

**Scenic Parks
Explorer
Slide Show**

Nevada



Nevada

- Statehood: 1864
- Capital: Carson City
- Name: Spanish for “snow covered mountain”
- Nickname: Silver State, Sagebrush State, Battle Born State
- Moto: All for Our Country
- Today’s economy: Tourism (legalized gambling), Mining (gold)

State Metal: Silver



State Flower: Sagebrush



State Gemstone: Opal



Mojave Desert



Mojave Desert

- Driest Desert in North America
- Rain: 13 inches (330mm)
- Very hot in summer 120+F (49+C)
- Death Valley: -280 feet (-85m), 134F (56C)
- High desert 2000-5000 feet (600-1500m)
- Animals: snakes, lizards, chipmunks, rabbits, mule deer, etc
- Plants: 1700+ species
- Borders: Where Joshua Tree grows

Joshua Tree



Joshua Tree

- Yucca family
- Only grow in Mojave Desert
- Height: up to 50 feet (15m)
- Roots: 36 feet (11m)
- Native American uses: sandals & baskets, seeds & flowers
- Name: Mormon settlers - Joshua raising his hands in prayer

Arizona



Arizona

- Statehood: 1912
- Capitol: Phoenix
- Name: Spanish word for “little spring”
- Nickname: Grand Canyon State
- Motto: God enriches
- Today’s Economy: copper $\frac{2}{3}$ US production, tourism, healthcare, transportation

Gemstone: Turquoise



Reptile: Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake



Neckwear: Bolo Tie



Utah



Utah

- Statehood: 1896
- Capitol: Salt Lake City
- Name: Ute Indians - “people of the mountains”
- Nickname: Beehive State
- Motto: Industry
- Settled by Mormons
- Today’s Economy: tourism, computer software, steel, copper, cattle, corn, wheat

State Insect: Honey Bee



State Rock: Coal



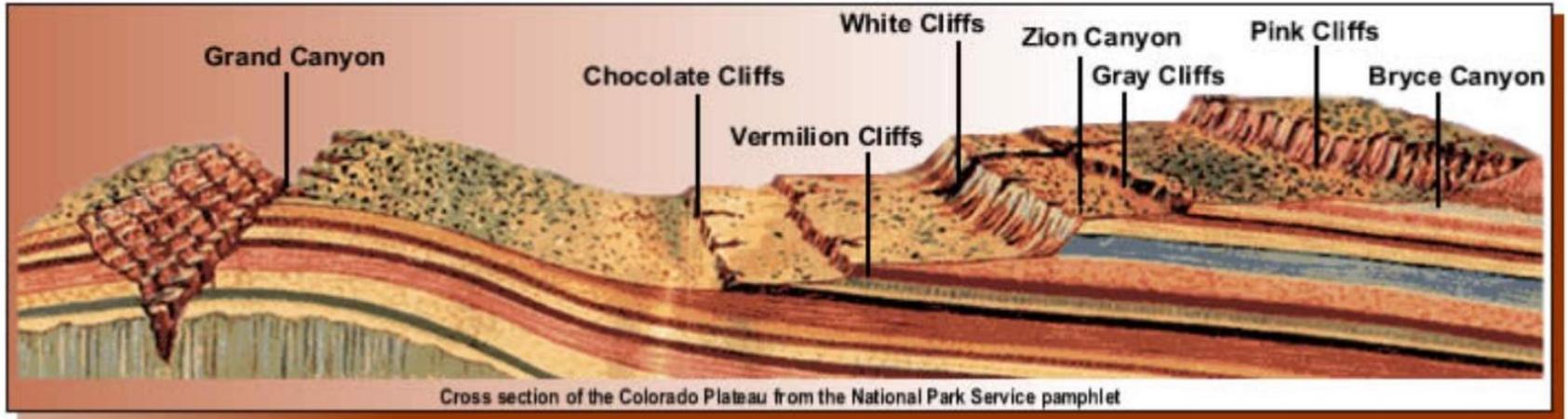
State Dance: Square Dance



Colorado Plateau



Colorado Plateau Grand Staircase



Colorado Plateau:

- CO Plateau large tracts of land mostly flat sedimentary rock sections rising up towards Rocky Mountains
- Elevation: 4900-11,000 feet (1500-3350 m)
- 5 Sections are edged with massive cliffs as they go lower
- Color names: Chocolate, Vermillion, White, Gray, Pink

Zion National Park



Virgin River



Zion National Park

- 1919
- 229 sq miles (590 sq km)
- Zion Canyon: 15-miles of towering red sandstone & white limestone cliffs carved by Virgin River
- River: 4000 feet - Rock formations: 7000+ feet
- Hanging Gardens: water seeps through rock, plants grow high
- Religious settlers named valley and many of the formations (Court of the Patriarchs, West Temple, Great White Throne)
- Main park road closed to buses & private vehicle traffic - complimentary Park Shuttles only (every 15 mins)

Scenic Byway 12



Scenic Byway 12

- 122 miles long
- Regularly on “Top Scenic Drive of America” lists
- Dixie National Forest
- Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

Bryce Canyon National Park



Bryce Canyon National Park

- 1928
- High elevation: 8000-9000 feet (2400-2700 m)
- Not technically a canyon
- Collection of giant natural amphitheaters along side of Paunsaugunt Plateau
- 56 sq miles (145 sq km)
- Not a large park, but impactful due to brilliant orange pinnacles

Bryce Canyon People History

- Native Americans 10,000 years
- 1300+ Paiute
- 1850s Mormon Settlements
- 1874 - Ebenezer Bryce built a homestead

Bryce Canyon Geology



Bryce Canyon Geology

- Not carved by flowing water
- Mostly ice erosion and rainfall
- High elevation = cold temps = ice & frost
- Water seeps into cracks, freezes, ice expands, pieces fall off
- Summer rains wash debris down cliff

Hoodoo



Hoodoo

- Red rock is soft sandstone
- White rock is harder limestone (acts as cap protecting sandstone below)
- Can be as tall as 200 feet (60 m)

- Paiutes: “Red rocks standing like men”
- Legend: people were tricked by trickster god & turned into stone
- Possibly as punishment for living “too heavily” on the land

Sunset Point



Panguitch Quilt Walk



Panguitch Quilt Walk

- 1863: Settlers arrive
- Crops planted, but season was short and they didn't mature
- 1864: winter extremely cold with deep snow
- Settlers were desperate for supplies
- Closest towns: 115 miles north or 40 miles west over mountain
- 7 men set out west to save the town
- Had to abandon their wagon and proceed on foot
- Snow so deep, they had to lay down quilts and walk across
- Annual festival is: Quilt Walk Festival

Panguitch Quilt Walk



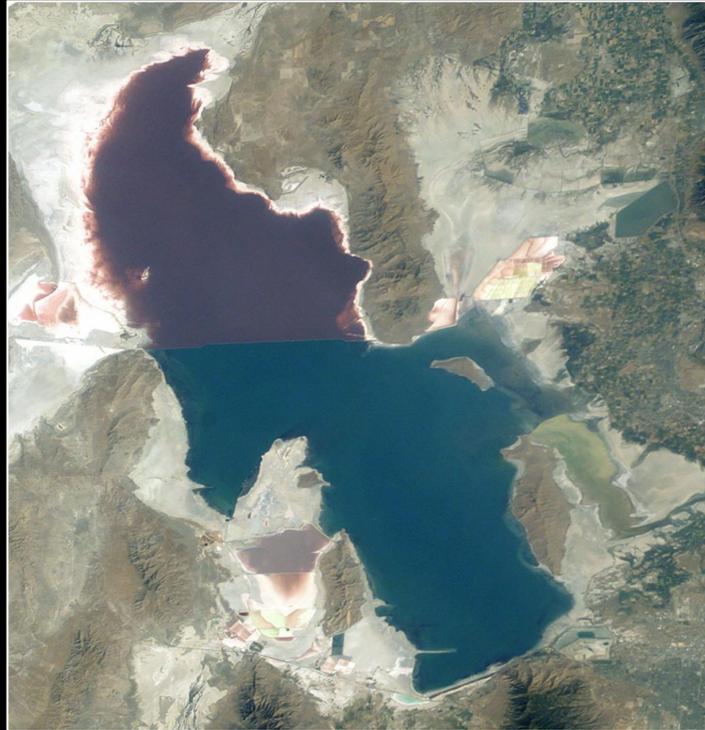
Salt Lake City



Salt Lake City

- Capital of Utah
- Population: 2 million (largest city)
- Settled in 1847 by Mormon pioneers - religious persecution
- Situated between the Great Salt Lake and the Wasatch Front
- Salt Lake City - Provo - Park City
- Known for great skiing (2002 Winter Olympics)
- Known for Sundance Film Festival
- Known as center of Mormon religion

Great Salt Lake



Great Salt Lake

- Largest salt water lake in Western Hemisphere
- Remnant of massive prehistoric Lake Bonneville (salt flats)
- No outlet except evaporation
- Very shallow, average depth 16 feet (5 m)
- Size fluctuates
- Average length: 75 mi (120 km)
- Average width: 28 mi (45 km)
- Habitat for brine shrimp and native birds
- Shallow, warm water causes lake-effect snows (skiing)

Mormon Religion



Mormon Religion

- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS)
- Restorationist Christianity
- Founded: 1830, New York, Joseph Smith
- Persecution led to relocation to Utah Territory in 1840s
- Strong sense of community
- Very family oriented - sealed together in afterlife
- No addictive substances (alcohol, caffeine, tobacco)
- Polygamy: 1852-1890

Mormon Religion Today

- 16 million worldwide
- 6.5 USA
- Require missionary service
- Women 18 months, men 2 years
- Doubles in membership every 15 years
- In Utah: 60% claim Mormon, 40% practice
- In Salt Lake City: 35% Mormon, rural ar as much higher

Brigham Young



Brigham Young

- 1801-1877
- Second president of LDS - after founder Joseph Smith
- President: 1847-1877
- Moved congregation to Utah
- Founded Salt Lake City
- First governor of Utah Territory
- 55 wives
- 56 children from 16 of the wives

Eagle Gate



Eagle Gate

- Originally erected 1859
- Commemorates entrance to Brigham Young's property
- 3rd Eagle Gate on this spot (1960)

Beehive House



Beehive House

- Built in 1854
- Official residence of Brigham Young
- “Executive residence” - lived and worked
- Outgrew house so he moved next door to Lion House
- Name: beehive sculpture on top

Utah State Capitol



Utah State Capitol

- 1916
- Style: Neoclassical Revival
- Made of Utah granite (same as Mormon Temple)
- 90% of Legislature is Mormon
- “95% of the bills, the LDS Church has no stand, no opinion, and doesn’t care.”
- Alcohol, gambling, assisted suicide, gay rights

Temple Square



Temple Square

- 10 acre complex
- Center of Mormon religion - equivalent to Mecca (Muslim), Vatican (Catholic), Jerusalem (Jews)
- Contains: Temple, Tabernacle, Assembly Hall, 2 Visitor Centers
- Surrounded by other Mormon buildings

Mormon Temple



Temple

- Built: 1893
- Largest Mormon Temple in world
- 222 feet high
- 250,000 feet interior
- Utah Granite, 6 gothic spires
- Hosts weekly church leader meetings
- Sacred to Mormons - no public tours
- “Mormons in good standing” can petition to visit

Temple Interior



Temple Interior



Temple Interior



Mormon Tabernacle



Tabernacle

- Built: 1867
- Unique dome design results in amazing acoustics
- 7,000 people
- Main Sunday church service
- Home of the Tabernacle Choir

Tabernacle Choir



Tabernacle Choir

- 360 members
- 25-55 years old
- Live within 100 miles
- “Mormon in good standing”

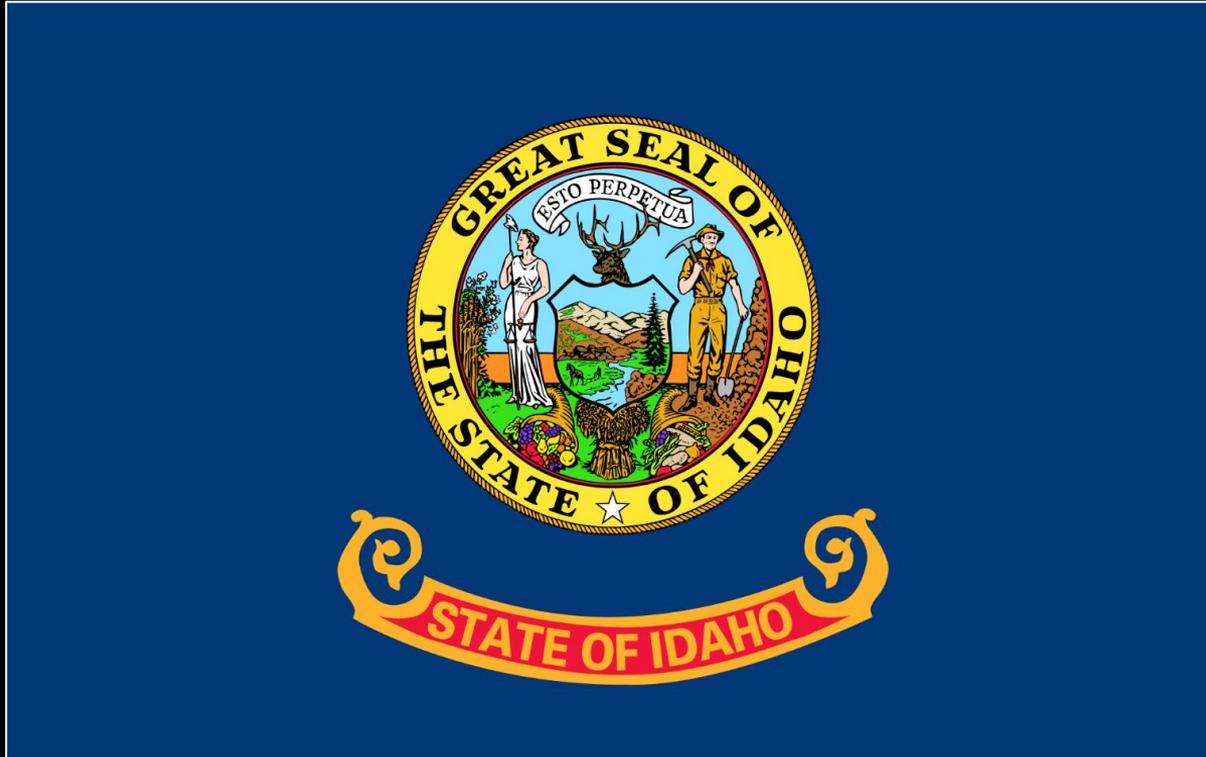
Bear Lake



Bear Lake

- Natural border between Utah and Idaho
- Known as the “Caribbean of the Rockies”
- Calcium carbonate deposits suspended in the water
- Length: 18 miles
- Width: 7 miles
- Depth: 208 feet
- Local area known for raspberries

Idaho



Idaho

- Statehood: 1890
- Capitol: Boise
- Name: ??? - possibly made up by lobbyist in 1860s
- Nickname: Gem State
- Motto: “Let it be perpetual”
- Today’s Economy: high tech manufacturing (around Boise), agriculture (wheat & potatoes $\frac{1}{3}$ USA production)

State bird: Mountain Bluebird



State fish: Cutthroat Trout



State Gem: Star Garnet

- Only found in Idaho & India
- Rutile mineral inclusion
- 4 or 6 pointed star



Oregon & California Trail



Oregon & California Trail

- 2000 miles (3400 km)
- East-west emigrant trail
- Connected Missouri River to Oregon and California
- 1811-1840 - fur trappers and traders
- 1830s-1860s - wagon trains
- Hundreds of thousands of settlers, farmers, miners, ranchers
- Headed west for new opportunities (land)

