

NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS



HOW LONG DID IT TAKE TO CARVE MOUNT RUSHMORE?

Let's go on a journey to visit our nation's parks and monuments from the East to the West Coast. We'll see breathtaking shorelines, enormous canyons, and towering mountains. We'll travel down rivers and hike along historic scenic trails. Open the pages to explore the beauty, science, and history of our great land.

Written by Marilee Joy Mayfield



WHERE IN THE UNITED STATES CAN YOU FIND VOLCANOES?



HOW MANY PEOPLE VISIT NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS EACH YEAR?



WHAT IS THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY?

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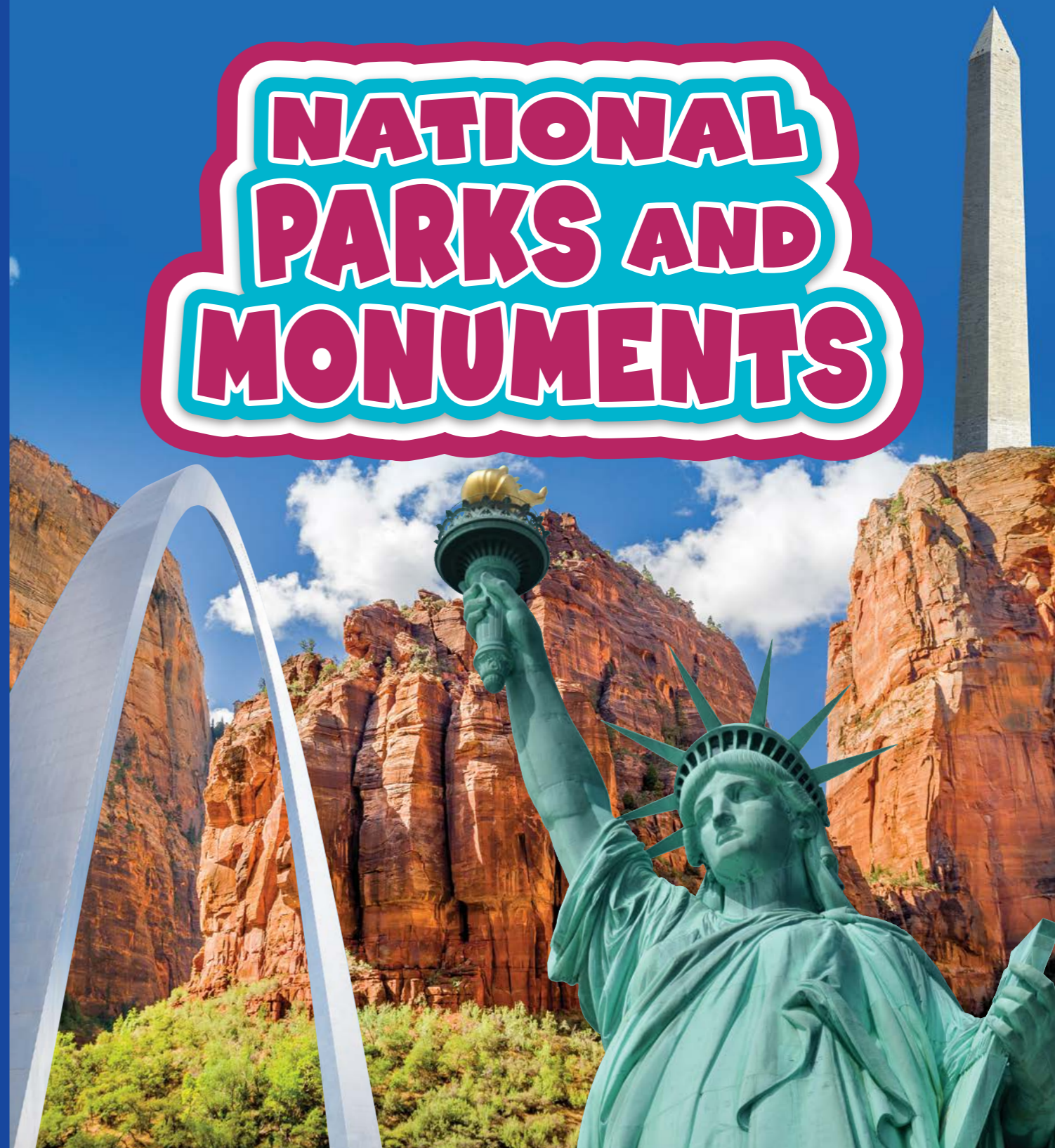
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HOW DEEP IS THE GRAND CANYON?

NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS

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GIBBS SMITH

LEARN ABOUT U.S. NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS WITH MAPS AND FUN FACTS!

NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS: PROTECTING, PRESERVING, EDUCATING

DID YOU KNOW?
In 2016, the National Park Service relied on approximately 22,000 paid employees and 340,000 volunteers!



Shenandoah National Park



Arches National Park



Yellowstone National Park



Grand Canyon



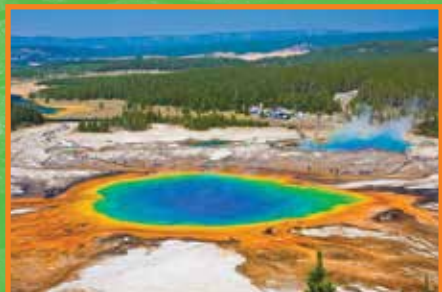
Grand Teton National Park



The White House

America's national parks, monuments, and memorials are some of our greatest treasures. More than 140 years ago, the United States formed the world's first national park, when in 1872, Congress set aside a huge section of land in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming to establish Yellowstone National Park. Other countries soon followed suit and the idea of preserving important places for future generations was born.

At the beginning, the mission of the parks was to ensure that some lands preserved the pristine beauty that they had had when they were first seen by the American colonists. Over time, the reasons to nurture, preserve, and protect these amazing areas have grown.



The Grand Prismatic Spring in Yellowstone National Park is a popular attraction.



Appalachian Trail, Roan Mountains on Blue Ridge Peaks

Our national parks and monuments protect the biodiversity that it took our planet billions of years to achieve. As we develop more and more areas for people to live and work and our human population grows, it's more important than ever to ensure that native plants and animals have habitats where they can thrive.

In addition, these protected areas provide a wealth of outdoor activities that city dwellers can enjoy. They showcase the very best of nature and its wildlife before industrialization left its mark on the land. In addition to providing the

best opportunities to experience nature, the beauty and peace that these areas have enrich our well-being not only on a physical level, but on a cultural and spiritual level as well.

National parks and monuments also provide an "outdoor classroom" where all types of opportunities for learning occur from understanding the mysteries of volcanic geology to witnessing the history of the Civil War. Citizens in the United States



Cannon stand ready at the Gettysburg Battlefield National Military Park.



Visitors stroll on the approach concourse to the Mt. Rushmore National Monument.



are not the only ones who appreciate the beauty, science, and history of our national parks and monuments. More than 62 million international visitors come to the United States every year to see our country's beauty and to visit our iconic symbols of democracy.

The images and shape of the National Park Service's official emblem symbolize the invaluable aspects of our national parks. The sequoia tree and bison represent plants and animals; the mountains and water represent scenery and recreation; and the arrowhead itself represents history and archeology.

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

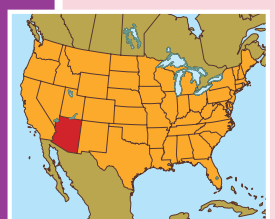
DID YOU KNOW?
 The average depth of the canyon from top to bottom is 1 mile (1.6 kilometers).



Enjoy a hike on South Kaibab Trail in the Grand Canyon.

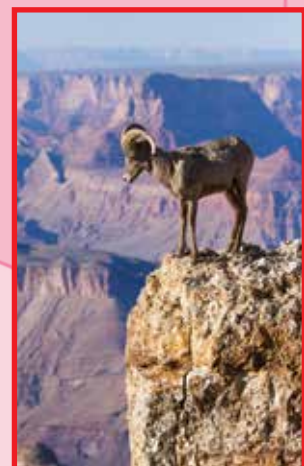
The Grand Canyon is one of the most breathtaking scenic wonders in the world. It looks as if a giant ripped open the Earth to expose the colorful strata of oranges and reds. In reality, the twenty layers of rock formations are the result of erosion.

Grand Canyon National Park
Located: Arizona
Established as a Monument: 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt
Later Established as a Park: 1919
Size: 1,217,262 acres / 4,926 sq km
Extra Fact: The Grand Canyon is 277 miles (446 km) long.



About 40 million years ago, the Colorado River began flowing through what was then a plateau. Over millions of years it eroded the rock, leaving a pathway of huge openings. At the same time, forces under the Earth's surface began to push the surrounding land higher.

Because the canyon is so deep, the weather at the top of the canyon might be cold, windy, and snowy, while at the same time the bottom might have blossoming flowers and warm breezes.



Bighorn ram standing on the edge.

Horseshoe Bend in the Grand Canyon is a popular hiking, camping, and boating destination.



