

**A Walk In The Parks**  
Michelle Jaconette, Noel Gikling, Emmanuel Parello  
Fourth Grade  
High Tech Elementary

During this semester-long project, students researched one of the 63 US National Parks specifically focusing on highlighting information that other fourth graders would enjoy learning about each park, as well as uplifting stories of the indigenous communities that first lived on and took care of this land. As part of their research process, students wrote letters to park rangers at each of their national parks to gather information. We also went on an overnight camping field trip to our nearest national park, Joshua Tree, to experience firsthand the beauty that these parks aim to preserve. Throughout the pages of this book you will find an overview of each park, information about ecology and recommended activities for kids and families to enjoy. Through the “Every Kids Outdoors” program, all fourth graders and their families in the United States have free access to all US National Parks for one year. We hope this book inspires other adventurers to explore and help protect our beautiful park system!

**Teacher Reflection**

Aside from learning all about the beautiful national parks in our country, my biggest learning takeaway from this project was the power a published book has in terms of promoting high-quality student work. Knowing that their writing would be professionally published, students worked hard to craft thoughtful and informative paragraphs. I would absolutely have students create a book as a final product again for this reason alone. For future iterations of this project I would love to have more experts involved sooner and involve them in giving us feedback on our work along the way. The help and support we received from the US National Park Service was instrumental in launching our project, but including experts throughout the project instead of just at the beginning would help build a stronger partnership between our students and the national park community.

—Michelle Jaconette

**Student Reflections**

I learned that national parks are amazing and there is a lot to learn about each of them.

—Sumi N.

I learned that there are special layouts for making books!

—Benjamin L.

My favorite part of this project was when we got to Zoom meet with a park ranger who helped us launch our project!

—Penelope S.

To learn more, visit [hthunboxed.org](http://hthunboxed.org) & [hthgse.edu](http://hthgse.edu)



**NATIONAL PARK**

Shrey Pon

ack... range in... (The text is partially obscured and difficult to read.)



**GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK**

Ryan Kimball

**G**uadalupe Mountains National Park is located in the northern part of Texas. It was established in 1922. The park is known for its colorful mountains and fossils.



**INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL PARK**

Milana Lin & Emily Peloso

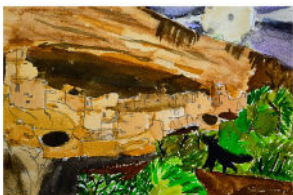
**I**ndiana Dunes National Park is located in Indiana. It is known for its sand dunes and scenic views.



**NATIONAL PARK**

Emilio & Noel Gikling

and... (The text is partially obscured and difficult to read.)



**MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK**

Hunter Allen & Matteo Oliviero-Barnatt

**M**esa Verde is a national park in Colorado. It is known for its ancient cliff dwellings and rock art.



**VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK**

Olivia Lorenzi

**V**irgin Islands National Park is located in the Virgin Islands. It is known for its beautiful beaches and coral reefs.