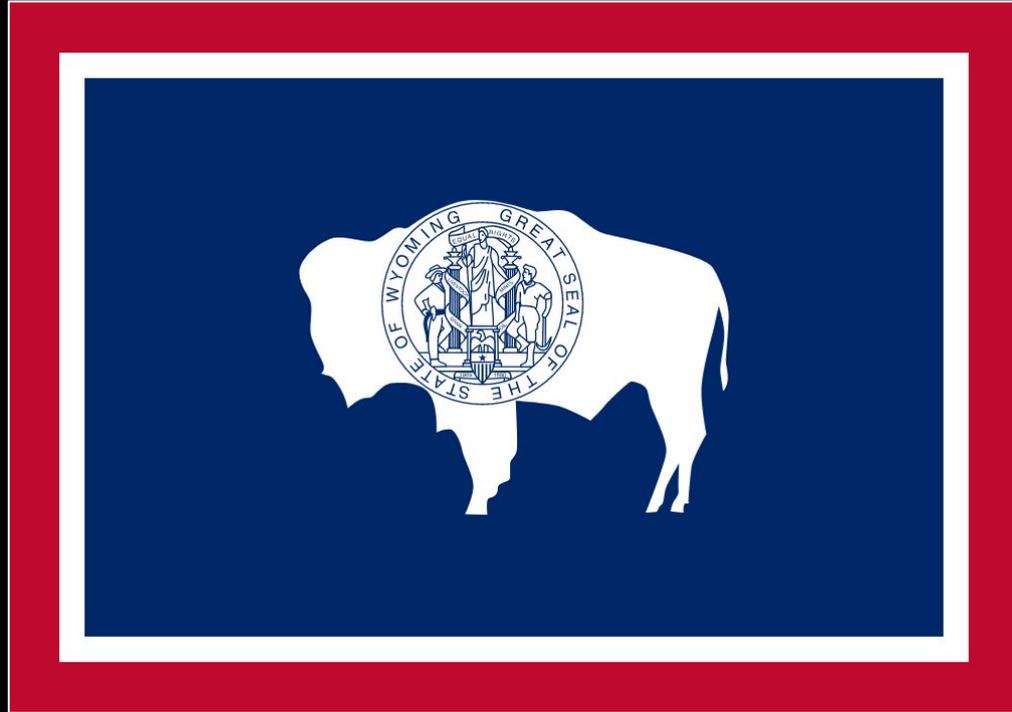
Huckleberry



Huckleberry

- Small, bluish purple berry
- Taste: similar to a blueberry, but slightly tart
- Growing region: Northwest USA & Western Canada
- Traditional medicine: pain relief, heart ailments, infections
- Traditional food: jams, candy, pie, ice cream, salad dressing, pancakes mix, tea, etc.
- Makes a great souvenir

Wyoming



Wyoming

- Statehood: 1890
- Capitol: Cheyenne
- Name: Native American word “mountains & valleys alternating”
- Nickname: Equality State
- Motto: Equal Rights
- Economy: cattle, wheat, mining (coal, sodium carbonate)
- Population: 580,000

Mammal: American Bison



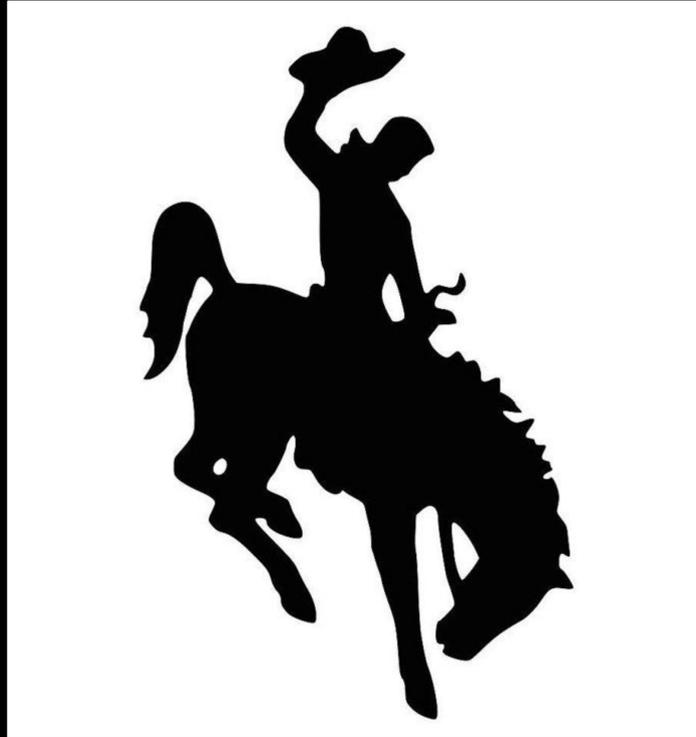
Flower: Indian Paintbrush



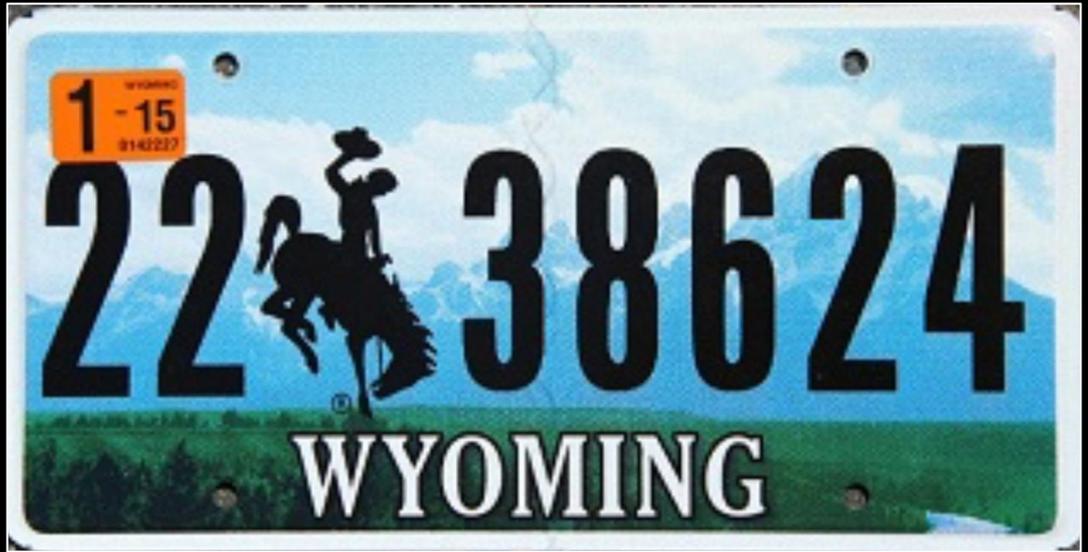
Sport: Rodeo



Wyoming Registered



Wyoming Registered Trademark



Jackson, Wyoming



Jackson, Wyoming

- “Hole” is the fur trapper name for a valley
- Rivers and streams make good beaver habitats
- Davy Jackson - 1820s fur trapper
- Town: 1914
- Population: under 10,000
- Winter: 3 ski resorts
- Summer: Close to Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks
- Known for art galleries and cowboy culture

Jackson Hole



National Elk Refuge



National Elk Refuge

- Created: 1912
- Purpose: protect habitat of wild elk herd
- Migrate down from Yellowstone each winter
- Winter population: 7,500
- Boy Scouts annual Elkfest
 - Scouts collect fallen antlers from Refuge
 - May auction in Jackson
 - 75% of proceeds go back to Elk Refuge

Rocky Mountains



Rocky Mountains

- 3000 mile (4800 km) - mountain chain
- “Backbone of the United States”
- British Columbia in Canada to New Mexico in USA
- 80-55 million years ago
 - Tectonic plates sliding at shallow angle, made wide range
 - Glaciers carved dramatic peaks & valleys
- Today: mining and tourism (skiing)

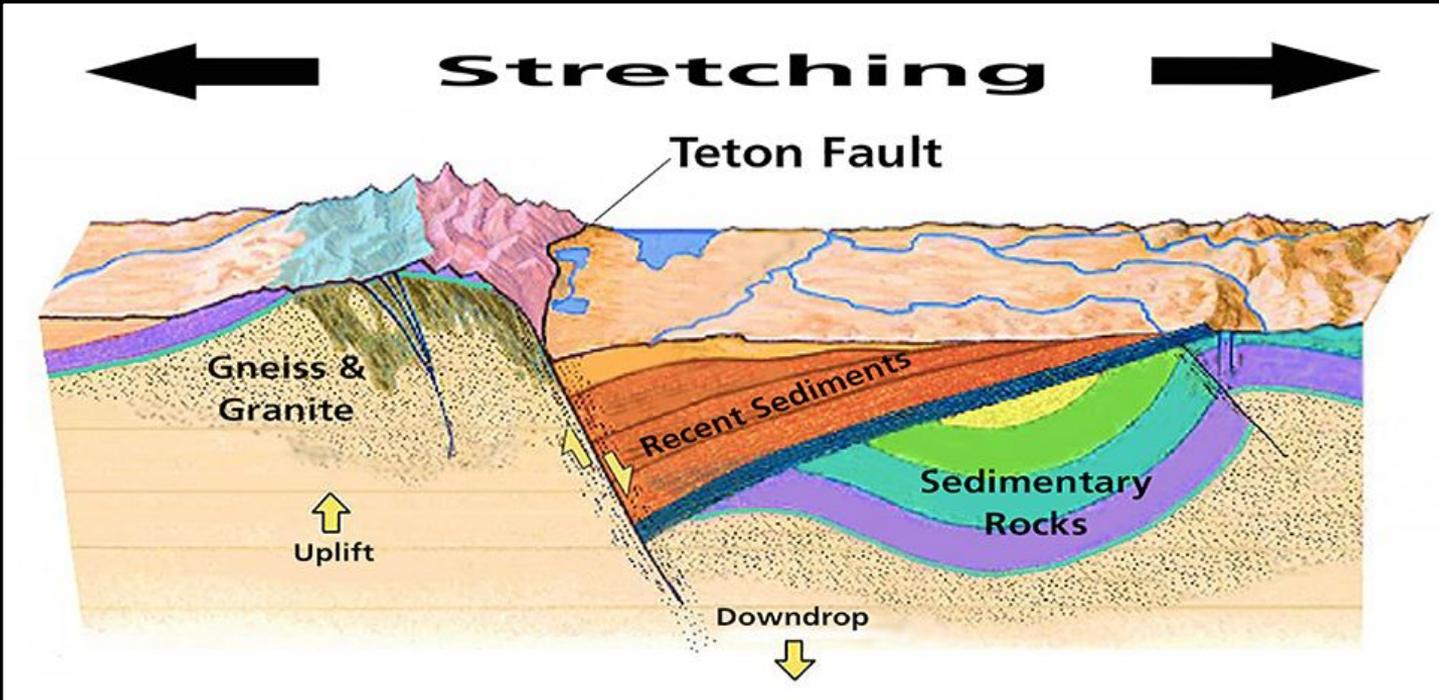
Grand Teton Range



Grand Teton Range

- Small range in Rocky Mountains
- Length: 40 miles
- Height: 13,775 feet
- Distinguishing feature: no foothills
- Valley is a faultline

Grand Teton Geology



Grand Teton National Park



Grand Teton National Park

- 1929
- 310,000 acres
- 10 miles south of Yellowstone
- John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Parkway
- Name: French Trappers “Les Trois Tetons”

Chapel of the Transfiguration



Chapel of the Transfiguration

- Built: 1925
- Cowboy church
- Today: Episcopal chapel
- Wedding location fee: \$2500

Jackson Lake



Jackson Lake

- Creation: 12,000 years ago by glacier gouging
- Fed by: Snake River
- Length: 15 miles
- Width: 7 miles
- Depth: 438 feet
- Elevation: 6700 feet
- 15 islands

Jackson Lake Lodge



Jackson Lake Lodge

- Built: 1955
- Great Room with floor to ceiling windows overlooking Tetons
- Walking trail
- Gift shops

Lewis and Clark Expedition



Lewis and Clark Expedition

- 1803: President Thomas Jefferson “Louisiana Purchase”
- 1804-06: Meriwether Lewis & William Clark
- Start: St. Louis (Missouri River)
- End: Washington State (Columbia River)
- Objective: map newly acquired territory
- Objective: find practical route to Pacific Ocean
- Objective: establish trade with local Native American tribes

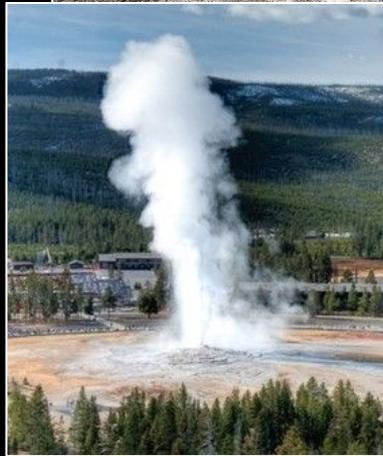
Yellowstone National Park



Yellowstone National Park

- 1872: America's first national park (world's first)
- 2.2 million acres: half the size of Massachusetts
- Wyoming, Montana, Idaho
- Known for: unique geothermal features (geysers, hot springs)
Half of the world's geothermal features are in Yellowstone
- Known for: animals (bison, Black & Grizzly bears, wolves, elk)

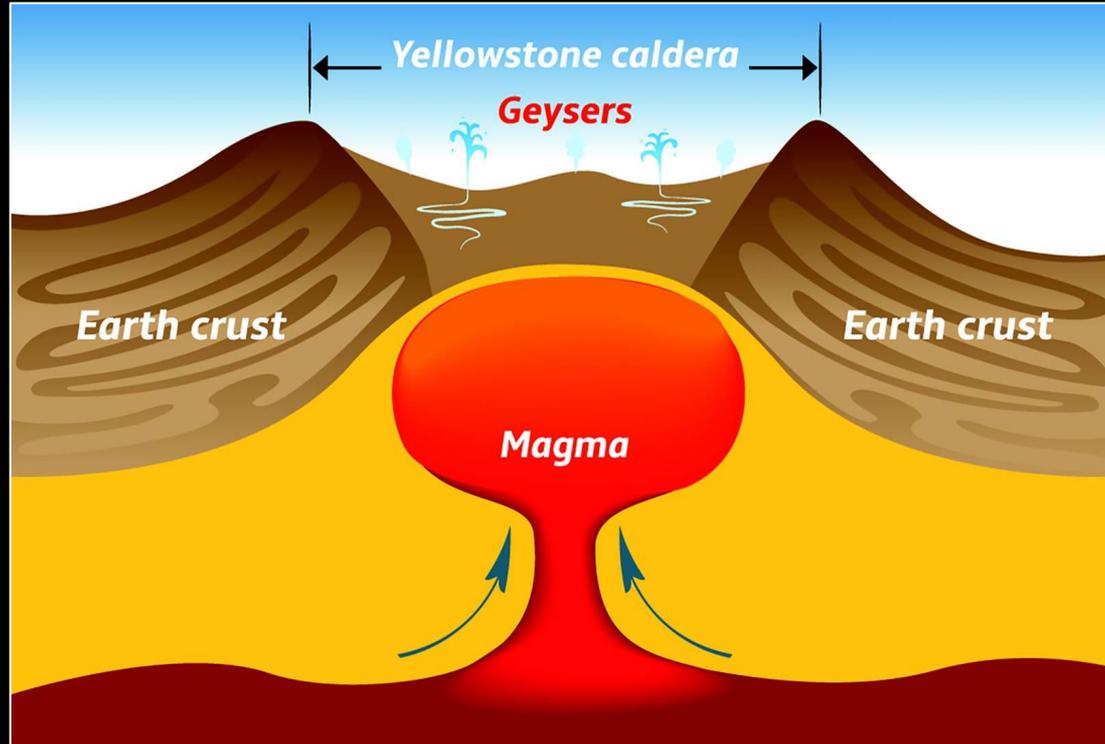
Yellowstone Geology



Yellowstone Geology

- Earth's crust usually 25-30 miles deep
- Yellowstone 3-8 miles
- Liquid hot magma close to surface
- Rain & snow melt seep into cracks & create park's unique geothermal features
- Hot springs, fumaroles, mud pots, geysers

Yellowstone Caldera



Yellowstone Caldera

- Super volcano - largest in North America
- 45 x 34 miles across
- 3 eruptions in past 2.1 million years (1.3 mil/640,000)
- Caldera: volcano erupts so quickly the land collapses down onto the empty magma chamber
- Magma chamber fills back up with molten rock - waiting for the next explosion
- Earth is constantly shifting under Yellowstone
- 2000 measurable earthquakes every year

