



# The Mini Page

**Next Week:**  
Visiting  
manners

Issue 45, 2024

Founded by Betty Debnam



## Spectacular Beauty

photos courtesy NPS

Some of the most glorious places on Earth belong to **you**. These amazing sites are all part of our national park system.

For Geography Awareness Week, Nov. 11-17, The Mini Page takes you on a tour of a handful of America's most beautiful and varied natural sites.

### The Grand Canyon

Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona has deep canyons cut out by the Colorado River over millions of years. Its layers of rock go down as far as 6,000 feet and date from close to 2 billion years ago to today.

The park sits on the ancestral homelands of 11 present-day tribal communities, including the Havasupai and Navajo people.

### Glacier Bay

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in Alaska was covered by ice just 200 years ago. The bay then was a small 5-mile break in a glacier that was 20 miles wide, 100 miles long and 4,000 feet thick in places. Only about one-fourth of that area is still under ice today.



Harbor seals hang out on the ice in front of a glacier.

Visitors to Glacier Bay might hear the howls of wolves, icebergs "burping,"

The Mini Page © 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication

### Mini Fact:

Visitors view the breathtaking Grand Canyon at sunset from Mather Point.

### Denali

The highest mountain in North America, Denali, at 20,310 feet, is in Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska. "Denali" means "high one" in the language of the Athabascan native people.



Mount Foraker is about 17,000 feet high.

The park and preserve cover more than 6 million acres, with forests, tundra, glaciers and snow. Grizzly bears, wolves, caribou, Dall sheep and moose make their homes in the park, along with many species of smaller mammals and birds.

### Dry Tortugas

Seven islands made of coral reefs and sand form the Dry Tortugas off the west coast of Florida. "Tortugas" is Spanish for "sea turtles." The islands were discovered by explorer Ponce de Leon in 1513. Explorers named them "dry" because they have no fresh water for drinking.



The park was established in 1992 to protect the islands and marine ecosystems surrounding them. Visitors must use seaplanes or ferries to access the islands; cars are not allowed.

humpback whales and harbor seals calling and moose grunting.

### Assateague Island

Wind and waves are always building up or tearing down the land on Assateague (ASS-uh-teeg), off the shores of Virginia and Maryland. Storms can change the shoreline in a few hours.

Assateague is famous for its wild horses called **Chincoteague** ponies. They may be the descendants of horses brought over by Colonists in the 1600s. The horses are not technically ponies; their short size comes from the salty diet they eat. About 75 horses live on the island.



### Yellowstone

Yellowstone National Park, in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, is home to wildlife such as wolves and grizzly bears.

Yellowstone is best known for its hot springs and **geysers** (GUY-zerz). A geyser is a fountain of boiling water and steam. Yellowstone has more than 1,200 geysers, of which about 465 are active in any given year.



Old Faithful is the most popular geyser at Yellowstone.

## Resources



### On the Web:

- nps.gov

### At the library:

- "Geography Facts for Sharp Minds" by Sharp Minds Learning

## Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of national parks are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



- ASSATEAGUE, BAY,
- BEAUTY, CANYON,
- CHINCOTEAGUE,
- DENALI, GEOGRAPHY,
- GEYSER, GLACIER,
- GRAND, HORSE, ICE,
- ISLAND, NATIONAL,
- PARK, TORTUGAS,
- TRIBAL, YELLOWSTONE.

N	C	P	Q	T	E	S	R	O	H	A	O	U	X	R
A	A	E	N	O	T	S	W	O	L	L	E	Y	J	E
T	N	Z	G	E	O	G	R	A	P	H	Y	E	C	I
I	Y	C	H	I	N	C	O	T	E	A	G	U	E	C
O	O	I	D	X	L	A	B	I	R	T	L	B	K	A
N	N	J	H	C	H	Y	T	U	A	E	B	V	R	L
A	F	H	E	U	G	A	E	T	A	S	S	A	A	G
L	D	N	A	R	G	A	R	E	S	Y	E	G	P	T
X	I	L	A	N	E	D	S	A	G	U	T	R	O	T
J	J	Y	P	K	I	S	L	A	N	D	Y	A	B	Y

## Cook's Corner

### Oven-Roasted Potatoes

#### You'll need:

- 2 large russet potatoes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- Salt and pepper

#### What to do:

1. Wash, peel and cut potatoes into wedges (like big french fries).
2. Place potato wedges in large bowl and coat with oil, then sprinkle with thyme.
3. Lay potato wedges in a single layer in a baking pan with edges.
4. Bake for 30 minutes at 450 degrees. Turn after 15 minutes. Serves 4.



\* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

## 7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. walk aimlessly (6) \_\_\_\_\_
2. paid for (6) \_\_\_\_\_
3. noise from a team's fans (5) \_\_\_\_\_
4. cloth from a plant (6) \_\_\_\_\_
5. a place that lends books (7) \_\_\_\_\_
6. group of sheep (5) \_\_\_\_\_
7. connect (6) \_\_\_\_\_

CHE	BR	BO	CK
ARY	WAN	ACH	TON
ATT	ER	FLO	DER
UG	COT	HT	LI

Answers: wander, bought, cheer, cotton, library, flock, attach.

## Mini Jokes



**George:** Why is it easy to get into Florida?

**Gina:** Because there are so many keys!

## Eco Note



Saudi and American researchers have discovered a new "grumpy" fish species swimming among the coral reefs of the Red Sea. Despite its small size — less than 1 inch in length — the grumpy dwarfgoby stands out with its long canines and fierce expression. The team first encountered the species in the Farasan Banks of Saudi Arabia. The fish's bright red coloration helps it blend in with the walls and overhangs of the coral reefs, while its large canines are used to catch passing prey.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

### For later:

Look in your newspaper for ideas about how to celebrate Geography Awareness Week.

**Teachers:** Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



### Wonderword Puzzle Books

Millions enjoy Wonderword every day... are you one of them? Get lost in the most essential, habitual and enthralling puzzle!



WonderWordBooks.com,  
or call 800-642-6480 for more information.

The Mini Page © 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication

©2024 Blue Ox Technologies, Ltd. Download the app on Apple and Amazon devices.