at 1,943 feet.

Denali, North America's highest mountain at 20,310 feet, is found in Alaska's Denali National Park and Preserve.

The largest national park unit is Wrangell–St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska. At 13.2 million acres, it makes up more than 16 percent of the entire system. The smallest park unit is Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial in Pennsylvania. It is less than one acre.

STANDIN

by Jeff Corydon

The historic structure towers above nearly everything around it, including nearby palm trees.

Impregnable means impossible to capture.

Bastions are well-fortified projections.

First, Englishman Sir Francis Drake attacked St. Augustine and burned its wooden fort in 1586. Fellow buccaneer John Davis sacked St. Augustine again 20 years later. Pirate Robert Searles struck in 1668, killing 60 men, women, and children.

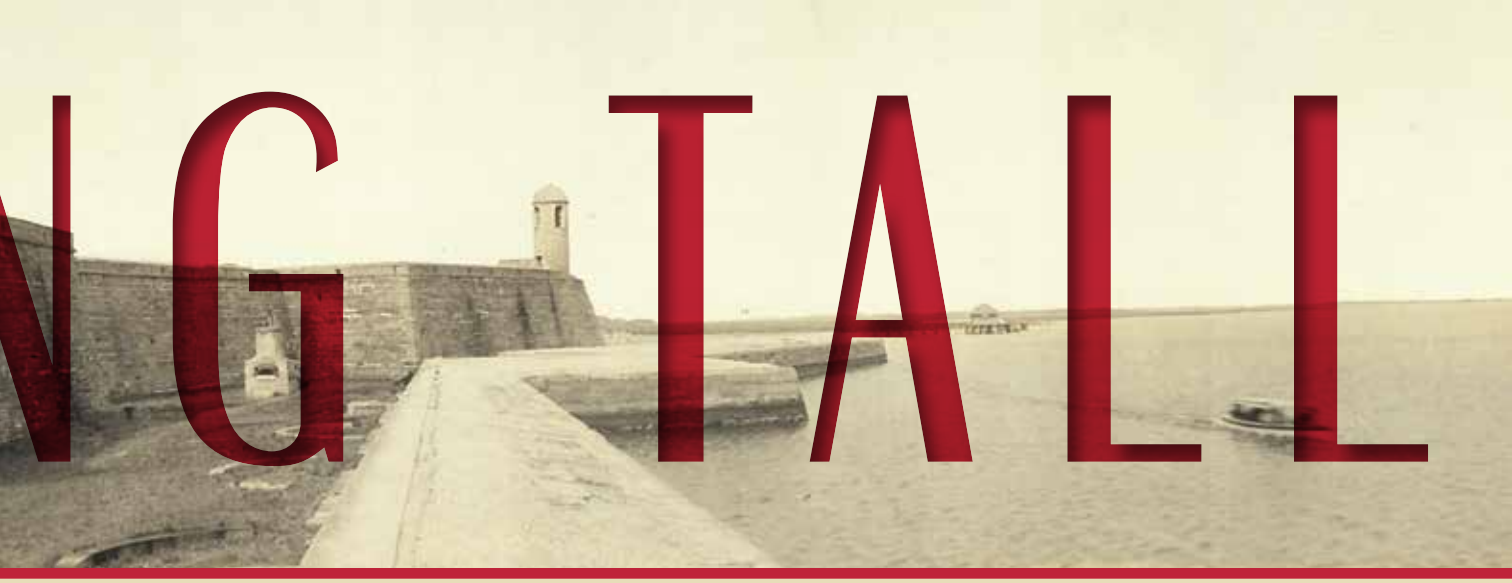
In response, the Spanish Crown sent Ignacio Daza and a team of artisans from Spanish Cuba to build an impregnable fort. In October 1672, they broke ground for the great Castillo de San Marcos. The fort was designed to protect the Spanish colony in Florida against British land and sea attacks. Today, it is the oldest masonry structure in the continental United States.

The fort took 23 years to complete. The outer walls were 27 feet high and 12 feet thick. They enclosed a 12,000-square-foot central courtyard. Four arrowhead-like corner bastions could be used to stop almost any attack. A defensive dry moat surrounded the fort.

Daza had the walls built of coquina. Coquina is a soft, porous limestone quarried on Anastasia Island, across Matanzas Bay from St. Augustine. Laborers ferried over raw bulk stone and hauled it to the worksite. Stonemasons hand-trimmed thousands of blocks of different shapes and sizes.

The fort cost a fortune to build. "Its doors must be made of gold," King Charles II of Spain commented, "and its walls of silver pesos." But it saw the people of St. Augustine safely through some brutal English sieges.

On November 8, 1702, Carolina governor James Moore attacked the fort with several ships and more than 1,000 men. About 1,500 townspeople, native people, and livestock jammed inside the fort for protection. Moore's cannonballs did little damage. They bounced off or simply sank into the spongy



NG TALL

walls. When Spanish reinforcements arrived from Cuba the day after Christmas, the English fled.

In June 1740, British general James Oglethorpe besieged the fort and town for several weeks. Like Moore, he was unable to breach the massive walls. Twenty-three years later, Spain ceded Florida, and the fort, to the British. But Great Britain's defeat in the Revolutionary War (1775–1783), resulted in Florida and the fort reverting back to Spain.

When the United States gained control of Florida in 1821, the fort was renamed Fort Marion. It remained a military post. At different times, such as during the Civil War (1861–1865) and fighting with native people in the 1830s and 1870s, portions of the fort were used as a prison.

Fort Marion was declared a national monument in 1924. The National Park Service (NPS) took it over from the War Department in 1933. Congress reinstated the historic Spanish name in 1942. Today, the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument is a popular tourist attraction. Costumed interpreters often man its ramparts to bring its rich international story and long history to life.

Want to learn more? Go to www.nps.gov/casa.

FAST FACT

The Spanish founded St. Augustine in 1565, 42 years before an English colony was founded at Jamestown in 1607.

An aerial view of the fort reveals its impressive defenses.

Devoted to Equality

by the Women's Rights National Historical Park staff

In a small town in upstate New York, the National Park Service (NPS) works to tell the story of the birth of women's rights. There was a time when most married women were not allowed to own property. Women could not vote. And women were denied equal employment opportunities. Today, most of us take such rights for granted.

But in July 1848, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and several reform-minded friends organized the first Women's Rights Convention. It took place in Seneca Falls, New York. At the event, Cady Stanton read the Declaration of Sentiments, which stated in part: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal. . . . "

Today, the words of the Declaration of Sentiments, which is modeled after the Declaration of Independence, are engraved on the stone water wall at the Women's Rights National Historical Park. Also inscribed there are the names of the 68 women and 32 men who signed the declaration. Next to the water wall is the Wesleyan Chapel, site of the 1848 convention.

The park, which was established in 1980, includes several other structures. The homes of three of the women organizers—Cady Stanton, Mary Ann M'Clintock, and Jane Hunt—are managed by the park. A NPS visitor center also helps interpret the story of the fight for women's rights.

A cluster of statues at the park allows visitors to brush elbows with those who made history.

