



The National Park Service protects and preserves some of the most important natural and historical treasures in the United States. You may have never noticed, but the



NPS arrowhead emblem tells the story of what rangers protect at every National Park site.

Let's discover the treasures at the park where you are by exploring each element of the NPS arrowhead.

park name

year park created

reason park established



History/Culture

The United States is filled with incredible stories that date back thousands of years. One of the NPS goals is to uncover, preserve, and share those stories with visitors.

What is the oldest object or structure you can find? How old is it?



Plant Life

Plant life is the foundation of every ecosystem. Trees provide shelter, flowers support pollinators, grasses feed herds. Some parks are built around special plants (Saguaro, Joshua Tree, Sequoia), but all plants are important.

Big or small, what plant life do you see? How do you think it supports the ecosystem?



Scenery/Recreation

The trails you hike, the lakes you paddle, the vistas you view, and the campgrounds where you pitch your tent are part of the NPS's mission to provide meaningful recreation opportunities to all people.

What kinds of recreation opportunities can you find? Can you find ways that the NPS has made recreation possible for people who visit?



Wildlife

From great herds of bison to the smallest skittering beetle, the NPS protects the living creatures within the park. Every animal in the park is part of the ecosystem that rangers are preserving.

Pretend you are a *wildlife biologist ranger* and make a count of the animals you see.

mammals	birds	reptiles/ amphibians	arthropods (bugs)



National Park Service

One of the most important resources of the National Park Service is the team of rangers. Rangers do all kinds of work in the parks including, interpretation & education, law enforcement, maintenance, science, trail work, and more.

Look for NPS employees doing different jobs. Ask about their job. What do they do?