Fumaroles



- no water at surface
- flash boils rain/snow melt resulting in hissing steam vent

Mud Pots



- hydrogen sulfide gas eaten by microorganisms
- convert to sulfuric acid which breaks down rock into clay

Hot Springs



- Water at surface
- Different colors = microorganisms living at different temperatures

Geysers



Yellowstone Geysers

- Geysers: plumbing system
- Surface water goes down a narrow passage, starts to collect lower down the pipe where it boils into steam, but steam bubbles can't escape because of water pressing down on it.
- Reaches a critical point: trapped steam forces its way to top, forcing water up and out of the geyser
- Some are pretty regular, but most go off whenever they need
- Old Faithful: about every 90 minutes (exception, not rule)
- Steamboat Geyser: 11 eruptions in 28 years, 21 since March (Sept 30) (tallest geyser in park)

Yellowstone Animals



Elk



Baby Elk



Bison



Baby Bison



Wolves



Baby Wolf



Black Bear



Baby Black Bears



Grizzly Bears



Baby Grizzly Bear



Yellowstone Forest Fires



Yellowstone Forest Fires



Yellowstone Forest Fires



Regrowth



Regrowth



Lake Yellowstone



Lake Yellowstone

- Largest high elevation lake in North America
- Centered over the Yellowstone Caldera
- Elevation: 7,700 feet
- 20 x 15 miles across
- Depth: 390 feet
- Boating & fishing allowed
- Lake Trout invasive species

West Thumb Geyser Basin



Old Faithful



Old Faithful Geyser

- Frequency: 44-125 minutes (about every 90 minutes)
- Height: 106-185 feet
- Duration: 3-10 minutes
- Discharge: 3,700 gallons of water
- Reliability because it is not connected to any other thermal features - no water is being siphoned off to other springs or geysers

Old Faithful Inn



Old Faithful Inn



Old Faithful Inn

- 1904
- Log cabin castle
- Largest log hotel in the world
- Golden age of “rustic resort architecture”
- Main lobby is a work of lodgepole pine art
- Four stories of balconies
- 85 foot fireplace
- Nearly destroyed in the 1988 fire - saved by firefighters, volunteers, roof sprinkler system installed the year before

Grand Prismatic Spring



Grand Prismatic Spring

- Largest hot spring in Yellowstone (3rd in world)
- Diameter: 370 feet
- Depth: 160 feet
- Temp: 160 F
- Dramatic color: microorganism thrive at different colors
(ratio of chlorophyll to carotenoids)

Fountain Paint Pots



Fountain Paint Pots

- Upper Geyser Basin
- Contains each of Yellowstone's four main geologic features
- Hotspring, mudpot, fumaroles, geyser

Mammoth Hot Springs



Mammoth Hot Springs

- One of the best preserved examples of travertine terraces
- Hot water + dissolved carbon dioxide = weak carbonic acid
- Rises through rocks & dissolves calcium carbonate in limestone
- At surface, calcium carbonate is deposited in form of travertines
- Constantly changes - living sculpture
- Shaped by volume of water, slope of ground, objects in way
- Water follows path of least resistance

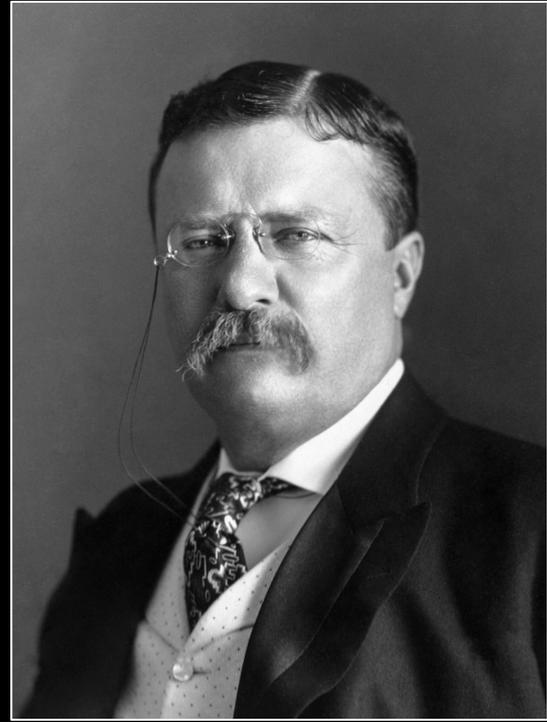
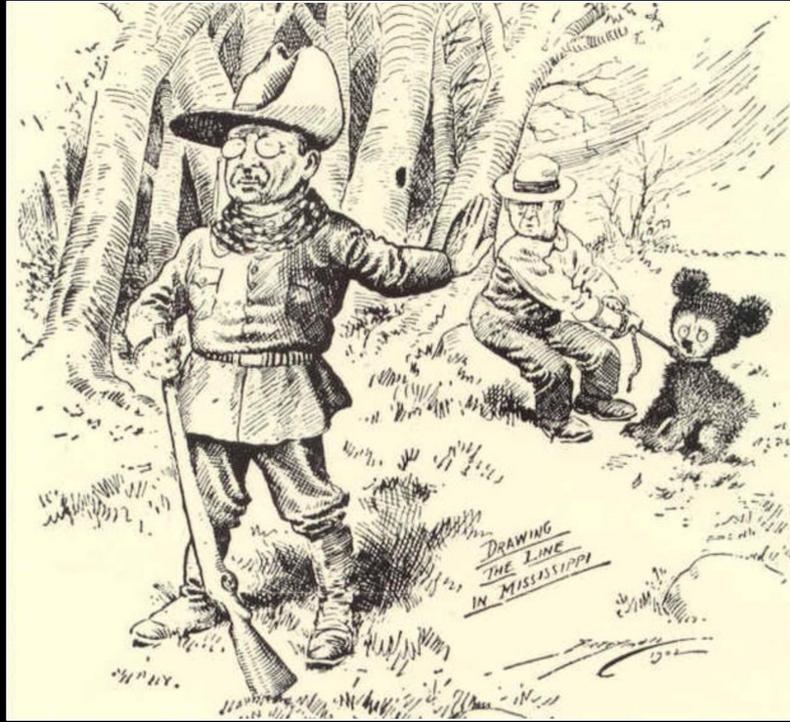
Albright Visitor Center



Teddy Bear



Theodore Roosevelt



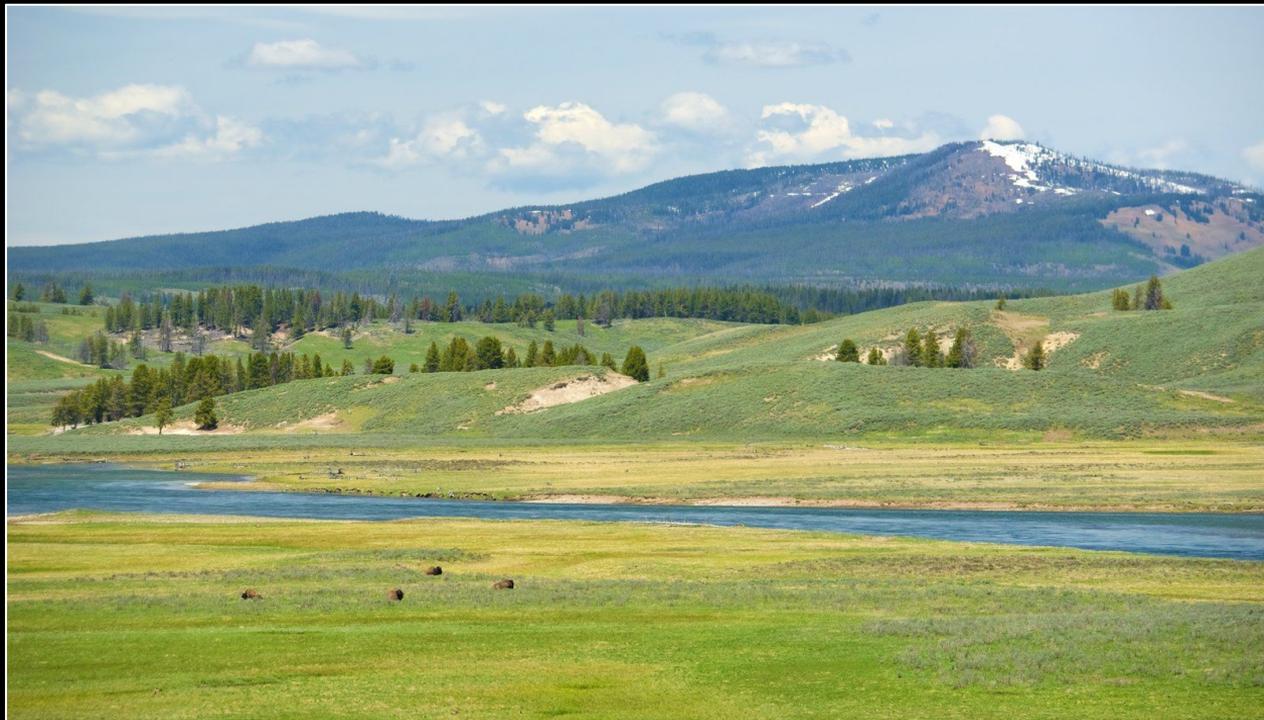
Yellowstone Falls



Yellowstone Falls

- Grand Canyon of Yellowstone
- Length: 20 miles
- Depth: 1000 feet
- Yellow color: Rhyolite
- Lower and upper Falls
- Lower Falls height: 308 feet

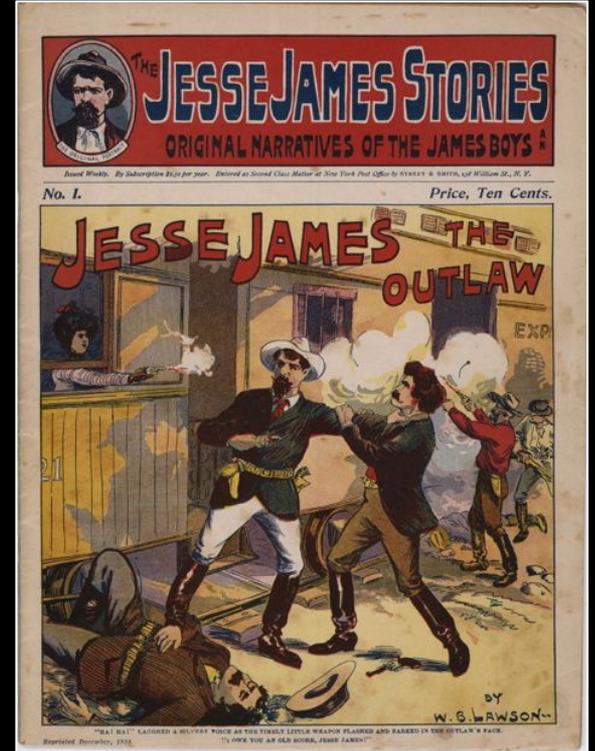
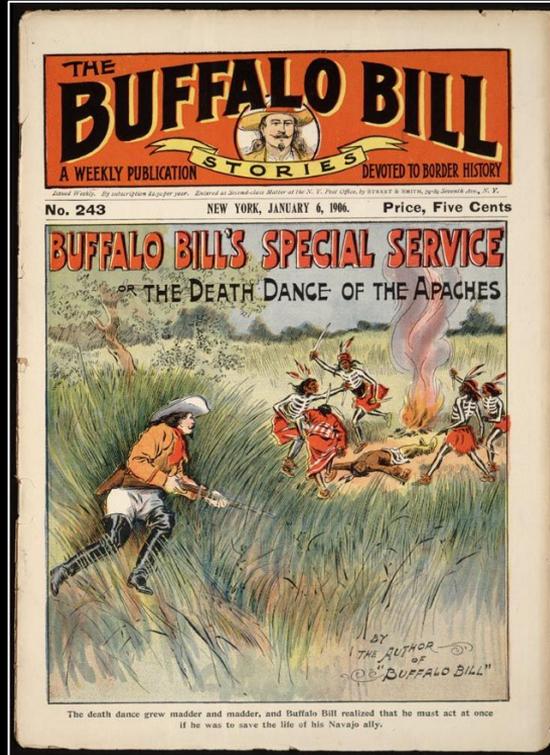
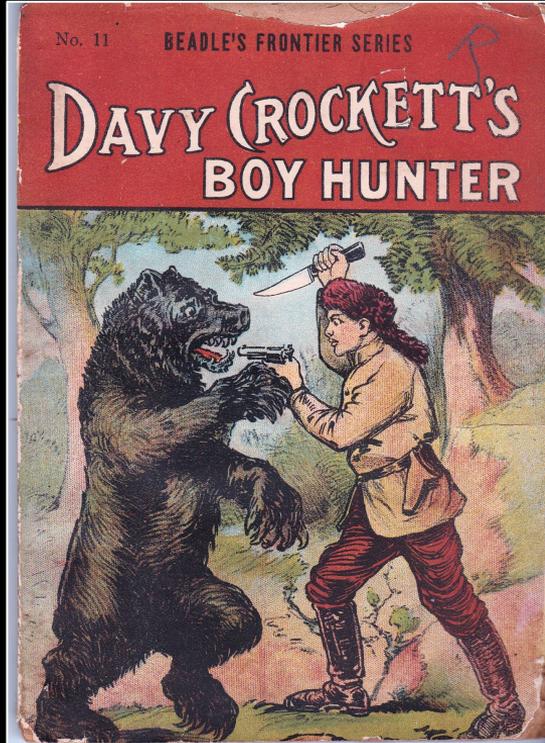
Hayden Valley



Hayden Valley

- Large, sub-alpine valley
- Ancient lakebed
- Trees don't grow, so excellent views of wildlife (bison)
- Views of Yellowstone River

Dime Novels



Dime Novels

- Popular, inexpensive paperback fiction mid to late 1800s
- Cheesy representations of western life
- Extremely over dramatized (often fictitious)
- Themes: Good vs evil
- Gunslingers
- Lawmen
- Cowboys & Indians
- Train & Bank robberies
- Saving the damsel in distress
- Comic Books of their day

Buffalo Bill Cody



Buffalo Bill Cody

- William Frederick Cody
- 1846-1917
- One of the most colorful figures of the American West
- Most famous American in the world
- American scout, bison hunter, showman
- Pony Express Rider, Civil War union soldier, civilian scout during Indian Wars,
- Name: hunted buffalo to provide meat to the railroad workers
- 1869: First appearance in a dime novel (mostly fiction)

Buffalo Bill Cody Shows

- 1872: Invited to Chicago to perform with “Scouts of the Prairie” Wild West stage show
- Dime novels on the stage
- Started his own troupe - more and more sophisticated
- Performed part of the year and was a plains scout the rest
- 1873: “Scouts of the Plains” touring stage show
- 1883: “Buffalo Bill’s Wild West” - circus-like attraction
- 1893: “Buffalo Bill’s Wild West and Congress of the Rough Riders of the World”
- Toured for 30 years around American and Europe
- 1887: Performed at Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee

Buffalo Bill Cody Shows

- Deadwood stage coach robbery
- Buffalo hunt
- Rodeo style skills - roping, horse tricks
- Sharp shooting demonstrations (Annie Oakley)
- Cowboys vs Indians battles
- Famous western figures (Sitting Bull)
- World Horse cultures: Turks, Arabs, Mongols (costumes)

Buffalo Bill Cody & the Rough Riders of the West



Cody, Wyoming



Cody, Wyoming

- 1901: Helped start the town of Cody, Wyoming
- Close to Yellowstone
- On a newly opened railroad line
- 1902: Irma Hotel, named after his daughter

Cody, Wyoming



Buffalo Bill Center of the West



Buffalo Bill Center of the West

- Affiliate of the Smithsonian Museum
- Five museums in one
- Buffalo Bill: his life and show
- Plains Indians: how they lived
- Western Art Gallery
- Natural History: plants and animals
- Firearms: thousands of guns (partially under renovation)