Park rangers offer guided tours explaining the history of the chapel. Visitors learn about Cady Stanton's nine-year-old nephew, Daniel, who saved the day on July 19. He crawled into the building through an open window after organizers forgot the front door key. Thanks to him, about 300 people were able to enter the chapel to hear his aunt read the Declaration of Sentiments.

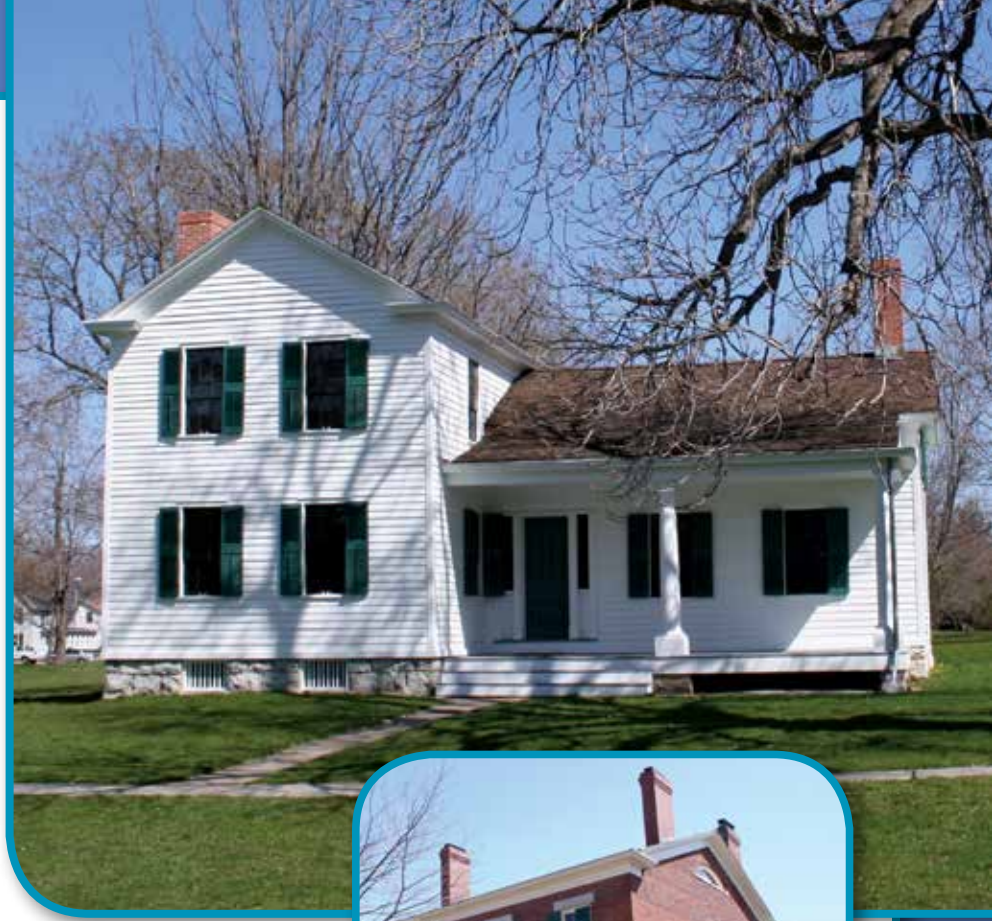
Rangers also tell about some of the other important people involved in the convention. They included Lucretia Mott, a Quaker reformer from Philadelphia, and Frederick Douglass, an African American abolitionist leader from Rochester, New York. Mary Ann and Thomas M'Clintock also are introduced. Cady Stanton met with members of the M'Clintock family at their home in Waterloo, New York, to write the final version of the Declaration of Sentiments.

Nine of 20 bronze statues located in the visitor center represent these well-known people. The other 11 statues depict people who attended the convention but did not sign the document. Walking among the life-size statues makes you feel as if you actually are at the 1848 convention.

The Stanton family lived in Seneca Falls from 1847 to 1862. At the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House, park rangers discuss how Cady Stanton's experience in Seneca Falls inspired her to become involved in the women's rights movement. Life during that time was difficult for Cady Stanton. She had been raised in a wealthy family and had grown up with numerous servants to do the housework. In Seneca Falls, she did not have many servants and was forced to cope with the problems most women typically faced. In many ways, her experience there helped her to better understand the general plight of women in society.

Cady Stanton and her friends found purpose in Seneca Falls. The Women's Rights National Historical Park keeps alive their inspirational example. It works to illustrate how individuals can make a difference in the world.

Want to learn more? Go to www.nps.gov/wori.



Elizabeth Cady Stanton's home (TOP) and Mary Ann M'Clintock's home (ABOVE) are part of the Women's Rights National Historical Park and open to visitors.

History Revealed at Little Bighorn

by David Morrow

Sometimes history needs a closer look. The National Park Service (NPS) found how true this statement is at one of its battlefield sites. The Montana site first was designated as Custer Battlefield National Cemetery in 1879. It's where Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer and his 7th Cavalry made their famous last stand. Today it is known as the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. The new designation came in 1991. It encourages a broader view of the battle. It remembers it as the place where several native tribes joined together to maintain their way of life in one of the most dramatic and successful fights of the 19th century.

What caused this renaming? For decades after the Battle of the Little Bighorn in June 1876, people did not clearly understand what happened during the fighting. They knew that none of the 210 U.S. soldiers under Custer's immediate command

Erected in 1881 on Last Stand Hill, this marble obelisk marks the mass grave where many of the 7th Cavalry soldiers and scouts were buried after the battle.

Today, markers dot the battlefield indicating where both U.S. soldiers (ABOVE LEFT) and native fighters (ABOVE RIGHT) fell.

Crews with metal detectors carefully walk the battlefield and place small flags to mark artifact locations.

survived. Historians, reporters, and Army officials had gathered eyewitness accounts from the Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Indians and from the soldiers who had buried the dead. Some of the accounts, however, contradicted one another. Many questions were left unanswered.

That changed in August 1983. That summer, a wildfire burned away the grass and tangled sagebrush that covered the battlefield's ground. NPS officials at the site saw the fire as a chance for them to learn more. They asked two archaeologists, Douglas Scott and Richard Fox Jr., to see if they could get a better picture of the battle from the newly uncovered ground.

The two historical scientists came up with a plan to study the battlefield. First, they decided to try techniques that archaeologists use to study ancient cities and other sites built by humans. They carefully divided the battlefield into sections. Then they searched each section for artifacts and mapped the exact location of each item they found. One team of volunteers swept the ground with metal detectors and put a plastic flag wherever they found something. Another team carefully uncovered each item, identified it with a number, recorded where it was found, and then collected it.

Scott and Fox gathered more than 2,000 artifacts left on the battlefield. They found buckles and straps from horse harnesses, horseshoes, boot nails, boots, buttons, strips of cloth, coins, parts of weapons, nine metal arrowheads, one wedding ring, and a pocket watch. They also found 300 human bones and 200 animal bones, mostly from horses. Most important, they found hundreds of bullets and empty cartridges from the weapons used in the battle. And that is where the second part of their plan came in.

