

# Ecotourism Guide: Tours for Visitors

**NGSS Standard: MS-ESS2-3**



## Adventure Description:

In this adventure, you will think like an ecotourism guide and create an ecotour for visitors to participate in and learn about Pangea.

## Activity

Teacher note: This activity is long and can be completed across multiple days.

### Step 1: Background Information on Ecotourism (10 minutes)

- Show [Video: Tours for Visitors](#).
- As a class, discuss why communities would want to have ecotours (e.g., to generate money, teach people about the history and culture of an area).
- Show [Handout: Examples of Ecotours](#). As a class, discuss how there are many different types of ecotours. Some focus on adventure, like rock climbing or zip lining while others focus on archeological activities like searching for fossils or ancient signs of local civilizations. Many tours also focus on the ancient history of an area. For example, an ecotour in Argentina could include an archaeological dig to find fossils that will tell us about the history of creatures that lived there.
- Next, explain that some tours focus on how the history of one place connects to the history of the entire world. For example, a tour in Argentina might focus on a fossil from a Mesosaurus. This fossil has also been found in Southern Africa. The tour guide would explain that the animal was found in two places that are separated by the ocean. This is because at one time, the two pieces of land were connected.
- Show [Handout: Learning About Pangea](#). As a class, discuss how all of the continents were once part of a super-continent called Pangea. Over time, they drifted apart.

### Step 2: Activity Set Up (2-5 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will be creating an ecotour that is part educational and part adventure!
- Show [Handout: Creating an Ecotour](#). As a class, read through the steps.

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- Divide students into small groups or pairs. Provide each group with the following materials:
  - Art supplies and building materials (e.g., cardboard, clean recyclables, pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, etc.).
  - Piece of string or rope that is at least 18 inches long.

### **Step 3: Creating Adventure Part of Tour (20+ minutes)**

- Explain to students that they will now create a zip line for visitors to take so they can get to their presentation.
- While students are working, ask the following questions:
  - What significant sites will your tourists see on their zip line trip?
  - How can you help tourists learn more about your topic while they zip line?

### **Step 4: Creating Educational Part of Tour (20+ minutes)**

- Explain to students that they will now create the educational part of their tour.
- As students are working, ask the following:
  - What kind of people will be interested in taking your ecotour? (People interested in ancient history, fossil record, archaeology.)
  - What is the purpose of your tour? (Educate tourists about geology, tectonic plates, a specific organism.)
  - What will you do to help keep your tourists interested in your subject?
- Teacher note: Students will choose a style for their presentation. Pairs that choose a lecture style will need a large sheet of paper or a poster board. Students that choose a technology-style presentation will need a tablet or iPhone. If students choose the “other” option, they will need to get an idea approved by you before they can choose a different style of presentation.

### **Step 5: Sharing Attractions (5 minutes)**

- Have students showcase their full ecotour to the rest of the class. Have students discuss the following as part of their presentation:
  - Why will tourists want to come and take your ecotour?
  - How much will a tour cost and how long will it last?
  - What opportunities/resources will you have available for your customers to learn more about your topic after they go home?
- Have a concluding class discussion about the way ecotourism can educate visitors as well as help an area earn more money.

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## Materials List

### Provided online:

- Video: Tours for Visitors
- Handout: Examples of Ecotours
- Handout: Learning About Pangea
- Handout: Creating an Ecotour

### Not Provided online (each student or group needs):

- Art supplies and building materials (e.g., cardboard, clean recyclables, pipe cleaners, popsicle sticks, etc.)
- Piece of string or rope that is at least 18 inches long
- Presentation Materials (depending on choice: poster board, smartphone/tablet, etc.)

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