Montana

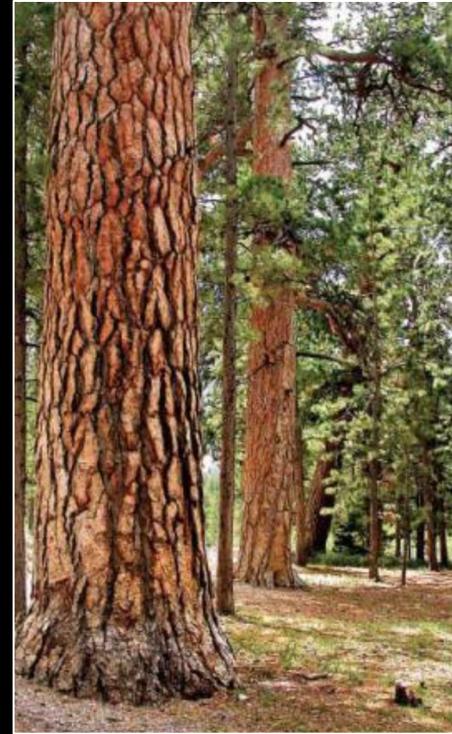
MONTANA



Montana

- Statehood: 1889
- Capital: Helena
- Name: Spanish for “mountain”
- Nickname: Big Sky Country & The Treasure State
- Motto: “Silver and Gold”
- Today’s economy: cattle ranching, cereal grain farming, oil, lumber

State Tree: Ponderosa Pine



State Mammal: Grizzly Bear



Billings, Montana



Billings, Montana:

- Founded: 1882
- Built on a railroad line
- Named after Frederick Billings (North Pacific Railroad President)
- Population: 100,000 (largest city in Montana)
- Industry: Oil refining, railroad
- Nickname: “Magic City” - due to rapid and sustained growth

Native Americans



Native Americans

- 30,000 BC - land bridge between Asia & Alaska
- Hunters followed animal herds
- Settled further south through North & South America
- Regional development of housing, tools, beliefs
- Common indigenous practices: sacredness of land, revere ancestors, connection between natural & supernatural

Native Americans, continued

- 1492 - Christopher Columbus
- 1500-1600s - Disease kills 90% - chicken pox, measles
- European settlement - pushed westward
- 1830 - Indian Removal Act
- 1845 - Manifest Destiny - US territorial expansion justification
- 1851 - Indian Appropriations Act - Reservation System
- 1860s-1890s - Post Civil War

Native Americans Today

- 573 federally recognized tribes
- 5.2 million people
- 326 reservations
- 22% live on reservations
- Total lands: 87,000 sq miles (227,000 sq km) - size of Idaho
- 12 larger than the state of Rhode Island
- Poorest demographic
- Tribal sovereignty - casinos

Battle of the Little Bighorn



Battle of the Little Bighorn

- Date: June 25-26, 1876
- Location: Little Bighorn River in southern Montana
(Named “Greasy Grass” by Native Americans)
- Background: Indians were required to live on reservations to protect the lands of white settlers, some refused and roamed the plains as they always had
- Large group of mix tribes formed large, wandering village in southern Montana
- 1876 US Army summer campaign to force Lakota & Cheyenne back to reservations, came upon village & underestimated size

Native Americans

- Lakota, Dakota, Cheyenne, Arapaho
- Notable commanders: Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse
- Strength: 2,500 warriors
- Casualties: 31

US Army

- 7th Cavalry
- Notable commanders: George Armstrong Custer
- Strength: 700 Cavalry
- Casualties: 268

Battle of the Little Bighorn

Battle result:

- Overwhelming Native American victory
- Annihilation of 5 companies of the 7th Cavalry
- Death of George Armstrong Custer

Aftermath:

- Army hardened its resolve to crush Native American resistance
- Beginning of the end for free Native Americans
- Custer & 7th Cavalry became folk heroes
- Endless military strategy debates

George Armstrong Custer



George Armstrong Custer

- Calvary Commander in Civil War and American Indian Wars
- Raised in Michigan & Ohio before attending West Point
- 1861+: First Battle of Bull Run, Battle of Gettysburg, present at Appomattox where South surrendered to the North
- 1867+: Dispatched to the west's 7th Cavalry Regiment to fight Indian Wars
- 1874: Black Hills Expedition
- 1876: Battle of Little Bighorn ("Custer's Last Stand")
- Why does everyone remember him? Very skilled at public relations - used print media of his time effectively

Sitting Bull & Buffalo Bill



Crazy Horse



South Dakota



South Dakota

- Statehood: 1889
- Capitol: Pierre (pronounced: “peer”)
- Name: Sioux word “dakhota,” meaning “friend”
- Nickname: Mount Rushmore State
- Motto: Under God the People Rule
- Population: 840,000

State Mineral: Rose Quartz



State Insect: Honeybee



State Fossil: Triceratops



Black Hills Gold



The Black Hills

- 1870s in Black Hills
- Henri LeBeau - French goldsmith
- Dream: grape clusters, vines, leaves
- Pink: Yellow gold + copper
- Green: Yellow gold + silver
- 1980 court case:
Gold can come from anywhere in the world
Jewelry must to be manufactured in Black Hills

The Black Hills



The Black Hills



The Black Hills

- Small, isolated mountain range in the Great Plains
- “Island of trees, in a sea of grass.”
- Look black from a distance because of pine trees
- Mostly gray granite rock

The Black Hills Human History

- 11,500 BC: evidence Clovis culture
- 1500-1700's: modern tribes Cheyenne, Crow, Kiowa, Pawnee
- 1776: Lakota Sioux arrived from Minnesota & drove others out
- Europeans & Americans steadily encroached on lands
- 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty: established Great Sioux Reservation, specifically forbidding white settlement of the Black Hills “forever”

The Black Hills Human History

- 1874: General George Armstrong Custer of the 7th US Cavalry led gold-finding expedition
- 1875-1878: Gold Rush
- 1876: Black Hills War (Great Sioux War) - last major Native American War in the Midwest
- 1877: US Government reclaimed the Black Hills
- 1889: Great Sioux Reservation dismantled, forcibly relocated to five smaller reservations

Sioux Tribe



Sioux Tribe

- Upper Midwest
- Nomadic hunters - buffalo
- Expert horsemen (Spanish import)
- Housing: Teepee buffalo hides and poles
- Clothing: buffalo skins
- Weapon: Bow and arrow

Sioux Tribe, today

- Sioux refers to any ethnic group within the Great Sioux Nation
- 3 major divisions based on language: Lakota, E & W Dakota
- Maintain 24 separate tribal governments scattered across several reservations
- North & South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Montana, Canada
- Population: 170,000
- Half of enrolled members live off the reservation ($\frac{1}{4}$ ancestry)

Crazy Horse Memorial



Crazy Horse Memorial

- Mountain monument currently under construction
- When done: largest sculpture in the world
- 17 miles from Mount Rushmore
- Will depict Crazy Horse astride a horse, pointing in the distance
- Face: 87 feet tall (Mount Rushmore heads 60 feet)
- Entire carving: 563 feet high, 641 feet long
- Pyramid of Giza (455 feet)
- Started: 1948
- Estimated Completion Date: ??? (50 years to complete arm)
- Refuse to accept government funds

Crazy Horse

- Born in the Black hills around 1840
- Revered warrior and strategist
- Participated in Battle of the Little Bighorn
- Never surrendered or submitted to living on a reservation
- Died: 1877, killed by US soldier while under a flag of truce
- Don't have a photo of him

Rapid City, South Dakota



Rapid City

- Nickname: “City of Presidents”
- Gateway to the Black Hills
- Population: 70,000
- Main industry: tourism
- Ellsworth Air Force Base

Mount Rushmore



Mount Rushmore

- Granite sculpture faces of 4 presidents
- Mount Rushmore named after New York City lawyer, Charles Rushmore (1885 inspected mining claims)
- 1923: State Historian proposed carving western heroes in Black Hills as a tourist attraction - approached sculptor Gutzon Borglum
- 1925: Borglum decided to appeal to a national audience and proposed presidents as the subject - fundraising begins
- 1927: Carving begins
- 1941: Completion (Borglum dies)

Mount Rushmore

- 400 workers
- 14 years
- Head: 60 feet
- Nose: 20 feet
- Eyes: 11 feet wide
- Original plan to carve figures to the waist (Washington's jacket)

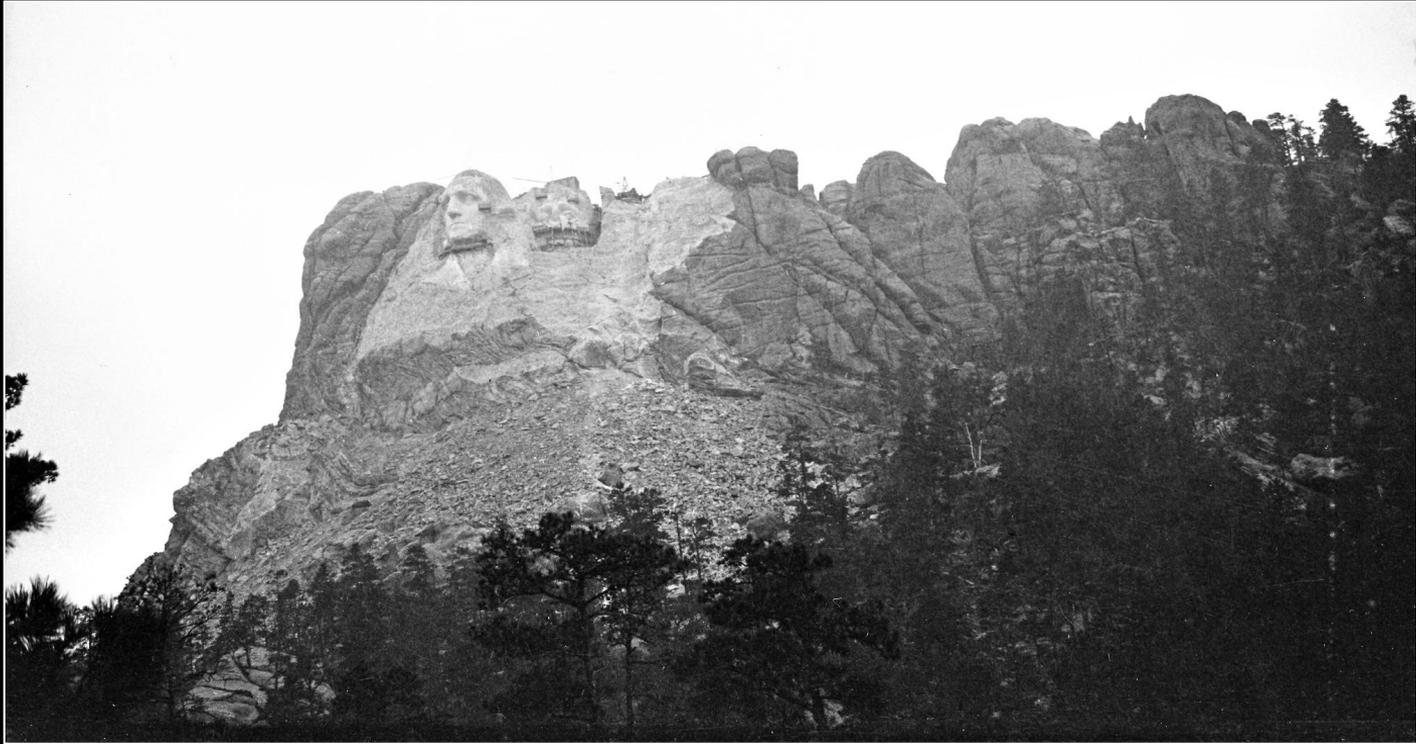
Mount Rushmore



Mount Rushmore Presidents

- **George Washington** - commander of US Army in Revolution, first president (founding father of our country)
- **Thomas Jefferson** - 3rd president, author of the Declaration of Independence, Louisiana Purchase
- **Abraham Lincoln** - kept America together during the Civil War
- **Theodore Roosevelt** - Conservation legislation, set aside millions of acres of public land (friend of sculptor), controversy (22 years)

Under Construction



Wall Drug, South Dakota



Wall, South Dakota

- The drug store that took over the town
- One of the most genius advertising campaigns in the world
- 1931: Dorothy & Ted Hustead opened Wall Drug Store
- Small town of 300 people - business poor
- 1936: Idea to advertise “free ice water” on Highway 16
- Business boomed - hired 8 girls the first summer
- Put up even more signs the next year
- Now the drug store takes up most of Main Street
- Billboards stretch 650 miles along Interstate 90
- 2 million visitors per year

The Jackalope



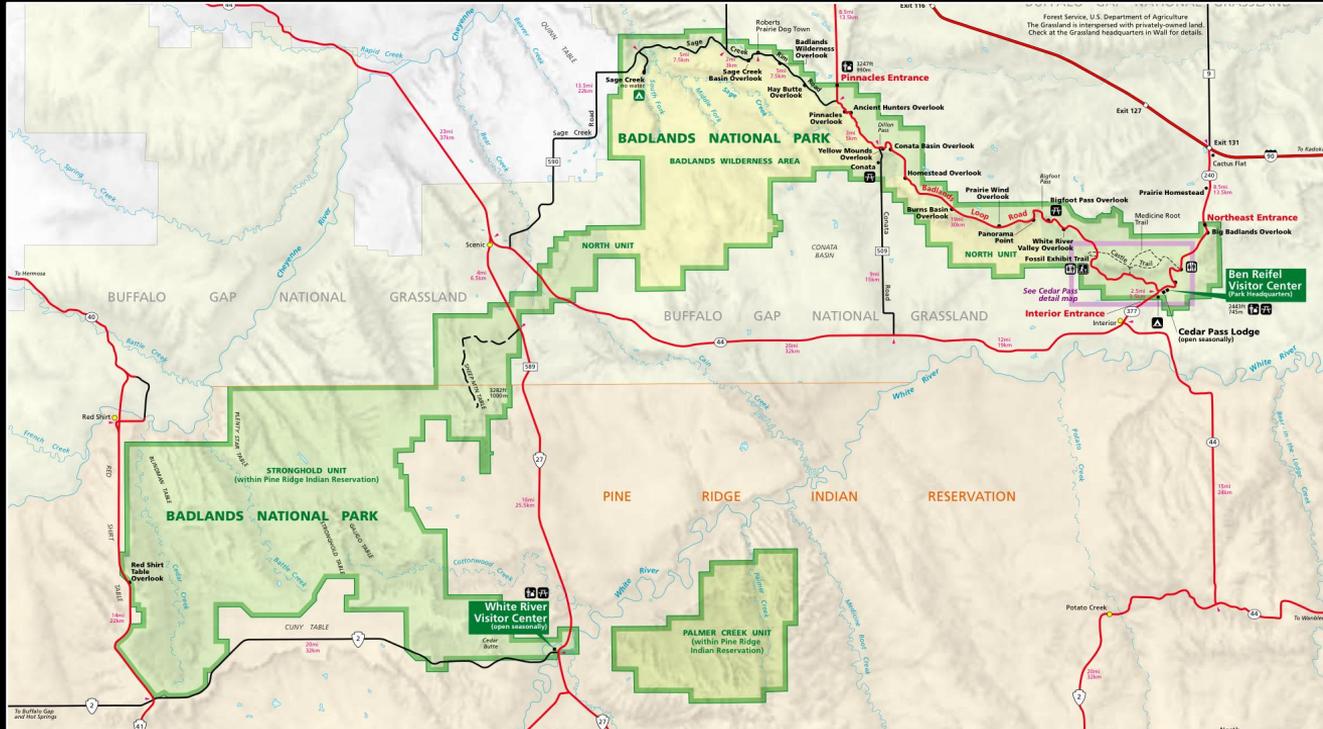
Badlands National Park



Badlands National Park

- French trappers: “bad land to cross”
- Sharply eroded buttes and pinnacles
- 240K acres
- National Park Services manages
- Largest undisturbed mixed grass prairie in US
- 1939 NM
- 1978 NP
- Dances With Wolves partially filmed in park