Scott and Fox studied those artifacts like police detectives studying a crime scene. They learned that the Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Indians carried at least 47 different kinds of firearms and

A little digging revealed a Springfield rifle cartridge near the position of the 7th Cavalry.

Artifacts that have been found include a pocket watch (TOP), arrowheads (ABOVE), and the remains of a boot (RIGHT).

that about 500 of the native people carried rifles that day. As many as 200 of those weapons were repeating rifles that could fire 16 shots without being reloaded. Army records show that the soldiers carried model 1873 Colt revolvers (which fired six shots) and model 1873 Springfield rifles that had to be reloaded after each shot. The archaeologists knew right away that the natives used more firearms than earlier historians of the battle knew about.

By studying where each bullet and cartridge was found, the archaeologists also learned more about the fighting tactics and movements of both sides. Sometimes they could even chart an individual gun and the person using it as he moved across the battlefield.

For much of the battle, the natives fought from a distance. They fired their weapons from nearby hilltops or from the cover of tall grass. The soldiers set up skirmish lines to confront the attackers. The cartridges recovered from those lines showed that after most of the soldiers fell, the survivors started to bunch together in small groups. They retreated toward higher ground, on a place now called Last Stand Hill.

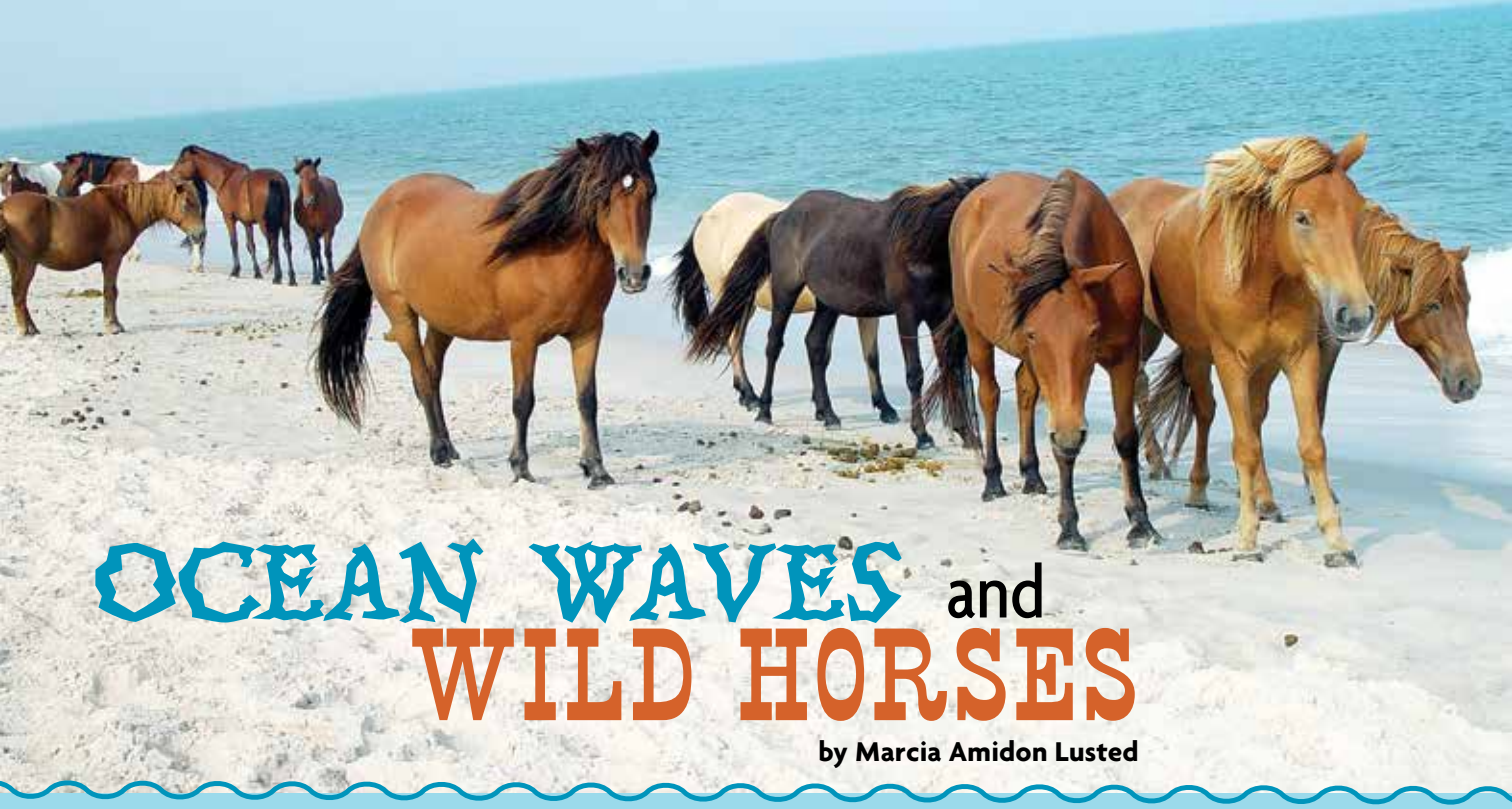
At some point, some of the soldiers broke out and ran toward the river. A native leader named Red Horse later stated that he killed those soldiers in the area called Deep Ravine. The native fighters then killed the wounded soldiers lying on the field, and the battle was over.

The archaeologists have gone back to the area periodically since 1984. They have gathered more than 5,000 artifacts from the battle. They have done many more scientific tests. They performed medical examinations of the human remains to learn about the combatants and the wounds from which they died. According to Scott, "The physical evidence supports the Native American testimony much better than the Army's testimony."

Although these history detectives have been able to paint a clearer picture of Little Bighorn, many questions about that day remain unanswered. The clues to figuring them out might be in the artifacts, though. "The data is still there," Scott says. "It's still available for someone to go back and interpret it." The NPS's decision to reexamine its site has resulted in a new perspective on what really happened at the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

Want to learn more? Go to www.nps.gov/libi.

An iron sculpture by artist Colleen Cutschall honors the native fighters at Little Bighorn.



OCEAN WAVES and WILD HORSES

by Marcia Amidon Lusted

Some of the most popular places protected by the National Park Service (NPS) are seashores. As stretches of ocean beaches were being bought up for private use, a study in 1955 urged the government to take action to protect seacoast beaches for public use. Today, there are 10 national seashores. One of the most interesting is the Assateague Island National Seashore. It straddles the border of Maryland and Virginia.

Assateague is a barrier island. It is separated from the mainland by Chincoteague Bay and protects the coast from the waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Its 39,000 acres of land and water are constantly changing as a result of the winds and storms that sweep the island. Part of the island is an estuary habitat, where fresh water meets the ocean. This has created a community of plants and animals that is unique to an environment at the edge of the sea.

FAST FACT

A salty diet of cord grass and saltmeadow hay makes the Assateague horses drink large amounts of water, which contributes to their bloated look.

Assateague is probably best known for its wild horses. Local legend describes the horses as descendants of those once shipwrecked there. But the horses actually were turned loose on the island by colonists in the 17th century in order to avoid paying taxes on livestock. Today, the horses are split into two different herds. The NPS manages the herd on the Maryland portion of the island. The horses remain wild, but the NPS controls their population to prevent them from destroying the island through overgrazing.

The Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Department owns the other herd of horses. Those horses graze in large fenced-in areas in the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge located on the Virginia side of Assateague Island. The herd is kept under control through an annual auction of its young foals.

At one time, Assateague was home to fishing villages and related industries, and four separate lifesaving stations for stranded sailors. Today, however, its beaches, salt marshes, ponds, and other natural features are protected from development. Visitors can swim, hike, boat, bike, and visit the lighthouse on the Virginia side of the island. Or, for something different, they can watch the wild horses. But visitors should remember to respect the wild nature of the horses. Enjoy them from a distance, and don't try to feed or pet them.

Want to learn more? Go to www.nps.gov/asis.

COBBLESTONE's Picks

Ebenezer, Colonel Crow, and the squirrels reminisced about a few of their favorite National Park Service sites. Take a look.

Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

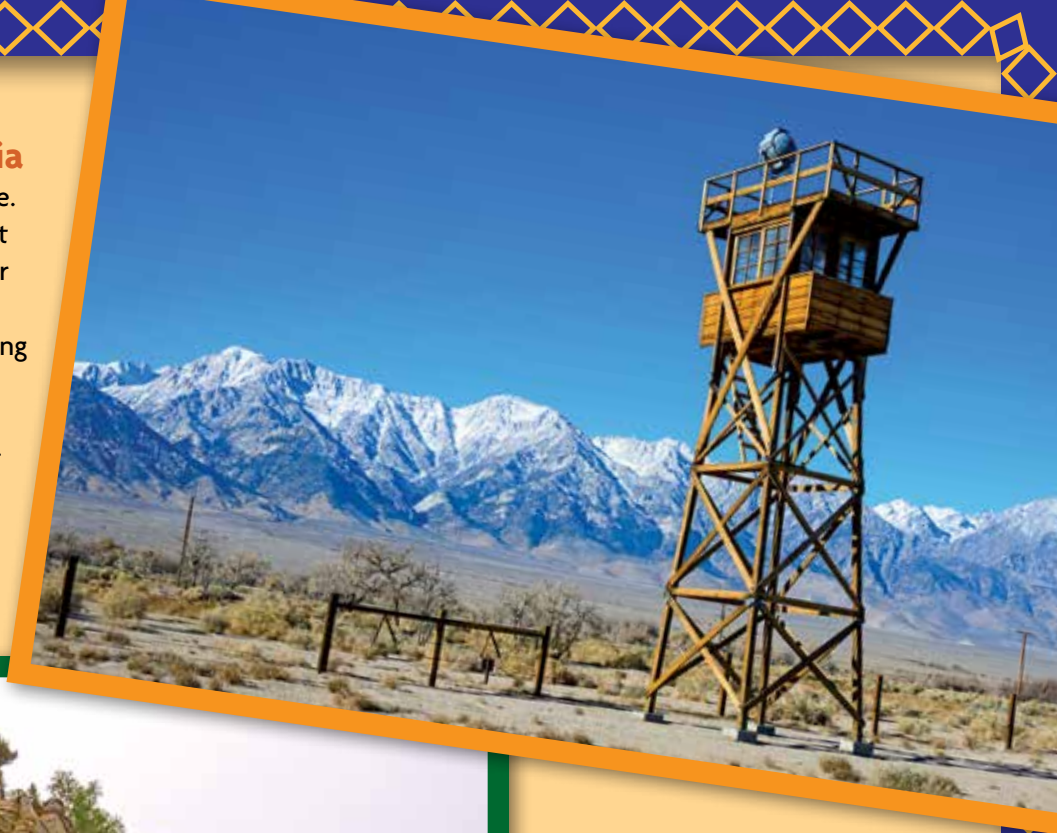
Everyone should travel to the Grand Canyon at least once in their life. Photos of it are beautiful, but they can't capture its "grandness." It should be called the "As-Far-As-the-Eye-Can-See Canyon." Viewing it in person made us feel the power of nature, time, and the elements.

Lincoln Memorial, Washington, D.C.

Our nation's capital is filled with monuments and memorials, but our favorite one is the Lincoln Memorial. It's beautiful any time of day, any time of year. The steps, the columns, the quotes from famous speeches, and the massive statue of Abraham Lincoln—they all work together to create an inspiring memorial to a great American president.

Manzanar National Historic Site, California

Our visit to Manzanar was eerie. Manzanar is one of 10 sites that became a war relocation center during World War II. Imagining 10,000 Japanese Americans being forced to live in that desolate place, waiting out the war, was difficult. But we all agreed that it was super powerful and important to experience.



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan

Pictured Rocks' location is naturally dramatic. It's on the shore of Lake Superior, a lake so big that it feels like an ocean. We discover something new to do every visit. In the summer, we've gone hiking and swimming. In the winter, we've tried ice climbing and ice fishing. In every season, the sandstone cliffs remind us that nature works in mysterious ways!

Valley Forge National Historical Park, Pennsylvania

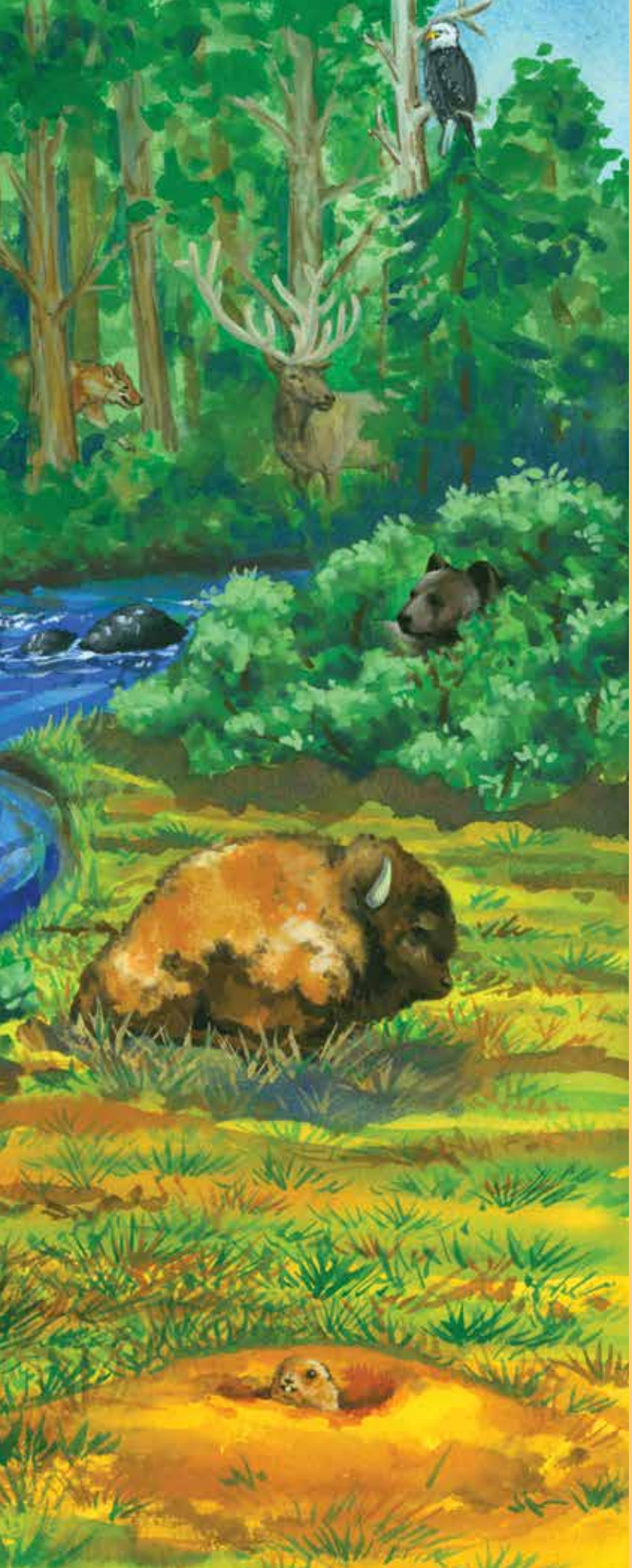
We thought we knew all about the Continental Army's winter at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War. But the replicas of the soldiers' cramped cabins gave us a taste of what those American patriots endured. We also learned that the soldiers came out of that winter a stronger fighting unit.