The rock layers that are visible in the walls of the Grand Canyon tell the story of Earth's history. There are about 40 layers in all. The top layer is 200 million years old. The bottom layer is

almost 2 billion years old! The layers in between were created at varying intervals. By studying these layers, scientists can learn a lot about things that happened in Earth's distant past.



The walls of Cape Royal seem to glow at sunset.

DID YOU KNOW?
 At its widest point, the Grand Canyon is 18 miles (29 km) across.



The Toroweap Overlook is the only point in Grand Canyon National Park where you can look straight down at the Colorado River.

CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL

The Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota is a tribute to the culture, traditions, and living heritage of all North American Indians. Started nearly 70 years ago, this enormous rock carving is planned to depict the Oglala Dakota warrior Crazy Horse riding a horse and pointing into the distance. At present, only the warrior's face is complete. The carving site is open to the public and accepts donations to fund the sculpture's ongoing progress.



© Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation



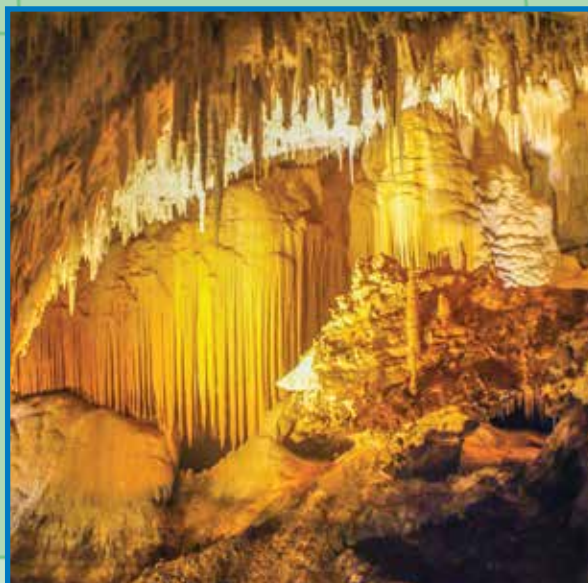
© Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation

A Native American performs for a crowd in the Black Hills.

Images provided by the Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation

Located: South Dakota
Work Begun: June 3, 1948
Face Height: 87 feet, 6 inches (26.7 m)

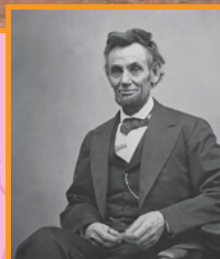
JEWEL CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT



The third-longest cave known in the world, Jewel Cave has 182 miles (293 kilometers) of passageways that have been mapped. The cave has calcite crystals, which look like hanging jewels. In addition to these crystals, the walls of the cave have lots of different formations, including the very rare hydromagnesite balloon.

Located: South Dakota
Established: 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt
Size: 1,273 acres/5 sq km

LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



At 6 foot 4 inches (1.93 m), Lincoln was the tallest U.S. president.

This home, purchased by President Abraham Lincoln and his wife Mary Todd in 1844, was the only home that Lincoln ever owned. Lincoln's son donated the home to the State of Illinois in 1887 on the condition that it be maintained well and open to the public free of charge. The site includes four blocks surrounding the home as well as a visitor center.

Located: Illinois
Established: 1971 by President Richard Nixon
Size: 12 acres/0.05 sq km

DID YOU KNOW?

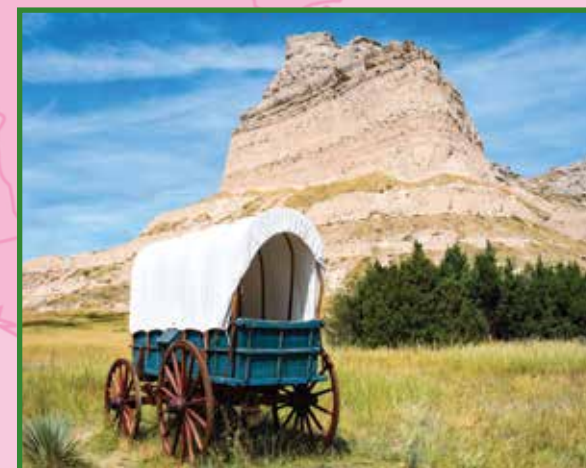
Lincoln was responsible for the National Bank Act in 1863 that resulted in a standard currency.



SCOTTS BLUFF NATIONAL MONUMENT

Bluffs are steep, rocky hills that rise from plains. The Scotts Bluff National Monument in Nebraska includes many of these formations, including the 800-foot-tall (244-m) Scotts Bluff, for which the monument is named. Used for centuries as a landmark for westward travelers, the Scotts Bluff formations today are best known for their scenic views and bare, rocky walls, which hold fossils and many other geologic treasures.