Badlands National Park



Pinnacles Overlook



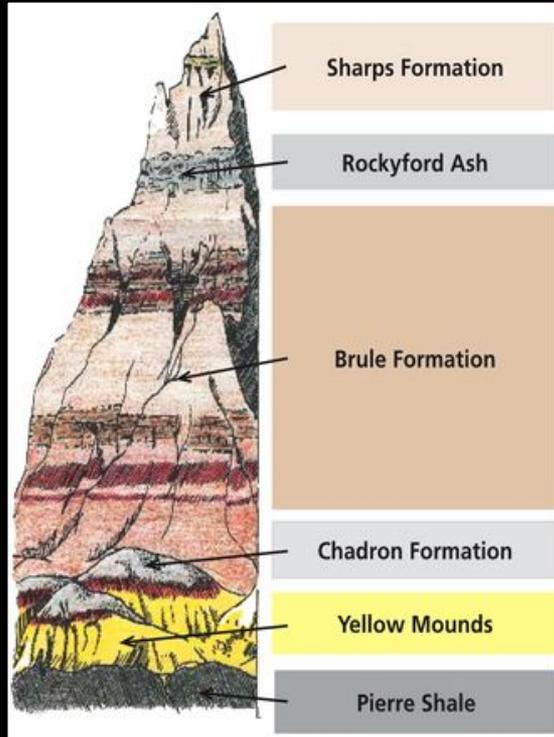
Yellow Mounds



Prairie Dog Town



Badlands Geology



Badlands Geology

- Ocean covered western US
- 25 million years ago: Upheaval rose ocean floor up, water drained away
- Broad, marshy plain with flowing rivers depositing layers of sediment
- Prehistoric animals died and sank into marshland: fossils
- Saber tooth cats, three toed horses the size of dogs, camels, crocodiles, dinosaurs
- 1-4 million years ago, erosion started to out pace deposits
- We are witnessing erosion - rain and wind

Badlands Geology

- Different colors = different sediment deposits
- Gray: silt and clay
- Orange: Iron
- Purple: manganese
- White: volcanic ash
- Yellow: sulfur

- Fossiles regularly being unearthed

Badlands Plants



Badlands Plants

- 60 species of grass
- Supports animals who eat grass
- Rapid erosion won't allow roots to grow for trees & shrubs
- This increased erosion rate even more

Badlands Animals



Badlands Animals

- Rabbits
- Snakes
- Coyotes
- Deer
- Porcupines
- Mice
- Buffalo
- Bighorn Sheep
- Prairie Dogs

Bighorn Sheep



Bighorn Sheep

- Native to North America
- Males have distinctive large, curled horns
- Weighing up to 30 lbs
- Female horns are smaller
- During mating season, they crash horns together for dominance displays
- Well adapted to climbing steep terrain (predator evasion)
- Eat grass and shrubs

Black-footed Ferret



Black-footed Ferret

- Once thought to be extinct
- Small colony found in Wyoming and reintroduced in 1994
- Primary food source: prairie dogs

Prairie Dogs



Prairie Dogs

- Native to North American grasslands
- Type of ground squirrel
- Name comes from sound they make - “barking squirrels”
- Burrows:
 - Multiple chambers
 - 6-9 feet deep
 - 15-30 feet long
 - Up to 6 entrances
- Highly social - live in colonies “towns”

Prairie Dogs Kiss



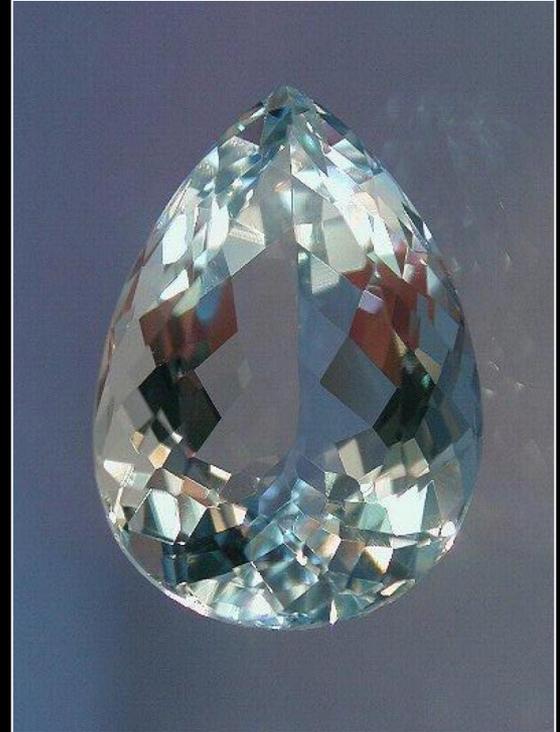
Colorado



Colorado

- Statehood: 1876
- Capitol: Denver
- Name: Spanish for Rio Colorado which carried ruddy (reddish) silt down river
- Nickname: The Centennial State
- Motto: Nothing without providence
- Geography: east = flat, west = Rocky Mountains
- Today's economy: cattle, mining, tourism (skiing), government (US Air Force Academy and NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command))

Gemstone: Aquamarine



Flower: Rocky Mountain Columbine



Sport: Pack Burro Racing



Denver, Colorado



Denver

- Capital of Colorado
- Most populous city in state - 2.8 million
- Nickname: “Mile High City” - 5,690 feet (1,731 meters)
- Nickname: “Queen City of the Plains” - 500 mi from nearest city
- Nickname: “Wall Street of the West”
- Lifestyle: active and outdoorsy - 300 days of sunshine
- Forbes Magazine list of best places for business and careers

16th Street Pedestrian Mall



16th Street Pedestrian Mall

- 1982 downtown revitalization
- 1.25 mile pedestrian street
- 350 shops and restaurants
- Street performers
- Free bus - every 3-15 mins

Rocky Mountains



Rocky Mountains



Rocky Mountains

- 3000 mile (4800 km) - mountain chain
- “Backbone of the United States”
- British Columbia in Canada to New Mexico in USA
- 80-55 million years ago
 - Tectonic plates sliding at shallow angle, made wide range
 - Glaciers carved dramatic peaks & valleys
- Today: mining and tourism (skiing)

Interstate Highway System



Interstate Highway System

- Dwight D. Eisenhower National System of Interstate and Defense Highways
- Controlled-access highways across USA
- Championed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower
- Construction authorized by the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956
- Total length: 48,000 miles (77,000 km)
- Construction cost in today's money: \$500 billion

Eisenhower Tunnel



Eisenhower Tunnel

- Interstate 70 tunnels under Continental Divide
- Completed 1979
- Length: 1.6 miles (2.7 km)
- Elevation: 11,158 feet (3,401 m)
- Highest vehicular tunnel in USA

Continental Divide



Continental Divide

- Follows line of high peaks in Rocky Mountains
- Separates watersheds which drain into Pacific & Atlantic

Vail, Colorado



Vail, Colorado



Vail, Colorado



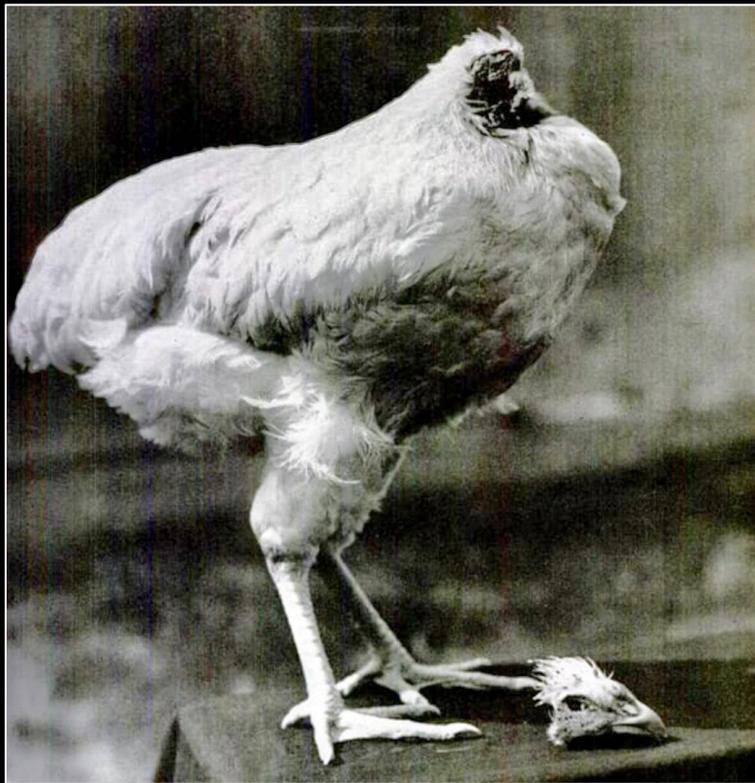
Vail Ski Resort

- World famous ski resort
- 5,000 acres of skiable land
- Ski Lifts: 33
- Marked Trails: 193
- 3 faces of mountain: front side, back bowls, Blue Sky Basin
- Open mid-November to mid-April
- 200+ inches of snow each year
- Vail Mountain elevation: 11,570 feet

Vail, Colorado

- Town Population: 5,000
- Elevation: 8,000 feet (2400 m)
- Founded by: Pete Sibert - WWII Army 10th Mountain Division
Returned home with plan to build a ski resort
- Named for: Charles Vail - Colorado Interstate highway engineer
- Summer economy: hiking, mountain biking, fishing, golf

Miracle Mike



Mike the Headless Chicken

- “Miracle Mike”
- 1945 - Farmer Lloyd Olsen’s dinner
- Missed jugular and brainstem
- Brainstem responsibilities: breathing, heart rate, reflexes
- Headless Mike lived for 18 months
- Fed mashed corn with an eye dropper
- Career as a touring side show act
- Fruita, Colorado annual town festival

Miracle Mike



Colorado River



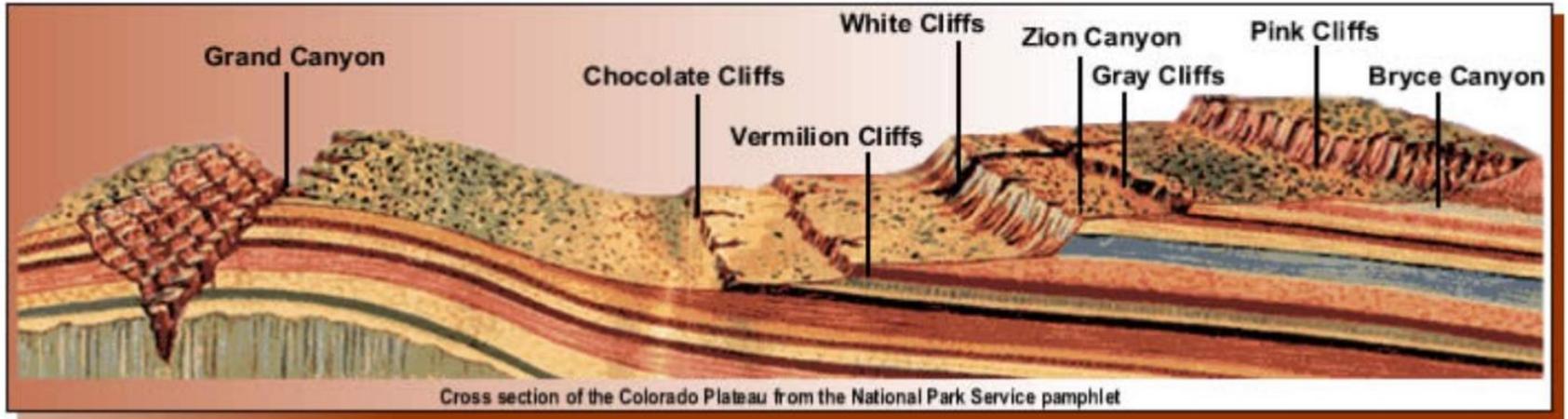
Red Rock Canyon Country



Colorado Plateau



Colorado Plateau Grand Staircase



Colorado Plateau:

- CO Plateau large tracts of land mostly flat sedimentary rock sections rising up towards Rocky Mountains
- Elevation: 4900-11,000 feet (1500-3350 m)
- 5 Sections are edged with massive cliffs as they go lower
- Most of the rock is sandstone or limestone
- Red color comes from a high iron content

Utah



Utah

- Statehood: 1896
- Capitol: Salt Lake City
- Name: Ute Indians - “people of the mountains”
- Nickname: Beehive State
- Motto: Industry
- Settled by Mormons
- Today’s Economy: tourism, computer software, steel, copper, cattle, corn, wheat

State Insect: Honey Bee



State Rock: Coal



State Dance: Square Dance



Native American Petroglyphs



Native American Petroglyphs

- Symbols carved into rock
- Lasts for hundreds/thousands of years
- Found all over the world
- No written language, so meaning are guesses
- Nomadic animal routes?
- Warnings?
- Religious instruction?
- Recording significant events?

Desert Varnish



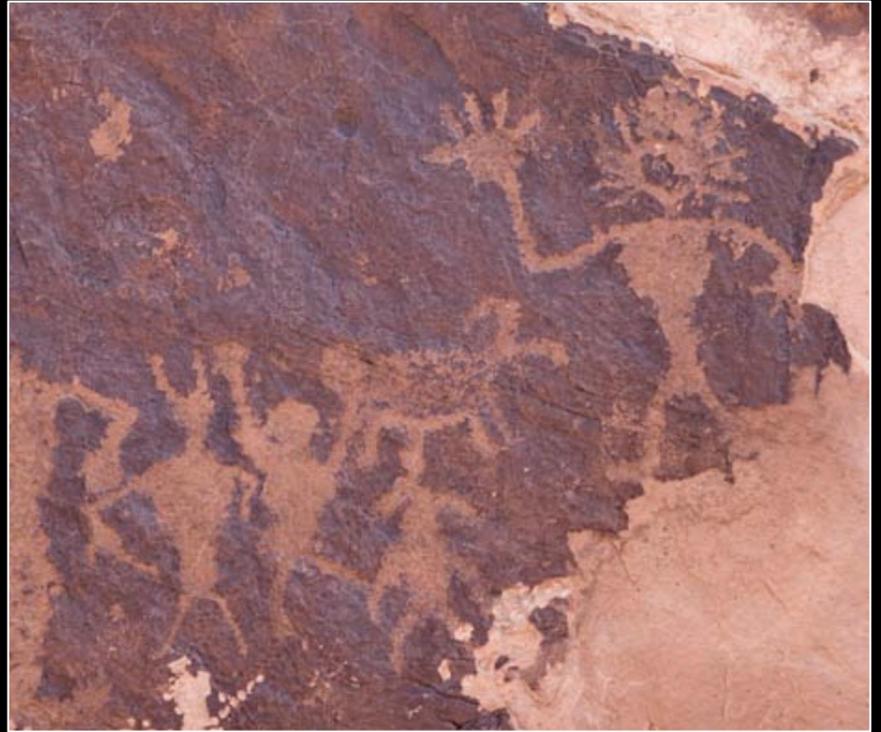
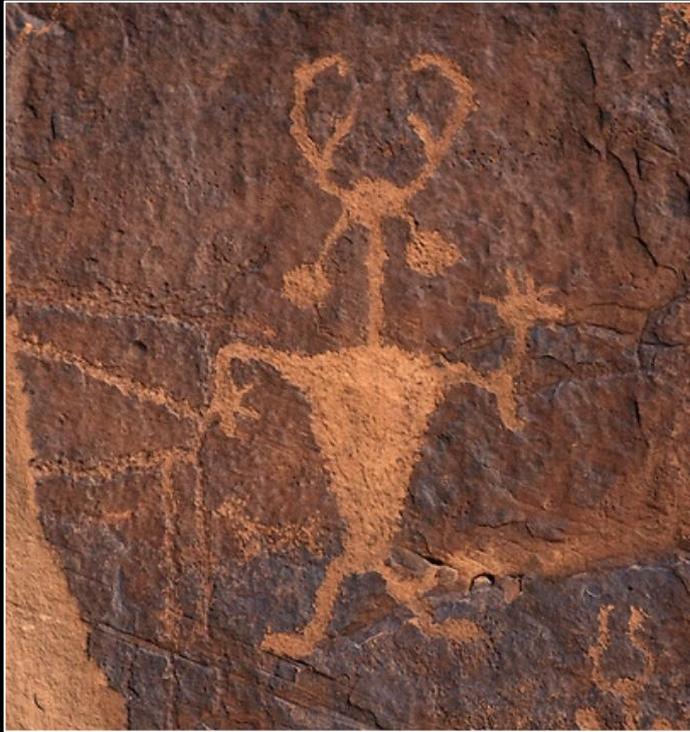
Desert Varnish