Animal Expert

by Andrew Matthews
illustrated by Katrina Damkoehler

In some cases, national parks provide a last remaining safe habitat for vulnerable animals. Sometimes knowing the health of one wild animal can help determine the health of other creatures in a park or even an entire habitat. Can you find 12 animals hidden on these pages? Use the list to help identify them. All of these creatures are or have been on a threatened or endangered wildlife list. Answers are on page 49.

- American alligator
- American bison
- Bald eagle
- Black-footed ferret
- Elk
- Florida panther
- Grizzly bear
- Moose
- Prairie dog
- Red wolf
- Sea otter
- Sea turtle



American alligators once were considered endangered because people hunted them for their belly skin.

American bison were close to extinction from overhunting by the mid-1800s, but conservation efforts have helped them recover.

In 2007, decades after banning pesticides such as DDT, **bald eagle** populations had recovered enough to be removed from the endangered species list.

A captive breeding program is working to reestablish communities of the threatened **black-footed ferret** in the western United States.

After hunting and loss of habitat pushed **elk** from their eastern habitats, the NPS has led an effort to reintroduce elk in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Fewer than 100 **Florida panthers** are believed to remain alive in the wild today. Loss of habitat is the biggest issue these endangered creatures face.

In 1975, after a drop in the **grizzly bear** population, the government created a recovery plan. It established a hunting ban and created safe "bear management areas."

Moose graze and roam across vast areas. Changes in their patterns help researchers understand the health of habitats.

Prairie dogs support more than 130 other species. So when their natural habitat shrank to five percent of its original size, hardships spread to a long list of creatures.

In 1980, **red wolves** were declared extinct in the wild. A captive breeding program is attempting to reintroduce them to areas of the Southeast. They remain critically endangered.

Once overhunted, **sea otters** remain a threatened species as they face oil spills, disease, shark attacks, and commercial fishing accidents.

With five **sea turtle** species listed as threatened or endangered, NPS staff have worked to protect their nests and hatchlings on beaches.

IN OTHER NEWS

by Emily Cambias

WILD HOMES

The national parks are home to thousands of animals. Some of those animals have surprising stories, from wolves' triumphant return to the last safe place for the American mustang.

Howl About It

To European American settlers, the wide-open western United States seemed a perfect place to raise huge herds of cattle and sheep. But settlers soon discovered that their herds were easy prey for other animals. Wolves were the deadliest predators. Looking to protect their livestock, settlers hunted and killed wolves. By the late 1800s, wolves had been almost eliminated. In the 20th century, scientists began to understand the predators' necessary role in an ecosystem. Without them, other species multiplied too quickly and ate up too many plants. So, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed an experiment. From 1994 to 1996, about 30 wolves were introduced to Yellowstone National Park. Packs of wolves hunted large game, such as elk and bison. Local plant life almost instantly began to recover. The carcasses that the wolves left behind became food for foxes, bears, birds, and insects. The experiment was a huge success.

Kings of Kelp

Living in the often-freezing waters of the Pacific Ocean, sea otters have evolved to survive extreme cold. The fact that they have the thickest fur on the planet helps a lot! Two centuries ago, Russian and American fur traders saw a way to turn those dense, warm coats into profits. They hunted sea otters so aggressively that the creatures disappeared from the North Pacific by the early 1900s. In 1911, laws were passed to protect sea otters. In the late 1960s, the National Park Service began to introduce sea otters to a few select places in southern Alaska. Protected by endangered species laws and provided with habitats full of sea urchins and scallops, sea otters began to recover. Today, Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park is a sea otter hot spot. Visitors can sometimes see otters resting together by holding paws and wrapping themselves in kelp to keep from drifting away.

A refuge is a place providing protection.

Feral describes an animal that has escaped from captivity or domestication.

