

Yosemite National Park became the first park designated by the United States Congress in the late 1800s. It was created to give people natural lands to enjoy. Many people worried that the settlers moving west would damage the lands of America. President Roosevelt later set aside land in Florida as a nature preserve. Pelican Island National Wildlife Reserve became the first bird refuge in 1903.

The National Parks System was created in 1916. President Woodrow Wilson created it to protect and keep up the 40 parks that had been created. Today, there are over 350 areas and 83 million acres of protected land. These include parks and monuments, as well as seashores and lakeshores. There are also other areas of historical or ecological importance. These places give visitors a sense of what life was like before the United States was settled.

There are so many things people can do in parks throughout the country. They can honor those that died on battlefields to protect our country. They can backpack into canyons and observe the wonders of nature. They can camp, raft, and hike, or visit monuments of great people from history.



## Project

Research one of the refuges, monuments, or parks protected by the National Parks System. Create a travel brochure highlighting its history and attractions.

## Materials

- research materials (books, magazines, Internet)
- writing paper
- pencil
- colored pencils

## Directions

1. Use the reference materials to learn about the different places that are protected by the National Parks Service.
2. Choose an area to research further.
3. Learn what you can about that location. Find out about its history, when it became a protected place, why it was chosen, who advocated for it, where it is located, and what visitors can do and see if they travel there.



**For the Teacher**  
Show students how to fold a piece of paper into a trifold for a brochure.

4. Create a brochure advertising the location you chose. Begin by folding a piece of white construction paper into thirds. Make sure you include as much information as you can as well as illustrations.
5. Share your brochure with the class.