Located: Nebraska
Established: December 12, 1919
Size: 3,005 acres/12 sq km



BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK



DID YOU KNOW?

Langford Hot Springs alongside the Rio Grande River has water that's about 105 degrees Fahrenheit (41° C), just like a hot tub!



Santa Elena Canyon is one of the best-known natural features in Big Bend National Park.

Big Bend National Park is located in the Chihuahuan Desert of West Texas. The park is over 800,000 acres in size, bigger than the state of Rhode Island. It's an amazing mix of beautiful desert scenery with rugged mountains cut by river canyons.

Big Bend National Park

Located: Texas

Established as a Park: 1944 by President Franklin Roosevelt
Size: 801,163 acres / 3,242 sq km

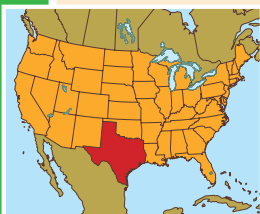
Extra Fact: Big Bend National Park is one of the most remote parks in the United States. El Paso is the nearest major city and it's 300 miles (483 km) away.

The Santa Elena Canyon is one of three major canyons in the park. This canyon is created by the famous Rio Grande River that winds its way through the park and forms the natural border between Texas and Mexico. The canyon's limestone walls are 1,500 feet (457 m) high. The Sierra Ponce wall is part of Mexico and the Mesa de Anguilla wall is part of Texas.

One of the most interesting natural rock formations is the balanced rock at the end of the Grapevine Hills Trail. It's a well-known Texas landmark.



"Balanced Rock" formation in the Grapevine Hills section



EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK



DID YOU KNOW?

The Everglades is the only place worldwide where both the American alligator and American crocodile live in the wild.



The largest tropical wilderness in the United States, the Everglades is a mangrove and rainforest ecosystem. Although it's frequently described as a marsh or a swamp, the Everglades is actually a river that's filled with different types of grasses and moves extremely slowly. The water begins from Lake Okeechobee and trickles from north to south. This "river of grass" is 60 miles (97 kilometers) wide at points and 100 miles (161 kilometers) long. One of the common grassy plants is called sawgrass for a reason. It has blades that are so sharp they sometimes cut through clothing.

The Everglades has nine distinct habitats and is home to many endangered animals that live on land, such as the Florida panther, and in the water, such as the Atlantic Ridley sea turtle and the West Indian manatee. The park is also home to 350 documented species of water birds.

Everglades National Park

Located: Florida
Established as a Park: 1947 by President Harry Truman
Size: 1,508,976 acres / 6,107 sq km
Extra Fact: At one time, the Everglades provided a boundary between two Native American tribes, the Calusa and the Tequesta.



Atlantic Ridley sea turtle



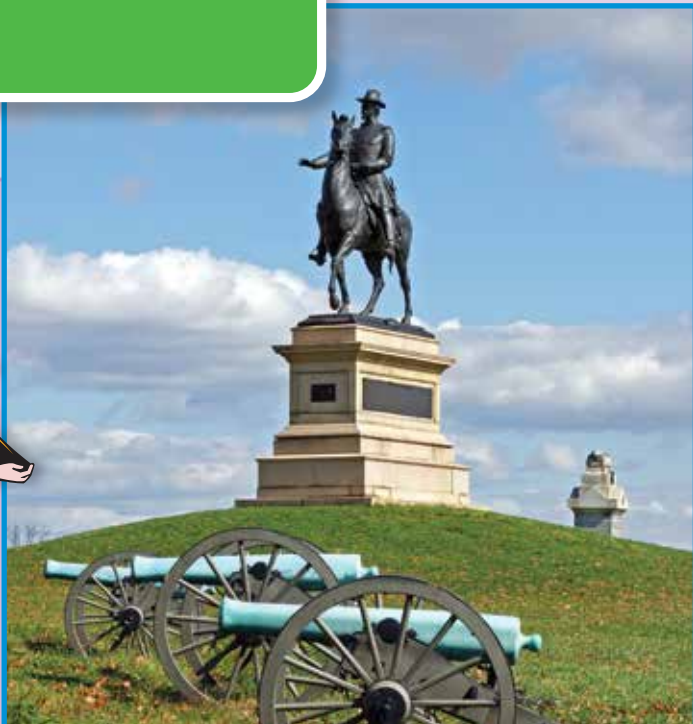
West Indian manatee



GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

DID YOU KNOW?

Every July on the anniversary of the battle, it is reenacted by "soldiers" who fire cannons and other authentic weapons.