Running Free

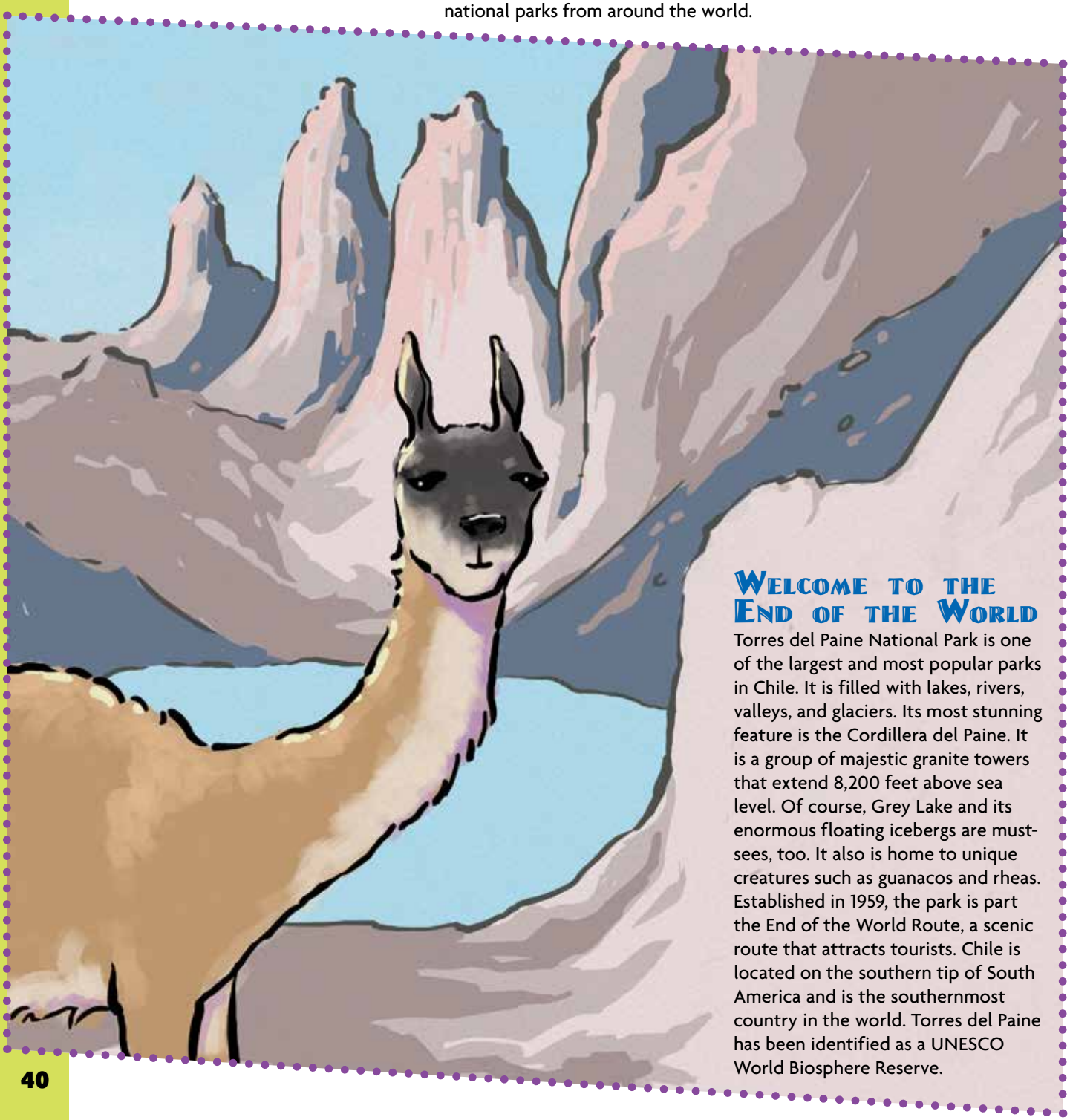
An estimated 2 million mustangs once roamed the western United States. Over the years, a combination of habitat loss and government programs shrank the mustangs' numbers. By the 1960s, efforts were underway to protect them. Today, a portion of the Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area in Montana and Wyoming became one of the last protected places for mustangs in the United States. Working together, the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service provide the animals a refuge to roam freely in the Pryor Mountains Wild Horse Range. Although mustangs are called "wild horses," that term isn't quite true. Mustangs are feral animals descended from domesticated horses. The Pryor Mountains mustangs are in a biologically and historically unique category. Their ancestry is believed to be a mixture of the different escaped horses of ranchers, homesteaders, and traveling Native American people.

GOING GLOBAL

illustrated by Bryan Langdo

Remarkable Natural Places

The United States is not the only nation determined to preserve its natural places. Here's a look at a few unique national parks from around the world.

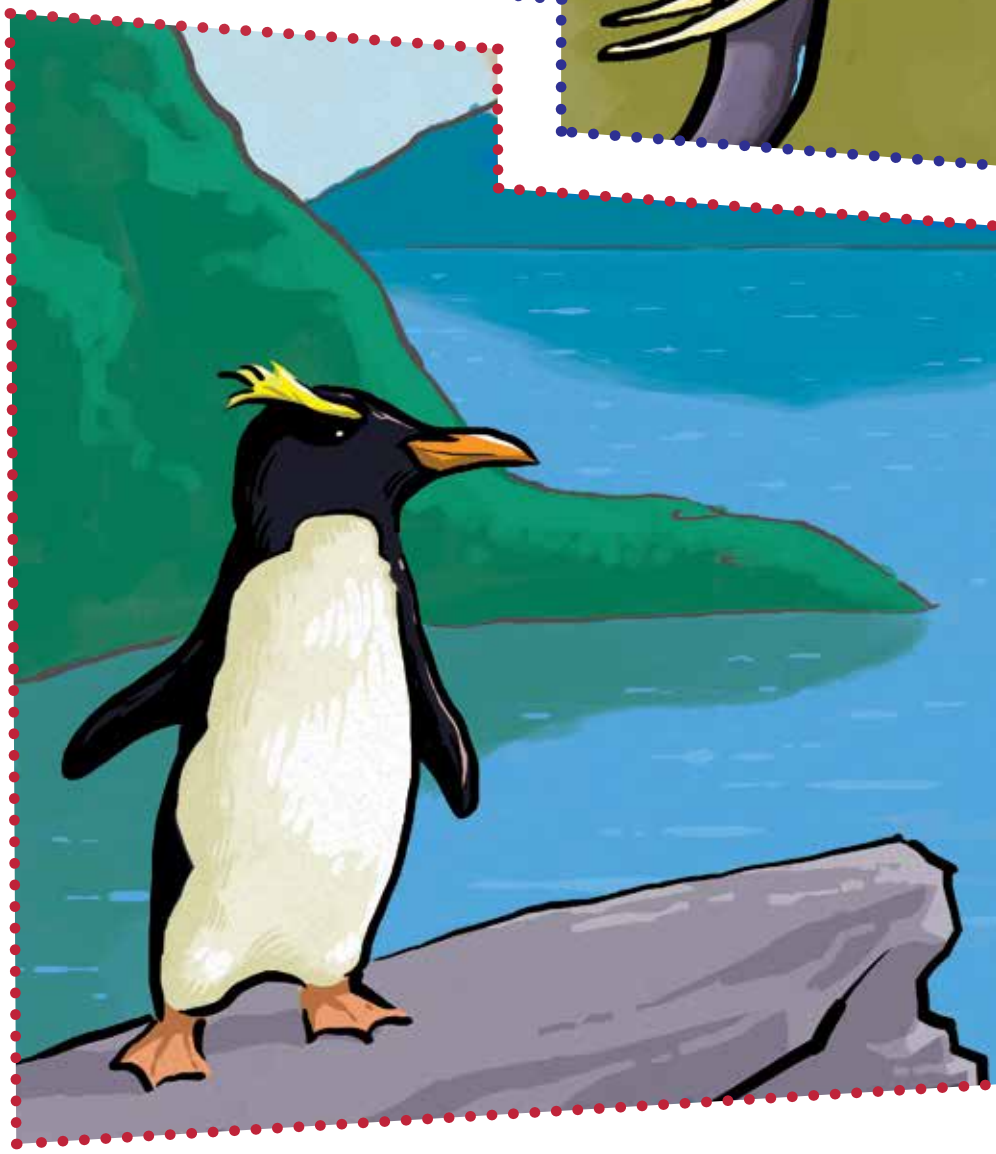


Welcome to the End of the World

Torres del Paine National Park is one of the largest and most popular parks in Chile. It is filled with lakes, rivers, valleys, and glaciers. Its most stunning feature is the Cordillera del Paine. It is a group of majestic granite towers that extend 8,200 feet above sea level. Of course, Grey Lake and its enormous floating icebergs are must-sees, too. It also is home to unique creatures such as guanacos and rheas. Established in 1959, the park is part the End of the World Route, a scenic route that attracts tourists. Chile is located on the southern tip of South America and is the southernmost country in the world. Torres del Paine has been identified as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.

