

# History of National Parks



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Beginnings: Westward Expansion

By the mid 1800's American settlers were moving west discovering new landscapes. They made land claims in \_\_\_\_\_, California, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. The land was so different than the East Coast and Europe. They decided that these natural sites would make good spots for \_\_\_\_\_ and recreation.

In 1855, a British man named \_\_\_\_\_ and two Indian guides visited Yosemite valleys and began writing articles promoting Yosemite's scenic wonders.

Yosemite became so popular that President \_\_\_\_\_ put it under protection during the Civil War.

Yosemite was not the first National Park. In 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant declared \_\_\_\_\_ the first ever national park.

In 1890, John Muir, a Scottish American Naturalist, successfully convinced \_\_\_\_\_ to protect the Yosemite area.

Muir would continue to have a major influence on the creation and preservation of new parks, along with President \_\_\_\_\_.

## Creation of National Park Service

National parks were springing up all over the country. But it wasn't until 1916 that President \_\_\_\_\_ signed an act to establish a National Park Service run by the federal government.

The Organic Act gathered the \_\_\_\_\_ national parks and the \_\_\_\_\_ national monuments into a federal system.

## The National Park Service Today

For the next two decades, Congress expanded the national parks system adding the Grand Canyon, \_\_\_\_\_, Acadia, the Great Smokey Mountains, and Shenandoah to the list of national parks.

Today, the national park service still works with communities across America, preserving nature, local history, and providing the \_\_\_\_\_ with places to explore, learn, and reflect.