CULTURE

NATIONAL PARKS

FACT FILE National Parks

Most countries have beautiful natural places. These places can be mountains, valleys, deserts, beaches, etc. You can see different animals and plants there. People look after them so everyone can enjoy them.

1 **Discuss the questions in pairs.**

1 What is a national park?
2 Have you ever been to one?
3 Can you name a national park in your country?
4 What can you see there?

2 **Where is Yellowstone National Park? What do you know about it? Read the text and check your ideas.**

3 **Match the texts 1–5 with the photos A–E.**

Yellowstone National Park

1 Yellowstone is one of the oldest national parks in the world. It is in the USA in the states of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. It is also a biosphere reserve – a special national park with interesting and unusual plants, animals and landscapes. In Yellowstone, men and women called park rangers look after the animals and plants.

2 Yellowstone is on the site of a very big, ancient supervolcano. The volcano is 640,000 years old and its landscape is amazing. There are large forests and some trees are over 200 years old. The Yellowstone River gives the park its name, but there are many other rivers. The Yellowstone River is in a deep valley called the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone.

3 Over 3 million people visit the park every year and they come to see the hundreds of geysers. These are hot-water fountains that come up out of the ground. Visitors also enjoy the beautiful lakes, where they can swim, fish or go canoeing.

4 There are 67 types of animals in the park, not including birds or water creatures. There are sheep, bison and bears. You don't often see bears because they stay in the forests and mountains, but bison often walk down the roads in the park!

5 Yellowstone is usually cold and dry, but there are sometimes forest fires, so you have to be careful when you have a picnic there. In winter, it is very cold. In summer, it is warm during the day, but at night it can be below 0° C. People need warm clothes when they are camping in the park.











LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (✗)?

1 Yellowstone is part of one state in the USA.
2 Park rangers protect the animals and plants in Yellowstone.
3 Yellowstone has a famous glacier.
4 The park contains very old plants.
5 The geysers in the park are popular with tourists.
6 You can't go in the water in the park.
7 People regularly see bison in the park.
8 The temperature can be very different on summer days and nights.

5 Find words in the text that match the definitions.

1 different from others (paragraph 1)
2 keep safe (paragraph 1)
3 very old (paragraph 2)
4 fantastic (paragraph 2)
5 travel in a small type of boat (paragraph 3)
6 animals in general (paragraph 4)
7 a meal outside (paragraph 5)

6 What can you see on a walk in Yellowstone Park? Make a list. Then, listen and check your ideas.

7 Listen and complete the information about two guided walks in Yellowstone Park.

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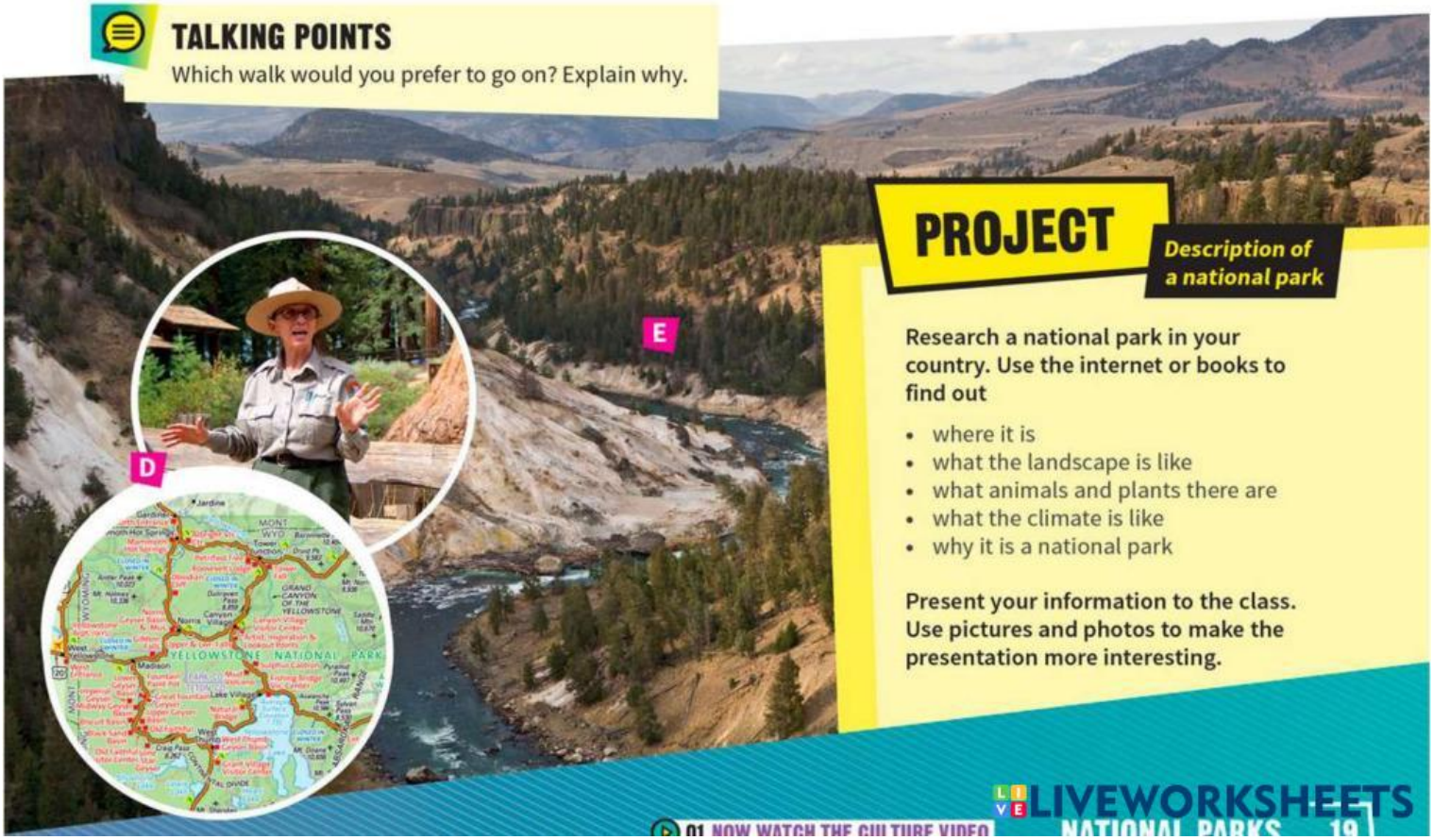
	Mount Washburn	Mystic Falls
Leave hotel at	10 am	[4] _____ am
Transport	bus	bus
Lunch	sandwiches, [1] _____ and cold drinks	hamburgers and chicken
Things to take	a light jacket and a camera	a [5] _____
Landscape you see	the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone and the Teton Mountains	In Biscuit Basin there are geysers and hot-water pools and a [6] _____ in Mystic Falls.
Animals you see	[2] _____ and maybe foxes	bison
Arrive back at	4 pm	[7] _____ pm
After trip activity	a [3] _____ about geography	a meeting to share photos

TALKING POINTS

Which walk would you prefer to go on? Explain why.



PROJECT

Description of a national park

Research a national park in your country. Use the internet or books to find out

- where it is
- what the landscape is like
- what animals and plants there are
- what the climate is like
- why it is a national park

Present your information to the class. Use pictures and photos to make the presentation more interesting.

LIVEWORKSHEETS