- Orange or black coating on rock surfaces in arid climates
- Only form on physically stable rocks not subject to erosion
- Particles of clay & iron & manganese oxide & organic material
- Clay acts as a fly trap to catch trace elements in wind
- Native Americans chipped away dark varnish to reveal light rock beneath

Golf Course Rock Art



Golf Course Rock Art



Golf Course Rock Art



Golf Course Rock Art

- Artists: Anasazi & Fremont Native Americans
- Dates: 1-1275 AD
- Depicts: elk, canines, bighorn sheep, men, aliens?
- Lower half naturally broke off
- On semi-public lands (owned by local golf course) - not protected

Moab Man



Moab, Utah



Moab, Utah

- Small village on the Colorado River
- Population 5000
- Started as an agriculture center (fresh water)
- 1950s - “Uranium Capital of the World” - end of Cold War decline
- Today’s Economy: Tourism
- Gateway to Arches & Canyonlands National Parks
- Base for extreme mountain biking and off-road vehicle sports
- Moab Jeep Safari - annual 4 wheel drive festival (Easter)

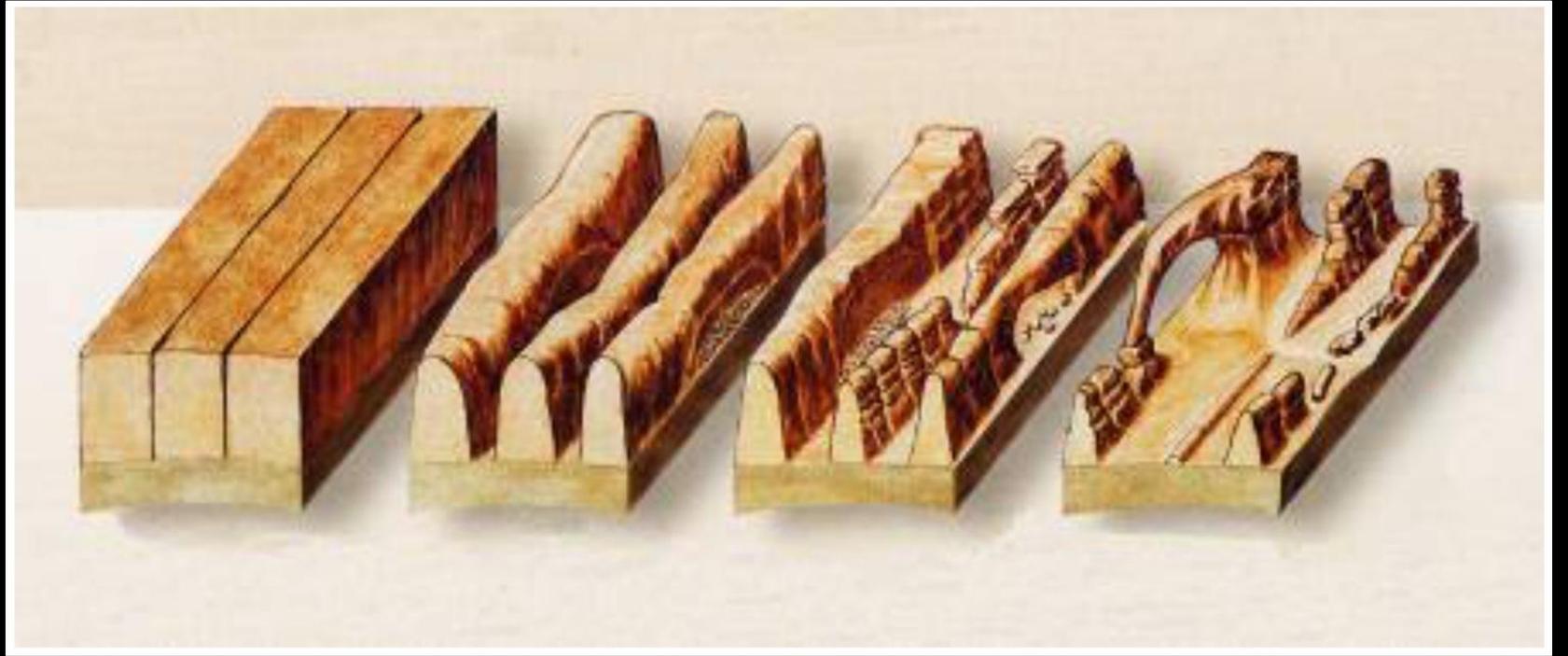
Arches National Park



Arches National Park

- National Park: 1960
- Size: 120 sq miles (76,000 acres)
- Claim to fame: 2000 natural arches
- Highest density of arches in the world
- Heights: 3 feet to 306 feet
- Since 1977, 43 arches have collapsed

Arches Geology



Arches Geology

- Expanding & retreating oceans deposited sandstone & mudstone
- Entrada Sandstone (top - salmon color)
- Navajo Sandstone (bottom - buff color)
- Geologic forces underground caused land to crack in long fissures
- Long rock “fins” developed
- Ice erosion expands cracks, wind erosion carries away material
- Under the right conditions (rock hardness/balance) arches form

Arches Plants & Animals



Arches Plants & Animals

- Active at dawn or dusk: mule deer, coyotes, porcupines, jackrabbits & many songbirds
- Active during day: squirrels, chipmunks, lizards, snakes, hawks & eagles
- Drought resistant plants: cacti, yucca, mosses
- Spring or rainy times: grasses and wildflowers

Biological Soil Crust



Biological Soil Crust

- Tiny living organisms
- Helps ground retain moisture
- Creates nutrients
- Provides grasses and shrubs a foothold in the sand
- Can take years to grow back when stepped on :(

Ephemeral Pools



Ephemeral Pools

- Small “potholes”
- Gather rain and collect plant & animal debris
- Develop tiny ecosystems which harbor microscopic invertebrates
- They exist for a short time and then evaporate

Balanced Rock



Balanced Rock

- Height: 128 feet (39 m)
- Weight: 3600 tons
- Estrada Sandstone rock on top
- Mudstone pedestal

Delicate Arch



Delicate Arch

- Height: 60 feet (18 meters)
- Most well known Arch in the park
- On the Utah license plate
- 2002 Winter Olympic torch passed through it
- Nicknames: “The Chaps” & “The School Marm’s Bloomers”
- Hour difficult hike to get there
- We are going to viewpoint (200 feet walk)

Utah License Plate



Double Arch



Double Arch

- Two arches next to each other
- Fabulous photo opportunity
- Tallest: 104 feet (32 m) height, 148 feet (45 m) across
- ½ mile walk over sandy soil - can turn around at any time

The Windows



The Windows

- Long fin of connected arches
- North and South Windows
- ½ mile walk over sandy soil - can turn around at any time
- “Rustic” restrooms

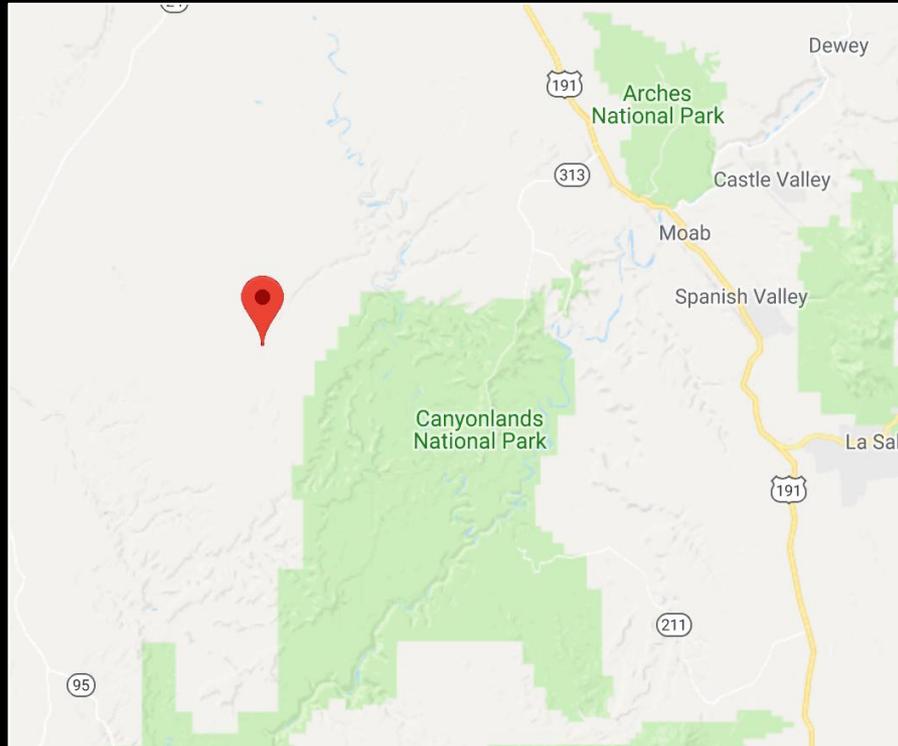
127 Hours Movie



127 Hours Movie

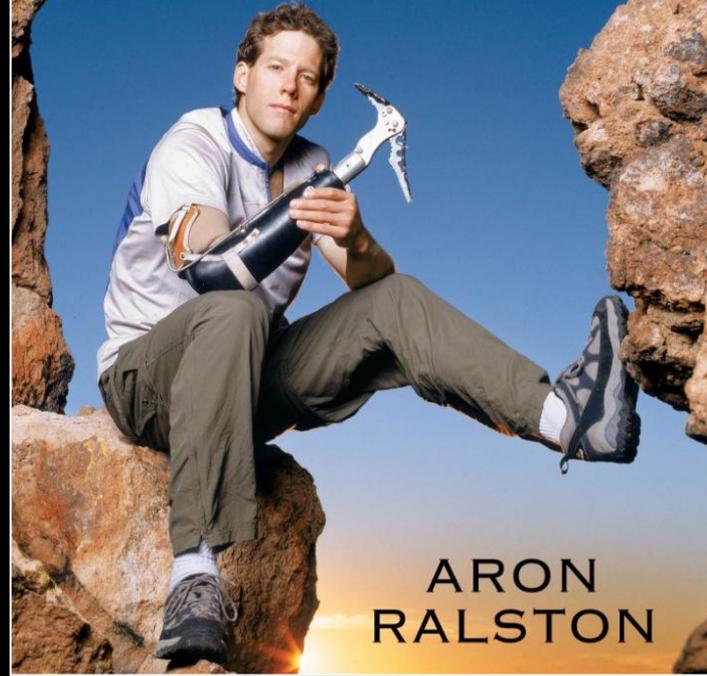
- True story of Aron Ralston
- Hiking in Blue John Canyon (west of Canyonlands)
- Fell through a crack & a boulder pinned his right hand
- Stuck for 127 hours
- Cut off arm below elbow
- Taken by helicopter to Moab Hospital

Blue John Canyon



BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER



ARON
RALSTON

Canyonlands National Park



Canyonlands National Park

- 1964
- 527 sq miles (330,000 acres)
- Claim to fame: colorful eroded landscape of canyons, mesas & buttes
- Carved by the convergence of Green River & Colorado River
- 3 districts: Island in the Sky, Needles, the Maze

Needles



Needles

- Southeast side of park
- Named for colorful spires of Cedar Mesa Sandstone
- Very rugged backcountry
- One short road
- Used for long day hikes & week-long camping trips
- Extreme 4-wheel drive off-roading

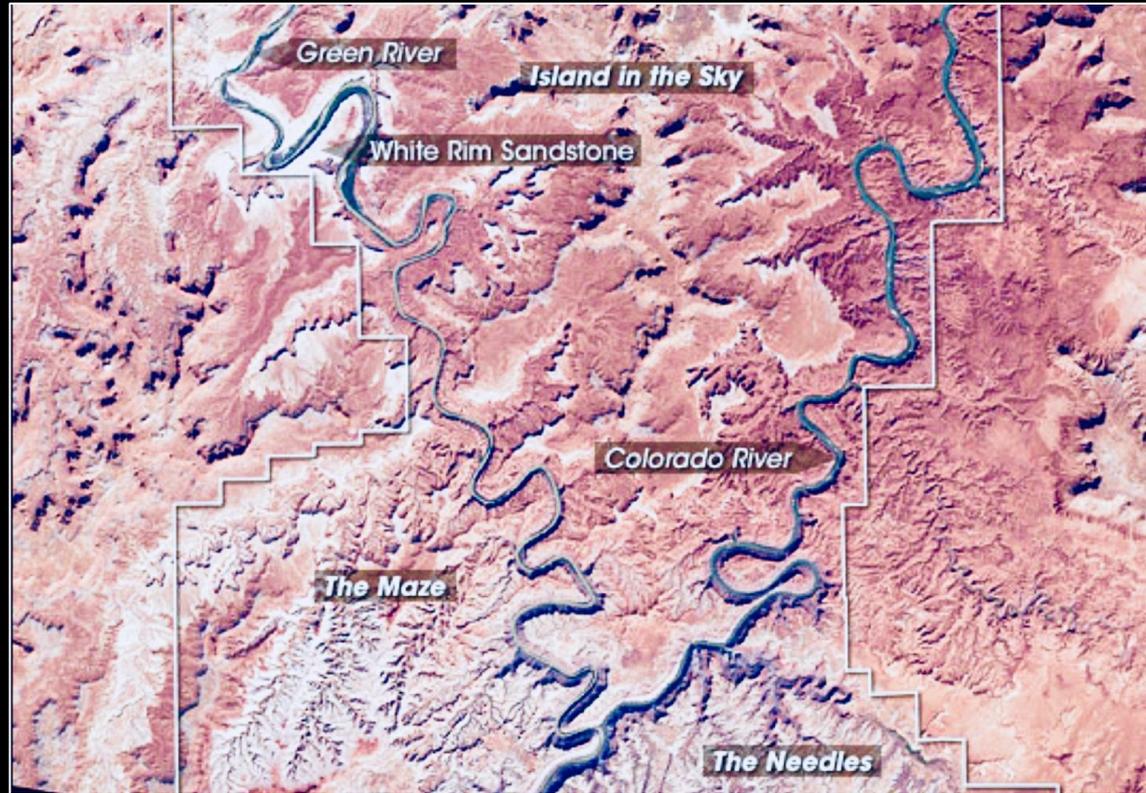
The Maze



The Maze

- Southwest side of park
- Big, wild & untamed
- Least accessible part of Canyonlands
- One of the most difficult places to get to in US
- Zero amenities: no food, water or gasoline

