

YELLOWSTONE

Virtual Field Trip



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Hi! I'm Michelle McDonald

I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Education with a double major in Secondary Social Studies Education, and Elementary Education K-8. I have a minor in Communication Studies with an emphasis in Intercultural Communications. I taught 1st grade for five years before making the switch to middle school where I taught 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. I currently am a board member with the Washington State Council for the Social Studies. I recently stepped out of the classroom to support teachers through curriculum design and mentorship.

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If you are looking for Social Studies related inspiration, consider following me on Instagram [@mrsmcdonaldsclassroom](#)

Check out my blog, [Strategic Educational Services](#) for ideas and strategies to implement in your K-8 classroom.



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP

Overview: In this lesson students will use Google Earth and multiple print and digital sources to quickly draw information to answer questions pertaining to Yellowstone National Park.

Set Up:

- ☐ Print the Reading Passage & Park Pass
- ☐ Print Google Earth Shortcut Reference sheet (optional)
- ☐ Print Grading Rubrics
- ☐ Print Dive Deeper (extension worksheet)
- ☐ Reserve laptops/computers/tablets for your class
- ☐ Headphones for watching the videos (optional)

Implementation:

Your students will work independently or in pairs to complete this virtual field trip. You will need to have access to Google Earth and several websites (listed on the Park Pass sheet). Google Earth can be launched easily if students use Chrome as the browser or if using a tablet opening the Google Earth App. *You will want to check ahead of time to ensure that the websites are not blocked on your school server.*

You may want to show your students some of the navigation features of Google Earth. Specifically, the first person perspective is important. There is a Google Earth Shortcuts Reference sheet provided.

Students begin by reading a short passage about Yellowstone National Park. The reading passage provides background information. Students will work together (or independently) to complete and fill out the information on the Park Pass sheet. All instructions and websites are listed on the website.

The Dive Deeper extension worksheet is a great way for students to analyze and learn more about the significance and history of bison in Yellowstone.

Common Core Alignment:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.7](#)

Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.7](#)

Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7](#)

Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

YELLOWSTONE

Virtual Field Trip

GOOGLE SLIDES

To open in Google Slides use the link below.


Be sure to have your students

MAKE A COPY before they begin the field trip.

Answer keys are NOT included 😊

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1RRkxdv9CcKeLbIN-htgxnPO6fS-S1YjEO6a-Fl8fxmU/copy>

GOOGLE EARTH KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Action	Shortcut (Windows & Linux)	Shortcut (Mac)
Move left	Left arrow	Left arrow
Move right	Right arrow	Right arrow
Move up	Up arrow	Up arrow
Move down	Down arrow	Down arrow
Rotate clockwise	Shift + Left arrow	Shift + Left arrow
Rotate counter-clockwise	Shift + Right arrow	Shift + Right arrow
Tilt up	Shift then click and drag down	Shift + Down arrow
Tilt down	Shift + Up arrow Shift then click and drag up	Shift + Up arrow
See first-person perspective 	Ctrl then click and drag	⌘ then click and drag
Zoom in	+	+
Zoom out	-	-
Zoom plus automatic tilt	Right-click and drag up or down	Ctrl then click and drag up or down
Stop current motion	Spacebar	Spacebar
Reset to north-up view	n	n
Reset to top-down tilt	u	u
Center Earth	r	r
Show/hide Overview window	Ctrl + m	⌘ + m

Name: _____

National Parks Virtual Road Trip

	1	2	3	4
Participation/ Team Work	Student did not participate or contribute	Student somewhat participated and contributed	Student participated most of the time and made significant contributions	Student participated in the activity the entire time and made significant contributions
Accuracy	The work was not completed with accuracy	The work was completed with some accuracy	The work was mostly accurate	The work was completed with accuracy
Thoroughness	The work was incomplete	The work was somewhat complete	The work was mostly complete	The work was thorough and complete

Score: _____

Name: _____

National Parks Virtual Road Trip

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National Parks Road Trip

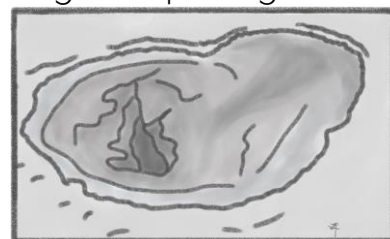
You are off on a road trip with friends to explore the National Parks. There are over 400 National Parks in the United States, and you decide to explore Yellowstone National Park. This park spans three states. You choose to visit the Wyoming section on this trip. You gather the following information at the visitor center.



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Where can you find the largest herd of wild bison in North America? Yellowstone National Park is home to not only bison, but the largest concentration of mammals in the lower 48 states. Yellowstone is a seasonal park with a complex ecosystem. This park spans the states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. People have been in Yellowstone for more than 11,000 years. The Tukudika people are the most well-known Native Americans to use the land before Euro-Americans began exploring the land in the 1800's. Yellowstone became a park in 1872.

There are many things to do at the park. From hiking, fishing, biking, camping, and nature-watching, there is something for



everyone. One of the most popular wonders to explore are the thermal basins. Visitors



can explore hot springs, mudpots, fumaroles, and geysers. Over half of the world's most active geysers are located within Yellowstone. Old Faithful, a cone shaped geyser in Wyoming, erupts approximately every 90 minutes. Park Rangers and volunteers work hard to protect the park.

Visitors can pledge to act responsibly and safely by staying on the trails, being bear aware, and stashing any trash.



Road Trip Friends: _____



START HERE

First, watch the video: <https://tinyurl.com/vjcpegy>



Using Chrome as your browser, launch Google Earth by going to: <https://www.google.com/earth> enter the following into the search bar exactly as it appears: **Old Faithful, Yellowstone National Park, WY, USA**

Finally, go to the following website:

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/bison.htm>

Watch the video before answering the questions.