Where Wildlife Roam Free

The Maasai Mara National Reserve in Narok, Kenya, is a world-renowned wildlife reservation. It is next to another famous park, Tanzania's Serengeti National Park. The reserve was named for the Maasai people, whose ancestors originally inhabited the area. It initially was established as a wildlife sanctuary in 1961. Over the years, sections of it have been added and removed. Today, it is famous for the Great Migration—the movement of large herds of animals, including gazelles, topis, wildebeests, and zebras—through it. It also is home year-round to Cape buffalo, elephants, lions, rhinoceroses, and tigers. Visitors are drawn to the reserve for the chance to view big game in their natural habitat.



Best of New Zealand

Of New Zealand's 14 national parks, Fiordland is the largest. It initially was established as a reserve in 1904 before officially becoming part of the country's newly created park system in 1952. Fiordland National Park offers visitors mountain hikes and lakeshore walks. Visitors can take in views of majestic waterfalls and fjords. It is home to Lake Hauroko, New Zealand's deepest lake. Piopiotahi/Milford Sound captures an area carved by glaciers. Another major natural attraction is Sutherland Falls, some of the world's highest waterfalls. A variety of endangered creatures live in the park. They include several native, flightless birds such as the takahe, kakapo, Fiordland penguin, and southern brown kiwi.

SAY WHAT?

exploring the origins of words and sayings

Today, the National Park Service (NPS) uses 19 naming designations to refer to its sites. But before the NPS was created in 1916, the first sites often were identified as **parks**, **monuments**, or **reservations**.

Today, a **park** can refer to anything from a playground for children to a parcel of land where office buildings are grouped together. Historically, however, parks were large medieval game preserves. They were set aside for hunting—mostly deer. The enclosed hunting grounds often were attached to huge private estates. Over the centuries, as populations and cities grew, large tracts of privately held land were opened to the public. Former hunting parks became places for people to go to enjoy nature. When creating the original national parks, the United States became the first country to set aside land specifically to preserve natural environments for future generations. U.S. parks were places where animals were protected. The word **park** derives from the Old French *parc*, which means "game preserve" or "enclosed tract of land."

A **monument** is "something venerated for its enduring historic significance or association with a notable person or thing from the past." The word derives from the Latin words *monumentum* ("memorial") and *monere* ("to remind").

A **reservation** is "a tract of land set aside by the federal government for a special purpose." A **reserve** means "something set apart or kept back for a special use or purpose." Those words derive from the same Latin word, *reservare*. It means "to keep back."

Similar to **park,** the historic use of the word **ranger** referred to "the keeper of a royal forest or park." It has grown to mean "a warden employed to maintain and protect a forest or other natural area." The NPS employs just under 2,000 full-time and seasonal park rangers.

Nature is defined as "the world of living things and the outdoors." Another meaning of the word is "a primitive state of existence, untouched and uninfluenced by civilization or artificiality." It derives from the Latin words *natura, natis,* and *nasci,* which refer to "birth" or "to be born." Related words are **natal** ("of, relating to, or accompanying birth"), **nascent** ("coming into existence, emerging"), and **natality** ("birthrate").

The **Department of the Interior** was established in 1849. At first, it was called the Home Department. It was created to handle the nation's domestic affairs. Prior to its creation, the three original executive branch departments—State, Treasury, and War—divvied up the nation's internal responsibilities. For example, the State Department managed the U.S. Patent Office. The War Department managed the Indian Affairs Office. The Treasury Department managed the General Land Office. Those offices, along with Land Reclamation, Geological Survey, Fish and Wildlife, and others became the responsibility of Interior. And the National Park Service was added in 1916.

FAST FACT

Today, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is an agency within the Department of Commerce.

FREEZE FRAME

Before Theodore Roosevelt became president, he was an avid outdoorsman who understood the value of outdoor spaces. As the 26th U.S. president (1901–1909), he used his authority to protect the nation's natural features. He added 150 million acres to national forests. He designated the first 55 wildlife refuges. He authorized federal protection for the first 18 national monuments. He set an example for future U.S. leaders of how to protect the nation's unique spaces. Today, the National Park Service maintains a number of sites related to Roosevelt. They are:

- Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site, New York, New York
- Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, Oyster Bay, New York (ABOVE)
- Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, Buffalo, New York
- Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota
- Theodore Roosevelt Island, Washington, D.C.
- Mount Rushmore National Monument, South Dakota

YOUR LETTERS

Happy Earth Day!

