

A Walk In The Parks

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4th 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 4th 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 4th 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

Student Reflections

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

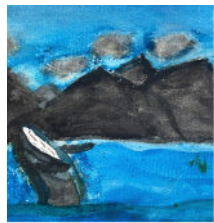
—Sumi N

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



GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

Aubrey Pon

As you reach the top of Glacier Bay and visit the snow, and in the summer you can go whale watching. In the winter it is very cold and makes a lot of snow when in the spring/summer, it gets very hot and humid. The idea of Glacier Bay was to celebrate the peace between the United States and Canada.



GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Ryan Kimball

Guadalupe Mountains is in Texas and was established on September 30, 1922. One thing is that this park is Mesquite, Apache. They like to call themselves the also-bird. Some animals you can find at Guadalupe Park are the grey fox, mountain lion, short-horned lizards, and mule deer. You can hike to the top of Guadalupe Peak, Dog Canyon Canyon, Pine Springs Water Center, Salt Bush Dunes, the Peruvian Reef Trail, Guadalupe River, and McKittrick Canyon. The Guadalupe Peak is the highest point in Texas, at 8,751 feet in the air.



INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL PARK

Milana Lin & I

Indiana Dunes is one of the most recent parks to be added to the park system but just because it took so long doesn't mean it's not amazing. The park is on the Southern shore of Lake Michigan and is a hiker's paradise. You can ride your bike along the 15 miles of pristine coastline but going on a hike is the best way to see all the sites. One fun



VIKING ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Milva Lerario

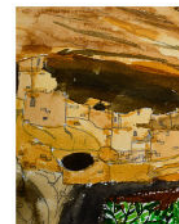
Since the season hasn't started yet and the weather is nice, if you visit you might see sea turtles, interesting birds, the sweet, sweet oranges, lemons, limes, and fish. One of the most interesting things about the island is the underwater museum called the Viking Shipwreck. You'll visit the Viking Islands to experience culture



JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

Emmanuel Parello & Noel Gikling

Southern California's Joshua Tree National Park extends more than 1,200 square miles across both the Colorado and Mojave deserts. The Serrano, Mojave, Cholla, Cholla, and Mojave are just a few of the trees that have called these deserts home; however, people have lived here for more than 5000 years. In addition to the



MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

Hunter Allen & Matt

Mesa Verde is a national park in Colorado and is most famous for its ancient cliff dwellings called cliff dwellings. Mesa Verde was named into a National Park on June 29, 1906 when President Roosevelt wanted to protect its cultural heritage. Today you can come to Mesa Verde yourself and see the cliff dwellings. Some cliff