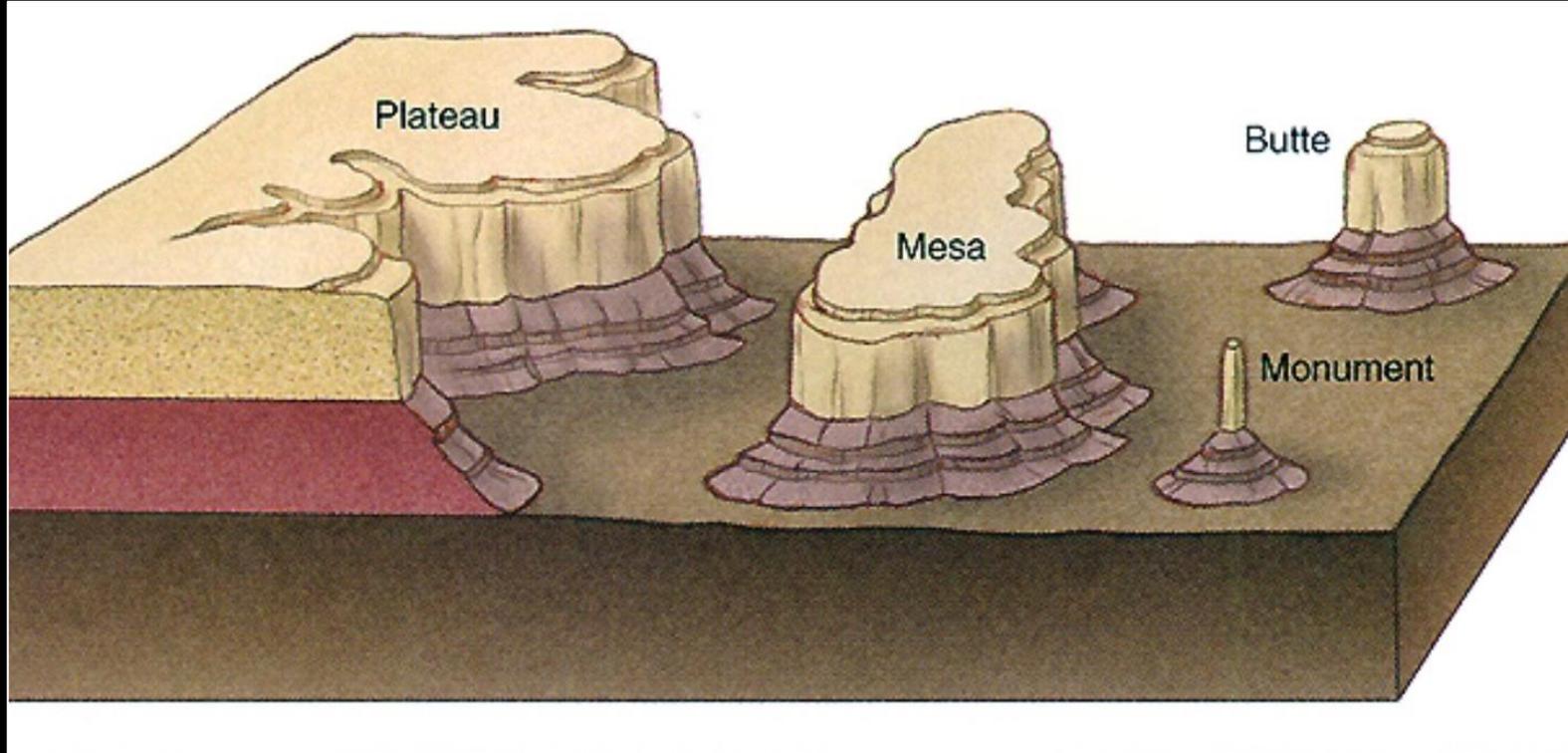
Island in the Sky



Island in the Sky

- North side of park
- Most accessible part
- Arrowhead shaped mesa, formed by the meeting of the Green & Colorado Rivers
- Stunning views overlooking much of Canyonlands

Plateau, Mesa, Butte, Monument



Green River Overlook



Green River Overlook

- Major tributary of the Colorado River
- Starts in central Wyoming
- Meets Colorado River in Canyonlands National Park

Grand View Overlook



Grand View Overlook

- Elevation: 6000 feet
- Canyon below: 3800 feet
- End of the paved roads in the park
- Green River to right
- Colorado River to left
- Meet in the middle

Native Americans



Native Americans

- 30,000 BC - land bridge between Asia & Alaska
- Hunters followed animal herds
- Settled further south through North & South America
- Regional development of housing, tools, beliefs
- Common indigenous practices: sacredness of land, revere ancestors, connection between natural & supernatural

Native Americans, continued

- 1492 - Christopher Columbus
- 1500-1600s - Disease kills 90% - chicken pox, measles
- European settlement - pushed westward
- 1830 - Indian Removal Act
- 1845 - Manifest Destiny - US territorial expansion justification
- 1851 - Indian Appropriations Act - Reservation System
- 1860s-1890s - Post Civil War

Native Americans Today

- 573 federally recognized tribes
- 5.2 million people
- 326 reservations
- 22% live on reservations
- Total lands: 87,000 sq miles (227,000 sq km) - size of Idaho
- 12 larger than the state of Rhode Island
- Poorest demographic
- Tribal sovereignty - casinos

Kachina Dolls



Kachina Dolls

- Spirit being in the religious beliefs of the Pueblo people
- Personification (spirit) of things in the real world
- Three different aspects:
 - The supernatural being
 - The kachina dancers (masked members of the community who represent kachinas at religious ceremonies)
 - Kachina dolls (carved in the likeness of kachinas)

Kachina Dolls, continued

- Can represent anything in the natural world (revered ancestor, an element, location, quality, natural phenomenon, or concept)
- Not worshipped per se
- Viewed as a powerful being to give veneration & respect
- In return, the being uses its particular power for human good, bringing rainfall, healing, fertility, or protection

Dream Catchers



Kokopelli



Kokopelli

- Many theories & stories
- Fertility deity depicted as a humpbacked flute player (presides over both childbirth & agriculture)
- A trickster god who vengefully lures away children (Pied Piper)
- Hunchback who tricks the village beauty into sleeping with him
- Possible Aztec origins: traders who brought their goods in sacks slung across their backs & played a flute to announce themselves as friendly

Mesa Verde National Park



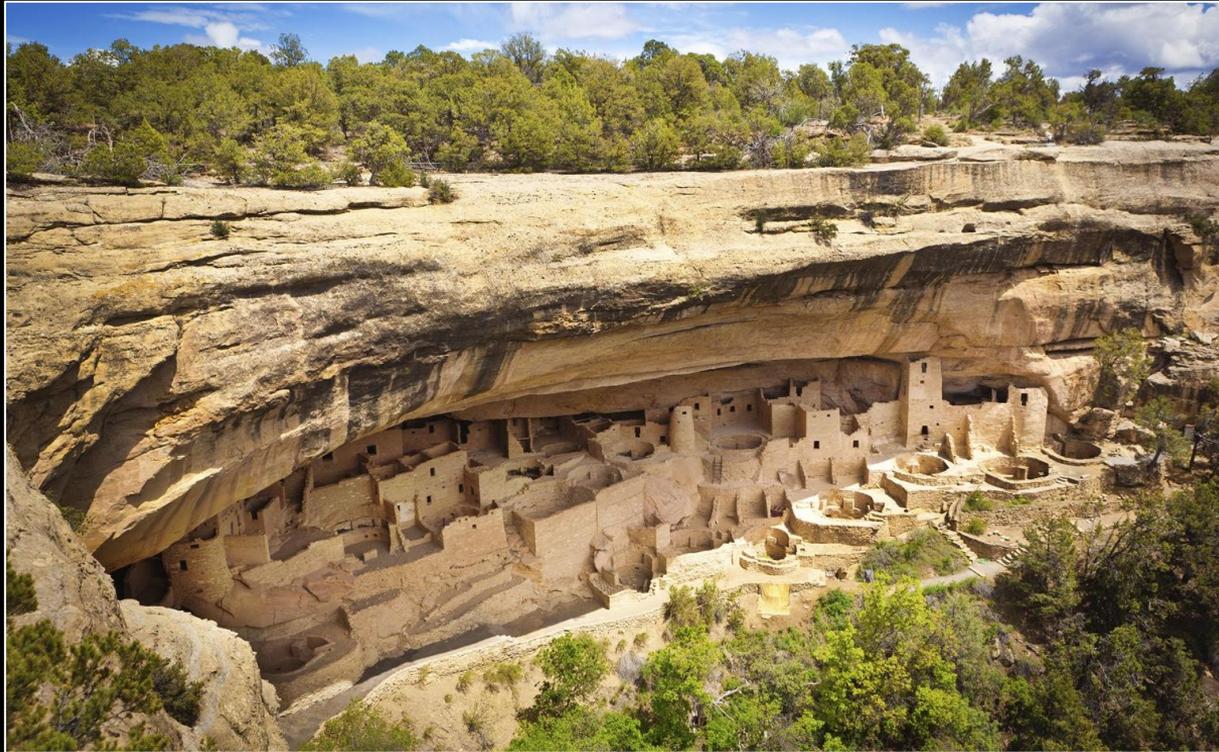
Mesa Verde National Park

- Best preserved Ancestral Puebloan archaeological sites in US
- 4,300 sites - 600 cliff dwellings
- Dating from 650 AD - 1300 AD
- National Park: 1906
- Area: 52,000 acres

Mesa Verde = Green Table



Cliff Dwellings



Ancestral Pueblo People



Ancestral Pueblo People

- 550-750 - Basketmaker period
- 750-1150 AD - Pueblo period
- 1150-1300 AD - Classic Pueblo period (Cliff Dwellings)
- Hunting: rabbits, deer, turkey
- Agriculture: corn, squash, beans
- Crafts: basket making, pottery, jewelry
- Traded with other tribes in the area
- Disappeared from Mesa Verde after 1300 (drought? danger?)

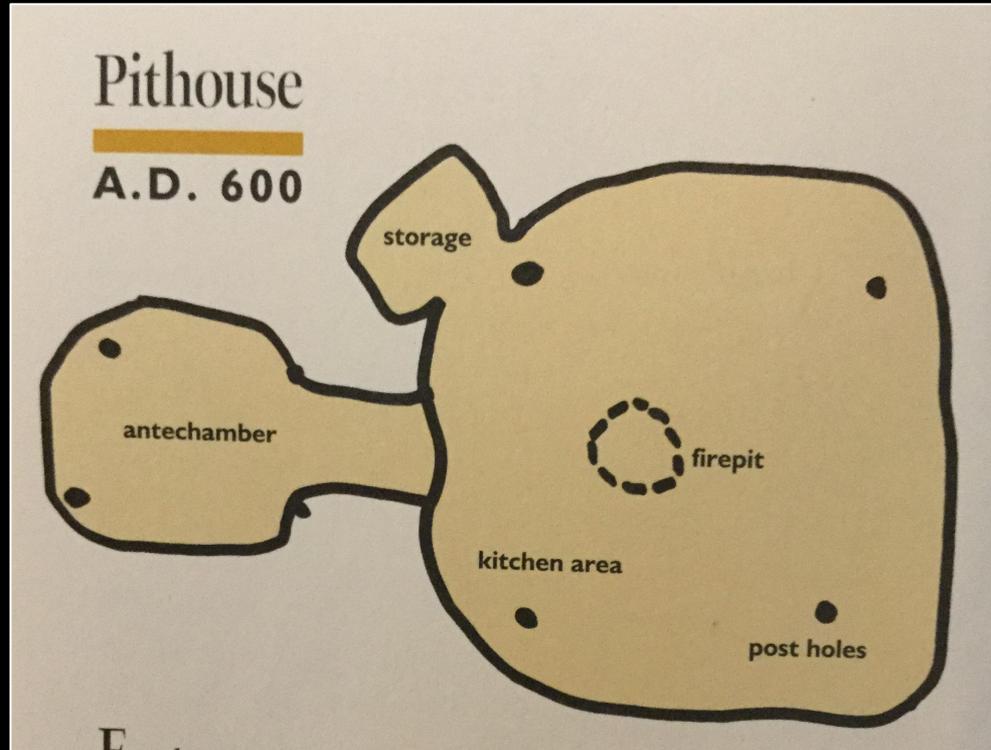
Pit Houses



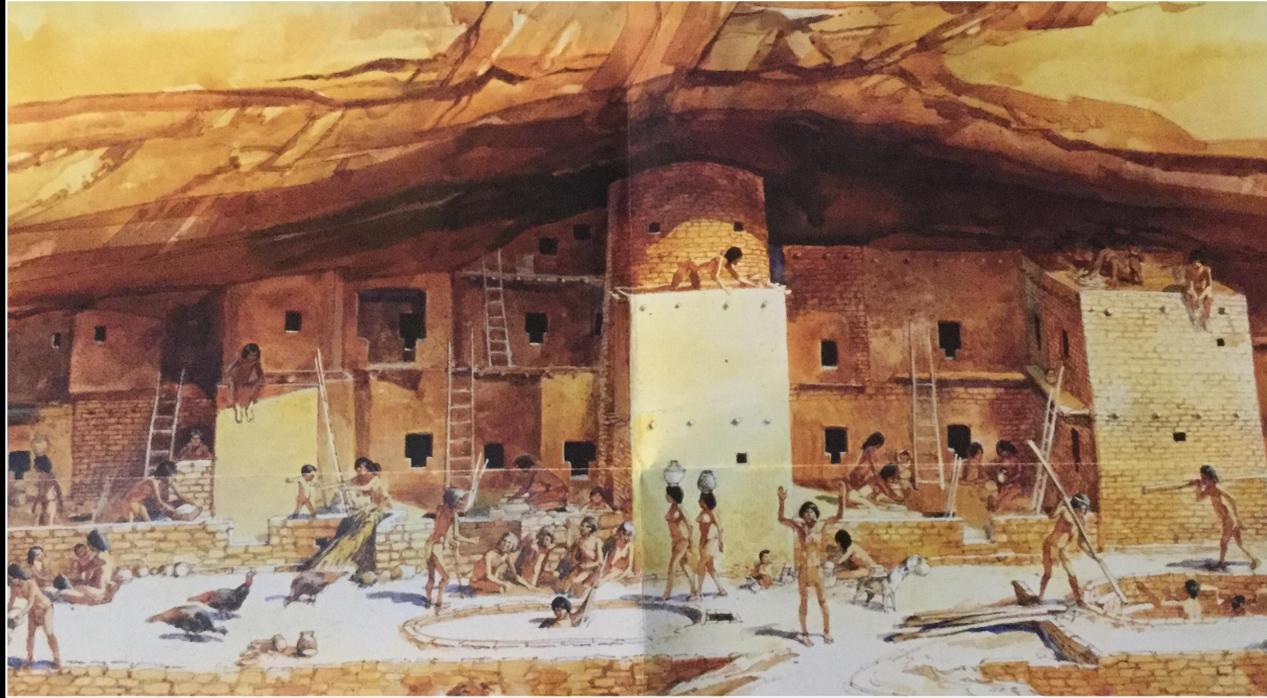
Pit Houses

- 550-750 AD - “Basketmakers”
- Dug into ground
- Four corner poles that supported roof
- Mud roof and walls
- Hole in roof for fire
- Small antechamber for storage

Pit Houses



Cliff Dwellings



Cliff Dwellings

- Cut stone bricks and mortar, multistory buildings
- Set in sandstone rock alcoves
- Access very difficult
- 600 on Mesa Verde
- Usually a few rooms only, some over 100 rooms
- Interior walls were plastered and painted with designs
- All contained kivas

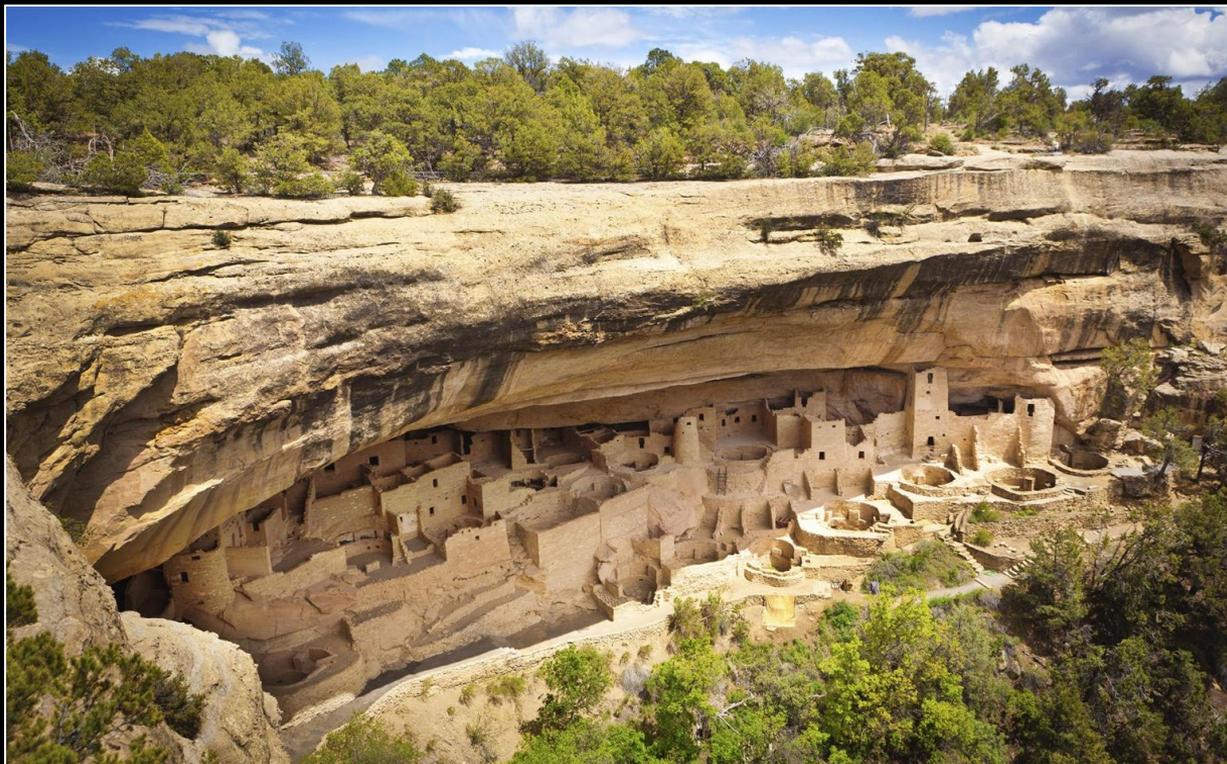
Kivas



Kivas

- Round room built into the ground of the cliff
- Used for religious ritual, political meetings, social gatherings
- 6 upright stone pillars supporting roof
- Stone bench seating between the pillars
- Fire pit in center
- Ventilation shaft
- Entry was a ladder through the roof