How do bison adapt to the snow? _____

Describe the importance of bison to Native Americans? _____

Now, zoom out, and choose another hot spring nearby to explore.

Name of hot spring: _____

Description using at least 3 adjectives: _____

From the areal view, describe the landscape and surrounding area.

Now click the person figure. Drag and drop onto a blue dot or line. Describe the park from one or more of these locations.

Now, navigate to **Sapphire Pool, Wyoming**. Choose a blue dot (or line) to enter first person view. Describe this hot spring using a simile or metaphor.


Road Trip Friends: _____



START HERE



First watch the video: <https://tinyurl.com/vjcpegy>

Using Chrome as your browser, launch Google Earth by going to: <https://www.google.com/earth> enter the following into the search bar exactly as it appears: Old Faithful, Yellowstone National Park, WY, USA 

Finally, using your web browser, go to the following website:

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/bison.htm>

Watch the video and read the text before answering the questions.

How do bison adapt to the snow? A hump on the bison's back made up of bone and muscle allows for digging in the snow to find grass.

Describe the importance of bison to Native Americans? Bison meat provided food for Native Americans. The fur and hide were used for clothing, blankets, and teepee coverings. Bison was used in its entirety.

From the areal view, describe the landscape and surrounding area.

Firehole River runs near Old Faithful. There are several other geysers and hot springs nearby. However, trees and greenery are only found on the outskirts of the area.



Now click the person figure. Drag and drop onto a blue dot or line. Describe the park from one or more of these locations.

Answers will vary, depending on the location chosen.

Now, zoom out, and choose another hot spring nearby to explore.

Name of hot spring: Answers will vary

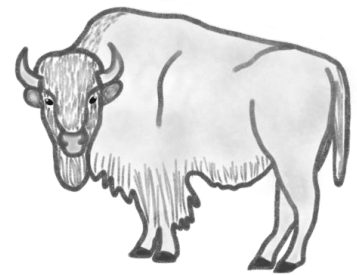
Description using at least 3 adjectives: The Black Opal Pool is made up of three bright blue pools. A sturdy pathway allows visitors to safely view the steaming hot springs.

Now, navigate to Sapphire Pool, Wyoming. Choose a blue dot (or line) to enter first person view. Describe this hot spring using a simile or metaphor.

Answers will vary. Sapphire Pool is as blue as the summer sky.

Name: _____

DIG DEEPER



To answer the questions, go to the following website:

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/bison.htm>

There were once 30 million animals on the frontier. Describe why and how the decline of bison correlates to the decline of Native American tribes.

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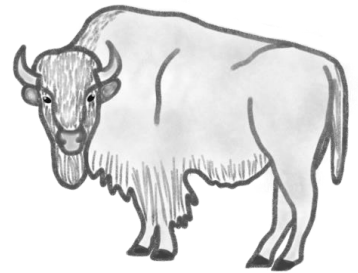
Complete the chart using information from the website listed above

All About Bison

Description	
Behavior	
Diet	
Predators	
Migration	
Conservation	

Name: _____

DIG DEEPER



To answer the questions, go to the following website:

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/bison.htm>

There were once 30 million animals on the frontier. Describe why and how the decline of bison correlates to the decline of Native American tribes.

Native Americans lived and were spread across North America. Bison were an essential meal source. When the United States began pioneering the western frontier, the military strategy was to remove the meat source, and conquer the Native Americans. Bison declined because they were killed in massive quantity, to a point where there were nearly extinct, with only 23-24 bison remaining in Yellowstone. This massive industry led to the decline in bison and simultaneously and negatively impacted Native Americans who were pushed off the land and lost an important source of sustenance.

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Complete the chart using information from the website listed above

All About Bison

Description	Largest land-dwelling mammal in North America. Bulls weigh around 2,000lbs, while cows weight around 1,000lbs. They are chocolate brown in color and have horns that curve upward.
Behavior	Active social animals that like to stay in herds. During rut, males display their dominance by bellowing and will fight other bulls.
Diet	Bison typically eat grasses, weeds, and grass like plants. They forage for around 9-11 hours per day. They also alternate between eating and ruminating.
Predators	Wolves and grizzly bears are the only predators.
Migration	Bison will move to lower elevations during the winter months where it is warmer. They will also stay near hot springs and thermal areas.
Conservation	Yellowstone has helped conserve the bison that were nearly extinct. The population has grown so much, that the challenge is now managing all of the bison.

LOOKING FOR MORE?

Take a road trip to the top 5 most visited parks!



NATIONAL PARKS

Virtual Field Trip

1 National Parks Road Trip

You are off on your first road trip with your friends to visit the top 5 most visited National Parks in the United States! Your first stop is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Here's some information you gathered from the visitor center.

GREAT The Great Smoky
are plenty of pla

START HERE Using Chrome

3 National Parks Road Trip

You hop back in the van for a 3 1/2 hour drive out of Arizona. You drive on US-89 N to the state of Utah to check out your next National Park adventure.

ZION NATIONAL PARK

A nature preserve that is distinguishable by its impressive red cliffs, Zion National Park is located in Southwest Utah. Free-flowing rivers, steep multi-hued sedimentary rock formed in natural arches, and diverse wildlife are just a few of the wonders that attract more than 4 million visitors from around the world each year. People have lived and used the resources of Zion for more than 8,000 years. Exploration by Euro-Americans occurred in the 1700's. In 1872, John Wesley

Launch Google Earth by going
enter the following into the
as it appears:
National Park

You choose to visit the
National Park on the North
Carolina side. Click on the
figure of a person. Blue
dots will appear. Drag and
drop your person to a blue
dot. Look around. Describe
what you observe.

the street view, zoom
and find another blue

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