

Our Public Lands



photo courtesy NPS

From Pelican Island, Florida, to Yosemite National Park in California, public lands belong to all of us. These lands make up almost one-third of all the land in the United States. That is more than 600 million acres!

Public lands include:

- city and state parks you play in.
 - greenways you walk and run on.
 - national monuments that remind us of famous people or events.
 - national forests to fish and hike in.
 - national parks, where you can explore and camp.
 - national seashores to swim and play in.
 - national wildlife refuges, where you can watch protected birds and animals.
 - military bases that protect our country.
- This week, The Mini Page learns more about our country's public lands.



photo courtesy NPS

Yellowstone National Park, in parts of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, was the world's first national park. Congress created it in 1872.

This land is your land

Presidents and Congress, and state and local governments, set aside public lands. National parks are just one kind of public land.

President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt was a hunter, camper and explorer. On his trips, he saw how people were destroying the land. He worried about where songbirds would live without forests and grasslands.

Roosevelt was president from 1901 to 1909. He created the U.S. Forest Service to watch over our national forests.

He also created:

- five national parks
- 18 national monuments
- 51 national wildlife refuges



Photo by Anthony Quintano

Central Park in New York City was America's first great urban, or city, park. Visitors can play on its athletic fields and playgrounds and visit a zoo. Woods, lakes and grassy fields are set aside so people can escape from city sounds and sights.

Protecting public lands

All U.S. public lands need care. We can help by taking care when we visit and leaving behind only footprints.

These are a few of the many agencies, or groups, that protect our public lands.

• The Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages about one-eighth of the land of the United States. BLM lands provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, help the nation meet its need for energy and minerals, and preserve natural, cultural and historical resources.



• The National Park Service

Our 59 national parks are managed by this group. The NPS also manages important historical sites and monuments.



• The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fish, wildlife, plants and the places where they live are all part of the 560 national wildlife refuges protected by this agency. It also operates fish hatcheries and special "field stations" to protect nature.



• The Forest Service

The service protects the national forest system, including 155 national forests and 20 grasslands. It is the largest forest research agency in the world.



Resources



On the Web:

- nps.gov
- fws.gov
- blm.gov
- www.fs.fed.us

Try 'n' Find

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

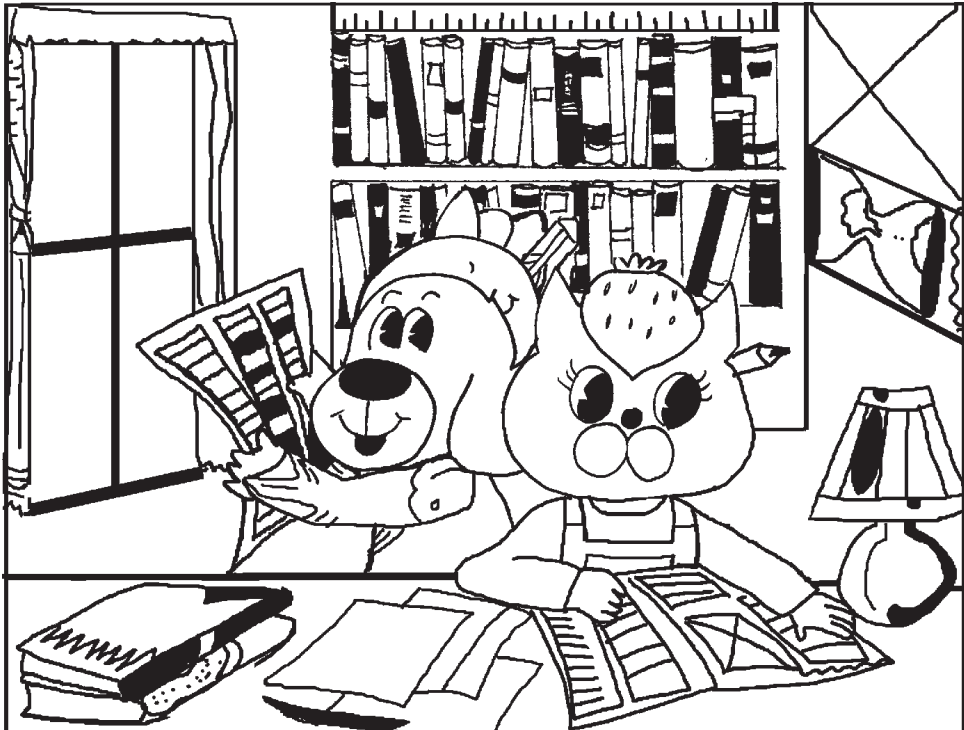


BASE, BUREAU,
CONGRESS, FISH, FOREST,
LAND, MANAGEMENT,
MEMORIAL, MONUMENT,
NATIONAL, PARK,
PRESIDENT, PROTECT,
PUBLIC, REFUGE,
ROOSEVELT, SEASHORE,
SERVICE, URBAN,
WILDLIFE.

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

Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and Basset Brown are working on the school's newspaper. See if you can find the hidden items. Then color the picture.



Mini Spy Classics appear in the first issue of each month.

Based on materials originally produced and/or created by Betty Debnam.

Hey Mini Spy Fans! Order your Mini Spy Booklets (Volumes 1, 2 and 3) with 48 of your favorite puzzles! Visit MiniPageBooks.com, or call 844-426-1256 to order. Just \$4 plus \$1 shipping.

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| • man in the moon | • exclamation mark | • comb | • fish | • ruler | • peanut |
| • two kites | • sailboat | • hourglass | | • pencil | |
| • letter l | • number 7 | • strawberry | | • number 8 | |
| | | • arrow | • carrot | • question mark | |

Mini Jokes



Lenny: Why are saddles so hard to get along with?

Lance: They tend to stirrup trouble!

Eco Note



Trees can tell us a lot about climate change. **Climate** is the average weather conditions in a place over 30 years or more. Trees can live for hundreds or even thousands of years. A tree's rings can tell us how old the tree is and what the weather was like during each year of the tree's life. Tree rings usually grow wider in warm, wet years, and thinner in years when it is cold and dry. If the tree has experienced stressful conditions, such as a drought, it might hardly grow at all in those years.

adapted from climatekids.nasa.gov

For later:

Look through your newspaper for stories about public lands.

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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