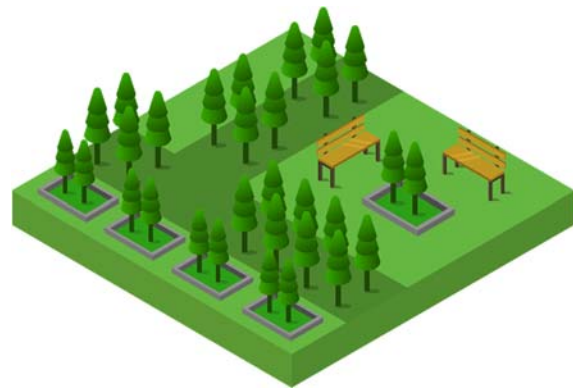


Name _____



Nature's Playgrounds

Did you know that the United States is home to some of the most beautiful and unique landscapes in the world? These amazing places are protected and preserved in what we call national parks. Let's embark on a journey to discover these incredible natural wonders and learn about their special features.

1. **Yellowstone National Park:** Yellowstone was the first national park in the world, established in 1872. It's famous for its geysers, hot springs, and bubbling mud pots. The most famous geyser in Yellowstone is Old Faithful, which erupts with a tall column of hot water and steam approximately every 90 minutes.
2. **Grand Canyon National Park:** The Grand Canyon is a massive, colorful gorge carved by the Colorado River. It's so deep that you could stack two Empire State Buildings on top of each other and they still wouldn't reach the rim of the canyon! Visitors can hike along the rim or take a mule ride down into the canyon for an unforgettable adventure.
3. **Yosemite National Park:** Yosemite is known for its stunning waterfalls, massive granite cliffs, and giant sequoia trees. One of its most famous waterfalls is Yosemite Falls, which is one of the tallest waterfalls in North America. El Capitan, a sheer granite rock face, attracts rock climbers from all over the world.
4. **Great Smoky Mountains National Park:** This park is famous for its lush forests and the "smoky" mist that often hangs over the mountains. It's home to a diverse range of wildlife, including black bears, deer, and wild turkeys. The park's biodiversity is astounding, making it a great place for nature lovers.
5. **Acadia National Park:** Located on the coast of Maine, Acadia is a stunning mix of rocky coastline, dense forests, and crystal-clear lakes. Cadillac Mountain, within the park, is the highest peak on the U.S. East Coast, and it's the first place to see the sunrise in the United States.

Name _____

Nature's Playgrounds

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Which national park is famous for its geysers, including Old Faithful?
 - A) Grand Canyon National Park
 - B) Yosemite National Park
 - C) Great Smoky Mountains National Park
 - D) Yellowstone National Park
2. What is the Grand Canyon known for?
 - A) Waterfalls
 - B) Dense forests
 - C) A colorful gorge
 - D) Crystal-clear lakes
3. Which national park features massive granite cliffs and giant sequoia trees?
 - A) Acadia National Park
 - B) Great Smoky Mountains National Park
 - C) Yellowstone National Park
 - D) Yosemite National Park
4. What is special about Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park?
 - A) It's the first place to see the sunset.
 - B) It's the highest peak on the U.S. East Coast.
 - C) It's famous for its hot springs.
 - D) It's home to black bears.
5. In which year was Yellowstone National Park established as the world's first national park?
 - A) 1776
 - B) 1872
 - C) 1920
 - D) 1956