This monument to Major General Winfield Scott Hancock at Gettysburg National Military Park was dedicated in 1896 by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Gettysburg National Military Park

Located: Pennsylvania
Established as a Park: 1895 by Congress
Size: 6,033 acres/24 sq km
Extra Fact: The Gettysburg Address, one of the most famous speeches in history, is only 272 words long.

Gettysburg National Military Park is the location of the turning point of the Civil War, which happened on July 1–3 in 1863. It was the second time Confederate general Robert E. Lee had invaded the north, but the Union proved victorious. The victory came at great cost. Gettysburg was the bloodiest battle of the war with 51,000 casualties. The park has over 1,400 monuments, and memorial statues are placed across the huge battlefield. Most of the monuments stand where the military units actually fought.

The Soldiers' National Cemetery was dedicated on November of 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln presented his now-famous Gettysburg Address.



Gettysburg Cannons sit on Seminary Ridge.



MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK



This bronze statue of a Minuteman in Concord, Massachusetts, was sculpted by Daniel Chester French from melted down Civil War cannons.

Minute Man National Historical Park stretches between the towns of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. It commemorates the first battles of the American Revolutionary War, which occurred here on April 19, 1775. The park is named for the Minutemen, a special branch of the colonial militia that fought these battles. The Minutemen were volunteers who drilled often and were required to keep their weapons handy at all times so they could be ready to fight on a minute's notice—thus the nickname.

Minute Man Park includes many sites of interest, including Concord's Old North Bridge, where the famous "shot heard 'round the world" was fired; the Battle Road Trail, a five-mile (8 km) pathway that traces the Minutemen's route; several memorial monuments; and many historic homes that stood on the day the fighting rolled through.



Old North Bridge was the site of the first American victory in the Revolutionary War on April 19, 1775.

Minute Man National Historical Park

Located: Massachusetts
Authorized as a National Heritage Area: September 21, 1959
Size: 961 acres/3.9 sq km
Extra Fact: One of the park's historic houses was the home of author Louisa May Alcott, famous for writing the Little Women books.



HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK



DID YOU KNOW?

A group of warriors and their families were killed when Kilauea erupted in 1790. Their footprints can still be seen.

Halemaumau crater emits volcanic fumes on the summit of the active volcano Kilauea.

This park is on Hawaii's "Big Island" and offers a dramatic view of two of the most active volcanoes in the world—Kilauea and Mauna Loa. Mauna Loa, which means "long mountain," is the older and much larger of the two. Measured from its base, which is 18,000 feet (5,486 meters) below sea level, it's taller than Mount Everest in height.

It's the Earth's most massive single mountain. Kilauea, which means "spreading, much spewing" is located on Mauna Loa's southeastern slope. Visitors can travel on trails close to cinder cones, huge pits, and hot lava.

On Kilauea's slopes, there are vibrant green rainforests that are edged by recent flows of lava. At the shoreline, fresh lava flows over jagged cliffs to join the sea, sending up huge clouds of hot steam.

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

Located: Hawaii

Established as part of Hawaii National Park: 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson - Renamed 1961

Size: 323,431 acres/
1,309 sq km

Extra Fact: Since Kilauea's eruption in 1983, it has created more than 500 acres of new land to the island of Hawaii.

Kilauea Volcano lava flow sends 2,000-degree-Fahrenheit (1,093-degree-Celsius) magma through a lava tube to spill into the ocean.



KENAI FJORDS NATIONAL PARK



DID YOU KNOW?

About 50% of the land in the park is covered by ice.

Porcupine Bay

Named for its fjords, which are deep inlets of the sea between high cliffs, this park is the smallest in Alaska, but offers some of the most dramatic scenery. The central feature of the park is the Harding Icefield. There, the ice is up to a mile (1.6 km) in thickness, and covers an area of over 700 square miles (1,813 sq km). The icefield feeds almost three dozen glaciers that flow out of the mountains, six of which are tidewater glaciers. During the Pleistocene era, much of the state was covered with an enormous sheet of ice.

These ancient sheets of ice carved out the fjords. The dramatic cliffs separated by the sea offer habitats for many different types of sea creatures and seabirds. Twenty different species of seabirds nest in the rocky cliffs along the coast, including the lively clown-faced puffins. Bald eagles and peregrine falcons soar over the towering cliffs.



Horned Puffin



Humpback Whale breaching

Kenai Fjords National Park

Located: Alaska

First Established as a Monument: 1978 by President Jimmy Carter

Later Established as a Park: 1980

Size: 669,984 acres/
2,711 sq km

Extra Fact: The park is home to many different kinds of mammals including Alaskan moose, Canadian lynx, brown bears, and black bears.

