



Public lands and national parks

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for Upper Elementary

Target audience – Upper elementary

Time required – 15 minutes

Activity	Analyze the importance of conservation through the creation of the National Park Service in the United States.
Standards	<p>C3:D2.Geo.2.3-5. Use maps to explain relationships between the locations of places and regions and their environmental characteristics.</p> <p>CCSS:ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.7. Interpret information presented visually and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.</p>
Learning Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will investigate and analyze the importance of conserving and preserving the natural environment through the creation the National Park Service in the United States.

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/fourGeoInquiry10>



Engage

What is a national park?

- Click the map URL link above to open the map.
- From the Details pane, click the button, Show Contents Of Map.
- ? What are the names of the layers on this map? [*USA National Parks and USA Federal Lands*]
- In the Details pane, click the Show Map Legend button.
- Federal and public lands are owned and controlled by the government. This land could include the forest service, department of defense, and national parks.
- ? How are these areas represented on the map legend? [*They are color-coded.*]
- A national park is a park officially recognized by a nation's government, established to protect the animals that live inside them, natural resources, or the land itself.
- ? How are national parks represented on the map? [*They are represented by brown dots.*]
- Have students share the names of any national parks that they know of or have visited.



Explore

When and where were the original national parks created?

- From the Details pane, click the button, Show Contents Of Map.
- Click the checkbox to the left of the layer name, Federal Lands - Square Miles By State.
- ? Where are the majority of the national parks located? [*In the western U.S.*]
- ? Which states have the most national parks? How many parks do they contain? [*California and Alaska each have eight.*]
- Hover the mouse over the layer name, USA National Parks. Click the button, Show Table.
- Click the Est_Year column header and select Sort Ascending.
- The table is now organized in chronological order of park creation.
- ? What was the name of the first national park and when was it established? [*Yellowstone, 1872*]
- Click a nearby national park, and notice that the selected park is highlighted in the table.
- What year was it created? [*Answers will vary.*]

Explain

Why was the National Park Service created?

- ? What is the definition of conservation? [*The protection and wise use of natural resources.*]
 - Theodore Roosevelt is known as the conservationist president.
- ? Using the table, what parks were created during his presidency (1901-1909)? [*Crater Lake, Wind Cave, and Mesa Verde*]
- Close the table by clicking the X in the upper-right corner of the table.

Elaborate

What would happen if we did not have a National Park Service?

- Open the Federal Lands - Square Miles By State layer's legend by clicking the layer name.
- ? Where are the largest areas of federal lands located? [*In the western U.S. in California and Nevada*]
- ? Why is it important to conserve and protect the natural areas of a country? [*Answers may include: once land is settled, it can never return to its original state, wildlife needs to be protected against hunting to extinction, and forests need protection from deforestation.*]

IDENTIFY A MAP FEATURE

- Click any feature on the map, and a pop-up window will open with information.
- Links and images in the window are often clickable.
- An arrow icon in the upper-right of the window indicates that multiple features have been selected. Click the button to scroll through the features.

TURN A MAP LAYER ON AND OFF

- Make sure that the Details pane is visible.
- Click the button, Show Contents Of Map.
- To show a map layer, click the check box to the left of the layer names.
- Hint: If a map layer name is light gray, zoom in or out on the map until the layer name is black. The layer can now be turned on.

Next Steps

DID YOU KNOW? ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to U.S. public, private, and home schools as a part of the White House ConnectED Initiative. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at <http://connected.esri.com>.

THEN TRY THIS...

- Use an ArcGIS Online organization subscription for schools and create a hot spot map to extend the study of national park locations.
- Explore national parks through a story map of live web cameras at <http://esriurl.com/Geo541>.



TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these texts

- *States and Regions by Harcourt Brace* — Chapter 12
- *Science by Harcourt* — Chapter B