Cliff Palace Overlook



Cliff Palace

- 1260-1280 AD
- Largest cliff dwelling in Mesa Verde
- 215 feet wide, 90 feet deep, 60 feet high
- 150 rooms, 23 kivas
- 125 residents
- Probably the central hub among the 60 nearby cliff dwellings

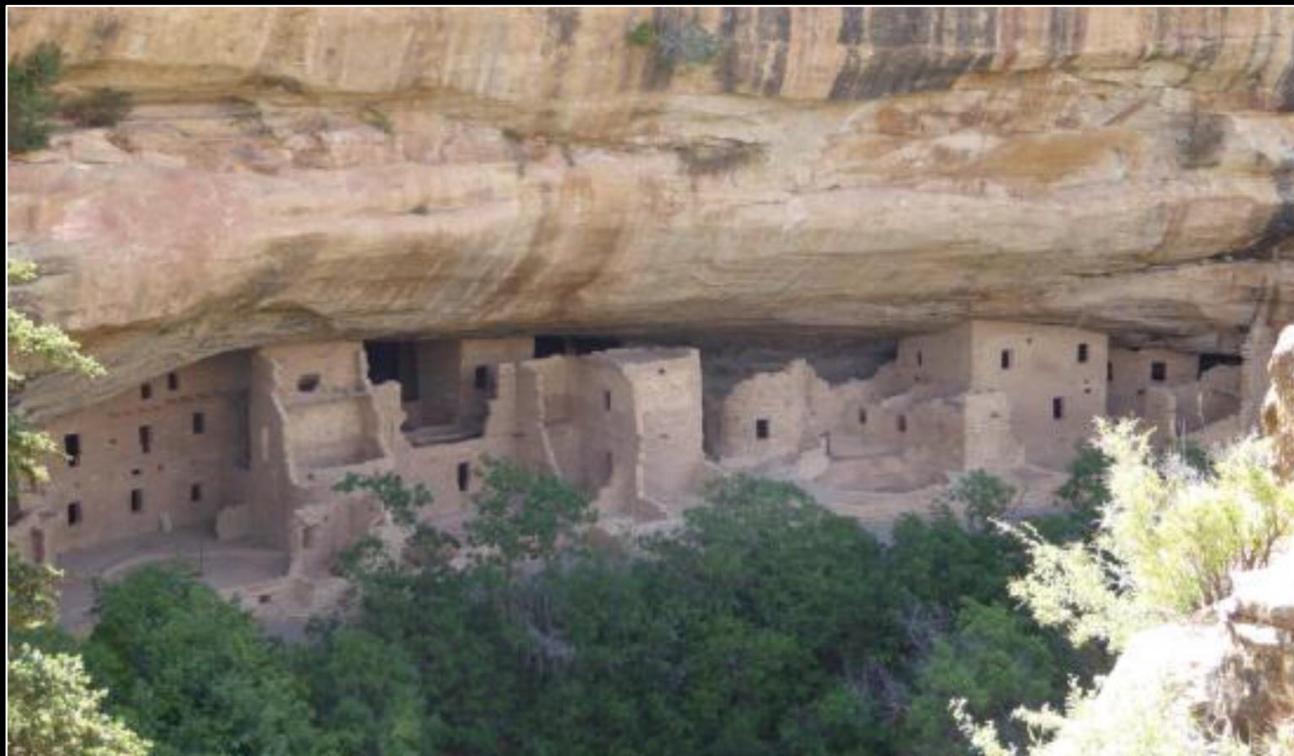
Sun Temple



Sun Temple

- 1250 AD
- 30 rooms
- Built as a center of worship / astronomical observatory
- Conspiracy theories (advanced geometry)
- Believed to have been abandoned before finished
(no roof beams or household goods)

Spruce Tree House Overlook



Spruce Tree House

- 1200-1280 AD
- 3rd largest cliff dwelling on Mesa Verde
- 130 rooms, 8 kivas
- 60-90 residents
- Built near a spring

Navajo People



Navajo People

- Call themselves: The *Dine*
- 300,000 tribal members - 2nd largest after Cherokee
- 1400 BC
- Herd sheep & goats
- Spinning & weaving wool blankets

Navajo Reservation



Navajo Reservation



Navajo Reservation

- Largest reservation
- 27,000 sq miles (71,000 sq km)
- Similar in size to West Virginia
- Arizona, Utah, New Mexico
- Population: 200,000

Code Talkers



Code Talkers

- WWII - 1940s
- Mission: transmit secret tactical messages using a code based on their Navajo language
- 400-500 Code Talkers
- Code was never cracked

Monument Valley



Monument Valley

- Located on the Navajo Tribal Lands - Tribal Park
- Known for extensive sandstone buttes (1000 feet high)
- Valley floor elevation: 5000-6000 feet (1,500-1800 m)
- Elevation used to be at top of the buttes
- 65 million years ago: layers of sand covered by layer of shale
- Cracks and wind/water erosion created valley
- Top shale layer of buttes is a cap of harder stone, protecting the buttes below from erosion

John Ford Movies



John Ford Movies

- American Film Director
- Used Monument Valley for “western” films
- Defined what most people think of when they envision “The West”
 - Stagecoach (1939)
 - My Darling Clementine (1946)
 - She Wore a Yellow Ribbon (1949)
 - The Searchers (1956)
 - How the West Was Won (1962)

Other Monument Valley Movies

- Easy Rider
- National Lampoon's Vacation
- Thelma and Louise
- Back to the Future III
- Mission Impossible II
- The Lone Ranger (2013)
- Forrest Gump

Goulding Lodge



Open-air Truck Tour



Navajo Taco

How it's made:

White flour
Baking powder
Salt
Warm water
Deep fried

Served with:

Stew
Navajo Taco
As a side dish



Arizona



Arizona

- Statehood: 1912
- Capitol: Phoenix
- Name: Spanish word for “little spring”
- Nickname: Grand Canyon State
- Motto: God enriches
- Today’s Economy: copper $\frac{2}{3}$ US production, tourism, healthcare, transportation

Gemstone: Turquoise



Reptile: Ridge-nosed Rattlesnake



Neckwear: Bolo Tie



Cameron Trading Post



Cameron Trading Post

- 1911: Bridge built across Little Colorado River
- 1916: Richardson brothers established a Trading Post
- Navajo & Hopi Traded wool/blankets/livestock for dry goods
- Important connection point between east and west
- Grand Canyon east entrance tourism convenient stop
- Today: Large selection of Native American goods

Desert View Watchtower



Desert View Watchtower

- East entrance of Grand Canyon
- 70 foot observation tower
- Built: 1932
- Architect: Mary Coulter
- Designed to resemble ancient Puebloan Peoples watchtowers

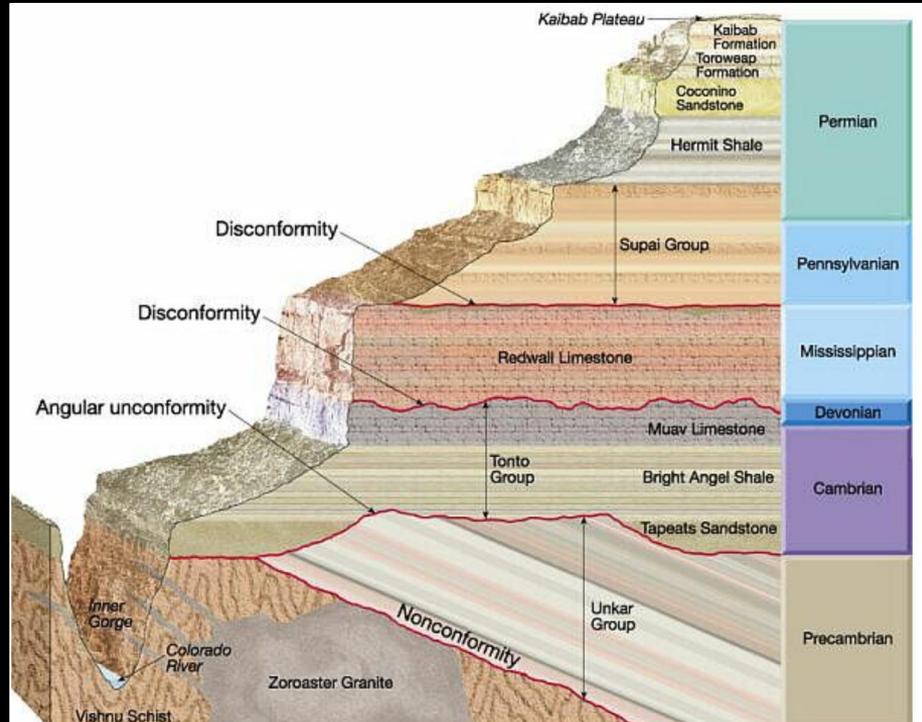
Grand Canyon National Park



Grand Canyon

- Length: 277 miles (446 km)
- Average width: 10 miles (16 km)
- Widest point: 18 miles (29 km)
- Depth: over a mile, 6000 feet (1850 m)
- Carved by Colorado River + wind/ice erosion
- Age: 6 million years

Grand Canyon Geology



Grand Canyon Geology

- Rock layers deposited by oceans expanding and contracting
- 70 million years ago: Colorado Plateau starts to lift
- 6 million years ago: Rocky Mountains form
- Colorado River becomes steeper
- Fast river carves through soft sandstone and limestone
- Side canyons formed by small streams
- Canyon widens due to ice and wind erosion

Grand Canyon National Park



Grand Canyon National Park

- 1908 National Monument
- 1919 National Park
- 1.9 million sq miles (4.9 mil sq km)
- South Rim - most Park services
- North Rim - difficult access

Grand Canyon Plants



Grand Canyon Plants

- Piñon Pine
- Ponderosa Pine
- Juniper
- Mixed conifer
- Desert shrubs
- Cacti

Ponderosa Pine



Ponderosa Pine

- Most widely distributed pine tree in North America
- Tall with thick, flaky bark (fire protection)
- Young: blackish brown (blackjack)
- Old: reddish (yellow bellies)
- Smell: stick your nose in the bark and sniff
- That was not a joke
- Theory: chemical in sap warmed by the sun

Grand Canyon Piñon Pine



Piñon Pine

- Edible pine nuts
- Staple of Native American diet
- Extraction: knock cones off tree with stick, stack in pile, light on fire to burn away sticky resin and loosen nuts
- Can't be harvested on public lands, except by Native Americans

Grand Canyon Juniper



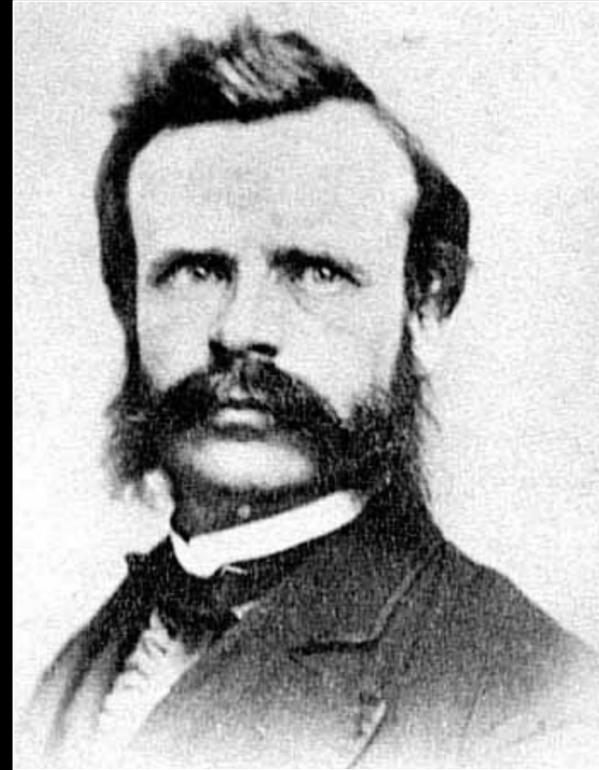
Juniper

- Berries: cooking spice, gives flavor to gin
- Native American remedies: epilepsy, asthma, female contraceptive
- Calcium in ash: 1 teaspoon = 1 glass of milk
- Bark: sandals and baskets

Grand Canyon Juniper



Grand Canyon Human History



Grand Canyon Human History

- 12000-9000 - Paleo-Indian
- 800-1300 - Ancestral Puebloan
- 1540 - Francisco Coronado, Spanish explorers looking for gold
- 1869 - John Wesley Powell expedition to map Colorado River
- 1901 - Railroad from Williams, AZ brings tourists

Route 66



Route 66



Interstate Highway System



Route 66

- 1926 - Chicago to Los Angeles (2500 miles)
- 1920s-30s: Great Depression (25% unemployment)
- 1930s: Dust Bowl (extended drought)
- California needed workers for their fruit and vegetables farms
- Families packed up everything to head west for new opportunity
- Route 66 was the main road that all small roads fed into
- Small towns along way had hotels, restaurants, gas stations
- 1956 Interstate Highway Act
- Bypassed towns and they began to wither
- 1986: "Historic Route 66 Association" created
- Nostalgia celebrates: small town America, the great American Road Trip, a simpler time & way of life, hard work/determination

Hoover Dam



Hoover Dam



Hoover Dam

- Type: concrete arch-gravity dam
- Dates: 1931-1936
- Height: 726 feet (221 m)
- Length: 1244 feet (379 m)
- Width at top: 45 feet (14 m)
- Width at bottom: 660 feet (200 m)
- Cost: \$639 million (in today's money)

Hoover Dam

- Dams the Colorado River
- Spans across Black Canyon
- Created Lake Mead
- Purpose 1: control river's seasonal flooding
- Purpose 2: water for irrigation & desert cities
- Purpose 3: hydroelectric power
- Border between Nevada & Arizona

Nevada



Nevada

- Statehood: 1864
- Capital: Carson City
- Name: Spanish for “snow covered”
- Nickname: Silver State, Sagebrush State, Battle Born State
- Moto: All for Our Country
- Today’s economy: Tourism (legalized gambling), Mining (gold)
- Fun (?) Fact: Only state with legalized prostitution

State Metal: Silver



State Flower: Sagebrush



State Gemstone: Opal



Mojave Desert



Mojave Desert

- Driest Desert in North America
- Rain: 5 inches
- Very hot in summer 120+F (49+C)
- Death Valley: -280 feet (-85m), 134F (56C)
- High desert 2000-5000 feet (600-1500m)
- Animals: snakes, lizards, chipmunks, rabbits, mule deer, etc
- Plants: 1700+ species

Las Vegas



Las Vegas:

- Name: Spanish for “the meadows”
- Natural oasis in the Mojave Desert
- 1905 - Railroad depot (Los Angeles to Salt Lake City)
- 1930 - Hoover Dam construction begins (20 miles away)
- 1946 - Bugsy Siegel: The Flamingo
- 1950s-1960s - Rat Pack era

Las Vegas:

- Food (buffets & celebrity chefs)
- Shows (Cirque du Soleil)
- Concerts (super star residencies)
- Conventions
- Weddings
- “What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas”

Fremont Street Experience



Bellagio Water Fountains



New York, New York



Venetian



High Roller



Mob Museum



Neon Museum



**Scenic Parks
Explorer
Slide Show**