Laurissa Metz, age 10
Spring Grove, Pennsylvania

Let's Celebrate

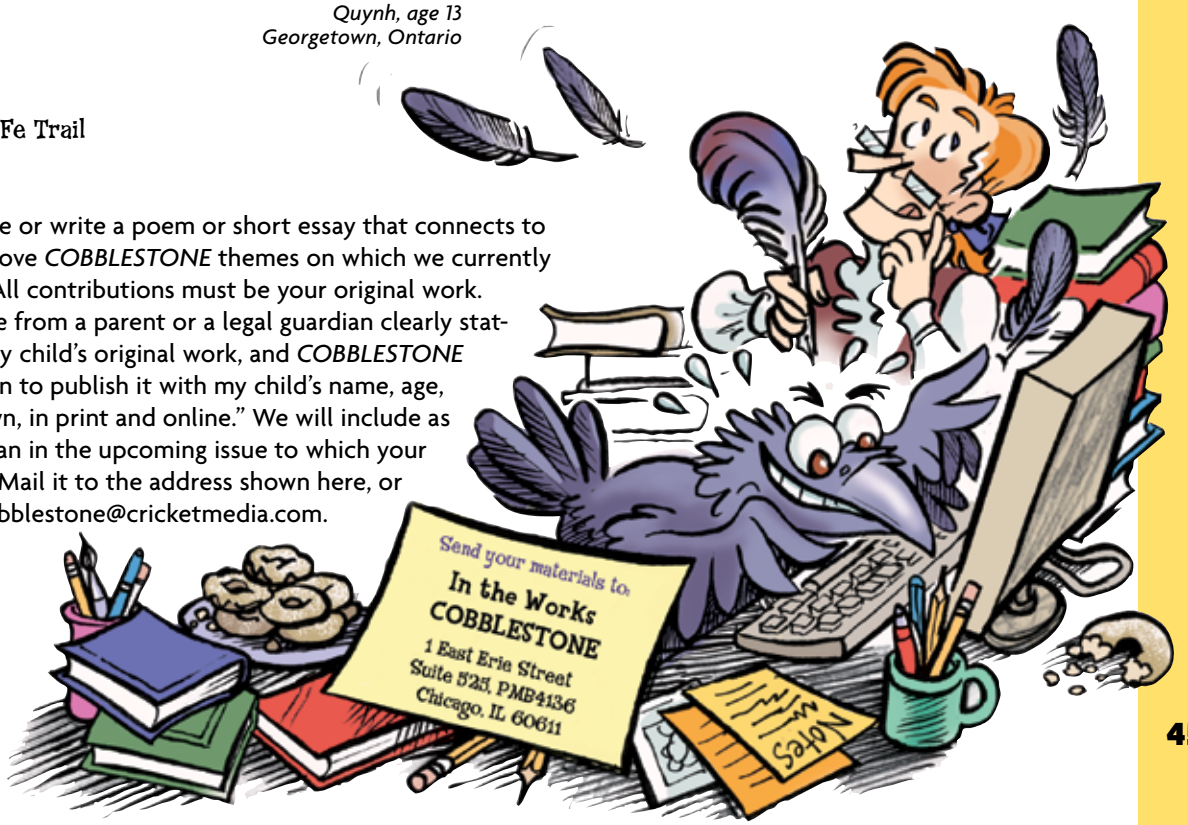
Zoe Powell, age 11
Knoxville, Tennessee

For the Planet

Quynh, age 13
Georgetown, Ontario

On the Santa Fe Trail
Electricity

Draw a picture or write a poem or short essay that connects to one of the above *COBBLESTONE* themes on which we currently are working. All contributions must be your original work. Include a note from a parent or a legal guardian clearly stating: "This is my child's original work, and *COBBLESTONE* has permission to publish it with my child's name, age, and hometown, in print and online." We will include as many as we can in the upcoming issue to which your work relates. Mail it to the address shown here, or email it to cobblestone@cricketmedia.com.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

by Ebenezer

The website for the National Park Service (NPS) does a lot. It has to when its job is to connect millions of people with more than 400 sites! The main website—**www.nps.gov**—offers general information. It also provides a place to begin exploring the NPS's many offerings. It's as simple as clicking on the provided map. Or you can search for a site by choosing a state, an activity, or a topic. Or you can type the name of a specific park into a search window. Once you are directed to a site, you'll see prompts to "Plan Your Visit" and "Learn About the Park." Each site also posts alerts about closures or renovations. You can access information about local weather and directions. Of course, each site includes the history of its origins and the people who were instrumental in its creation. Websites also share must-see features within the park as well as activities to enjoy. Many individual NPS sites also offer virtual tours.

DR. D'S MYSTERY HERO

by Dennis Denenberg

COMMUNITY LEADER

This month's mystery hero was a resident of Richmond, Virginia, for most of her life. Her 30-year home in the Jackson Ward neighborhood of the city was designated a National Historic Site in 1978. On guided tours, National Park Service rangers describe how the child of a former enslaved woman became one of the first African American women to charter a bank and become its president.

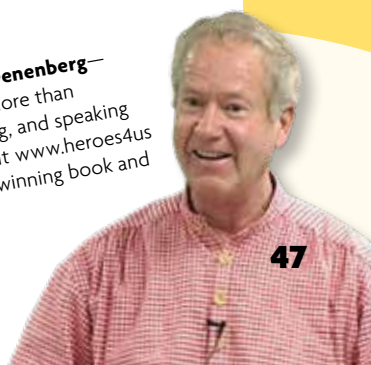
Born in 1864, our mystery hero showed how determination can lead to success. It was not easy to grow up as a Black child after the Civil War (1861–1865) in the Confederacy's former capital. Our hero's widowed mother started a laundry business to earn money. After school, our teenaged hero delivered the clean clothes to white customers. She saw how unequal life was between white and Black people.

A major turning point in our hero's life occurred when she was 14 years old. She learned about an organization called the IOSL: the Independent Order of St. Luke. It started as a burial society to help sick and older Black people. It expanded to help freedpeople gain financial growth and improve their lives. The group became the main focus in our mystery hero's life.

Our hero eventually became the leader of the organization. She oversaw the IOSL as it grew from 1,000 members to more than 100,000. One of her many accomplishments was starting a Juvenile Branch to attract younger members.

By the early 1900s, our hero was one of the most influential Black business leaders in the country. Her bank—the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank—survived the great stock market crash of 1929, when many other financial institutions failed. Before she died in 1934 at age 70, our hero also had become famous for her support of Black civic organizations and women's rights. Can you guess her name? Answer on page 49.

Charter means to get authorization to start or found an organization or entity.



"Dr. D"—also known as **Dr. Dennis Denenberg**—loves history and real heroes. For more than 20 years, he's been writing, teaching, and speaking about heroes all over America. Visit www.heroes4us.com to learn all about his award-winning book and his Hero-Virtue trading cards.

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JUST FOR FUN

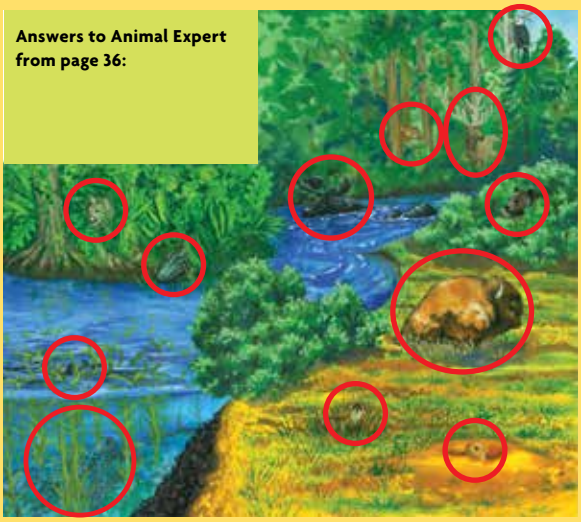
Hey, kids!

We're looking for a funny caption for this photo. Send your idea, name, and address to: Just for Fun, *COBBLESTONE,* Cricket Media, 1 East Erie Street, Suite 525, PMB4136, Chicago, IL 60611, or email it to cobblestone@cricketmedia.com. Include a note from a parent or a legal guardian clearly stating: "This is my child's original work, and *COBBLESTONE* has permission to publish it with my child's name, age, and hometown, in print and online." If your caption is chosen, we'll mail you a copy of the issue in which it appears.

March Winners!

Answers to A Park for Everyone from page 22:
1. A. Thomas Edison National Historical Park; **2.** B. Ellis Island, part of Statue of Liberty National Monument; **3.** C. Everglades National Park; **4.** D. Wright Brothers National Memorial; **5.** E. Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site; **6.** F. Golden Spike National Historical Park; **7.** G. Devils Tower National Monument; **8.** H. Pearl Harbor National Memorial; **9.** I. Gettysburg National Military Park; **10.** J. Casa Grande Ruins National Monument.

Answers to Animal Expert from page 36:



Answer to Dr. D's Mystery Hero from page 47: Maggie L. Walker

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CREATURE FEATURE

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The Rock Rabbit

Meet the American pika. It is a small furry animal that averages about eight inches in length and weighs less than a half pound. It has large ears and no visible tail. It is in the same family as rabbits and hare, but it lives in the high, rocky mountains of the American West. For those reasons, it also is known as the "rock rabbit." The coloring of its fur helps it blend into its surroundings, making it difficult for predators to spot it. Like its larger cousins, the American pika is an herbivore—it eats mostly plants. It may become the first national park animal to be categorized as endangered because of climate change. You see, the American pika is sensitive to heat. When the temperature of its cool habitat rises above 75 degrees Fahrenheit—even for a short time—it can die. And higher temperatures are being measured in mountain regions. Those increases have resulted in pikas disappearing from their natural habitats.