

National Parks

Speaking

- 1 Which national parks in Germany do you know?
Choose two favourite spots and give reasons why you would spend time there.
- 2 Name at least five natural wonders of the United States. You may use a map.
- 3 The following pictures were taken in a national park in the USA.
 - a) Describe at least two photographs in detail. Refer to landscape, colours and weather.
 - b) Guess which wonder is presented. Exchange your ideas with a partner. Give reasons.
 - c) Imagine you are standing in this scenery calling home. One of your family members is answering the phone. Express your feelings.



Photos © A. Thomae

Reading comprehension

This is a text introducing the spectacular Grand Canyon National Park to you.

1. Read the text carefully.
2. Find characteristics which qualify the Grand Canyon as a wonder of nature.
Present the information on the Grand Canyon in form of a fact file (key words only).
Refer to categories like: location, depth, length, width, number of tourists per year, the origins of the canyon and reasons why it is so attractive.

The Grand Canyon National Park

The southernly road that leads to the Grand Canyon from the south approaches a softly sloping plain which gives no allusion to what lies behind it. You could convince yourself you were lost. Suddenly a gigantic chasm a mile (1.6 kilometers) deep and up to 18 miles (29 kilometers) wide emerges. Its size is so colossal that even the best vantage points can only offer partial views of the canyon's 227 miles (446 kilometers).

Almost five Million visitors make their way to Arizona every year; 9 out of ten of them go to the South Rim first in order to see its stunning views across the innermost gorge of the Colorado River. In places, the rock right at the edge of the main viewing points shimmers and shines, polished by the many feet that have dared to creep so far forwards. However, the majority of the 1,904 square miles the National Park consists of are kept as wildlife habitat.

Some of the USA's cleanest air can be found at the Grand Canyon, with clear views ranging an average 90 to 110 miles (145 to 177 kilometers).

It's almost impossible to visit the canyon without wondering about geology. Stone as old as 1.8 billion years can be found at its base. Geologists are largely in agreement that most of the severe erosion happened in the last five million years, but just how the river cut through the canyon is impossible to tell.

(private)

Speaking

The American president Theodore Roosevelt (October 27, 1858 – January 6, 1919), impressed by the beauty of this landscape, said:

“Do nothing to mar its grandeur, sublimity and loveliness. ... You cannot improve on it. But what you can do is to keep it for your children, your children's children, and all who come after you, as the one great sight which every American should see.”

to mar: to damage or spoil sth good

1. State his ideas in your own words.
2. Why do we need national parks? Give your attitude and reasons for it.

Writing

Imagine you are doing a holiday job at a Grand Canyon Visitor Centre. It is planned to print new information material for visitors. You are asked to formulate rules for hikers. Think of at least five Do's and five Don'ts. Design a leaflet.

Auditory-visual comprehension

Parts of this landscape have changed dramatically, and some changes are man-made. Let's find out more about this by watching a video.

<http://www.teachersdomain.org/resource/ess05.sci.ess.earthsys.glendam/>

1. List the reasons for building a dam on the Glen Canyon.
2. Landscapes have always been changing – all over the world.

Complete the table below with information from the video. Add your own ideas.

Changes caused by	
human activity	natural forces
-	

Role play

Imagine the State of Arizona is planning to build a further dam. The regional TV station has invited to a public debate on the topic “What will our area look like in 20 years?”

Prepare a discussion of several people who stand for different interest groups.

(examples: park ranger / farmer / power plant executive / politician)

Work in groups

- a) Each group writes a role card for one representative (e. g. farmer). Every member of your group should be prepared to speak for the interests of your group.
- b) Now start your debate. Discuss the pros and cons of this project.

Optional activity:

Do the National Geographic quiz at:

<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/national-parks/grand-canyon-quiz/>

