

ROZZY READERS

**WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST:
ZION NATIONAL PARK
3-5**

Section 1: Wildlife Biologists

Wildlife Biologists



A person who learns about and protects wild animals and the habitats they live in.

National Parks



National parks are parks in the United States that have been created by the government. The government created national parks so that it could keep the plants and animals that live there safe.

Zion National Park



A national park located in the state of Utah that was created to protect Zion Canyon and sandstone cliffs.

Career Highlight:

Wildlife Biologist

Wildlife biologists are people who learn about and protect wild animals and the habitats they live in.

Wildlife biologists who work in national parks make sure that animals and their homes are not hurt by visitors. If there is a problem with any of the animals or their habitats, wildlife biologists develop a plan to fix it.

Responsibilities include:

- Explore and study animals and their habitats.
- Collect data on animals and write reports.
- Study the impact that humans have on wildlife and their natural habitats.

Education required:

Wildlife biologists must get at least a bachelor of science degree in a topic such as wildlife conservation, wildlife biology, or wildlife management.



Content Check:

Wildlife Biologist

Answer the questions below about wildlife biologists using complete sentences.

1. What does a wildlife biologist do?

2. What are two responsibilities that a wildlife biologist might have?

3. Do you think you would enjoy being a wildlife biologist? Why or why not?

Section 2:

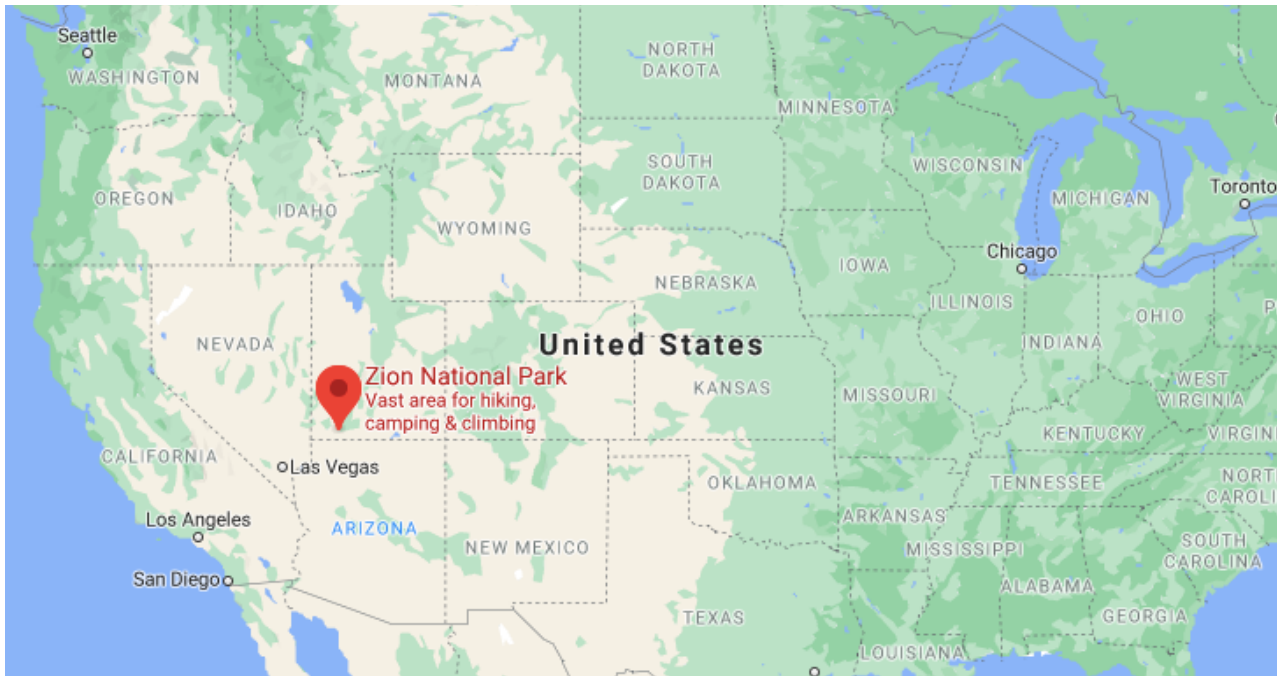
Zion National Park

Imagine that you just got a job as a wildlife biologist at Zion National Park. Learn about Zion National Park and the animals and plants who live there to prepare yourself for your new role!

Learn: Zion National Park

LOCATION:

Zion National Park is located in Utah.



QUICK FACTS:

Zion National Park became a national park in 1956.

The park was formed to protect Zion Canyon, sandstone cliffs, and the plants and animals who live there.



Zion Canyon



Sandstone Cliffs

HISTORY:

The first human lived in the region up to 8,000 years ago.

In the late 18th century the first Europeans visited the area.

In 1847, Mormon farmers from the Salt Lake area became the first people of European descent to settle the region.

The United States Congress added more land and established Zion National Park on November 19, 1909.

ECOSYSTEMS

Zion National Park is made up of four different zones. The desert, riparian, woodland, and coniferous forest.



Desert



Woodland



Riparian



Coniferous Forest

DESERT ZONE

Zion National Park is a semi-arid desert. This means that the area is dry and does not get much rain.

In this zone you will see plants such as prickly pear cactus, sagebrush, and sacred datura. You will see animals such as plateau lizards, Western rattlesnake, and Desert Tortoise.



Plateau Lizards



Western Rattlesnake



Desert Tortoise

RIPARIAN ZONE

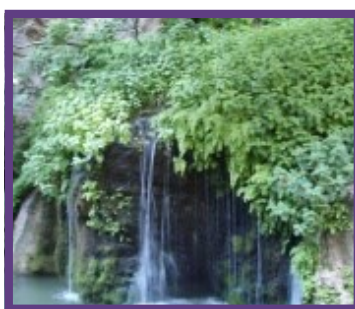
Riparian zones are areas that are next to water sources such as rivers, creeks, or streams.

In the riparian zone you will see plants such as cottonwood trees, boxelder, and fremont cottonwood. A popular feature of Zion are the "hanging gardens" that are created from water leaking from the Navajo sandstone. The "hanging gardens" are full of mosses, ferns, and wildflowers.

Animals such as flannel-mouth suckers, gnatcatchers, bank beavers, and canyon wrens live in the riparian zone.



Bank Beavers



Hanging Garden



Gnatcatchers

WOODLANDS

The juniper-pinyon woodlands are areas that have one or more species of pinyon pine and juniper.

In this zone you may see animals such as mule deer, mountain lions, rabbits, and ground squirrels.



Mule Deer



Pinyon Pine



Mountain Lion

CONIFEROUS FOREST

The coniferous forest zone has trees such as ponderosa, douglas fir, white pine, and quaking aspen.

Animals that live in this zone are mule deer, wild turkey, elk, and porcupine.



Quaking Aspen



Wild Turkey



Porcupine

VISITING TODAY

Today, people visit Zion National Park to view the canyon and sandstone cliffs.

In addition to viewing the beautiful scenery, many visitors come to Zion National Park to do outdoor activities such as rock climbing, camping, bike riding, and bird watching.



Content Check:

Zion National Park

1. Below are the four ecosystems that are located in Zion National Park. Next to each one write a brief description of it, and include at least one plant and one animal that can be found there.

Desert:

Riparian:

Woodland

:

Coniferous forest:

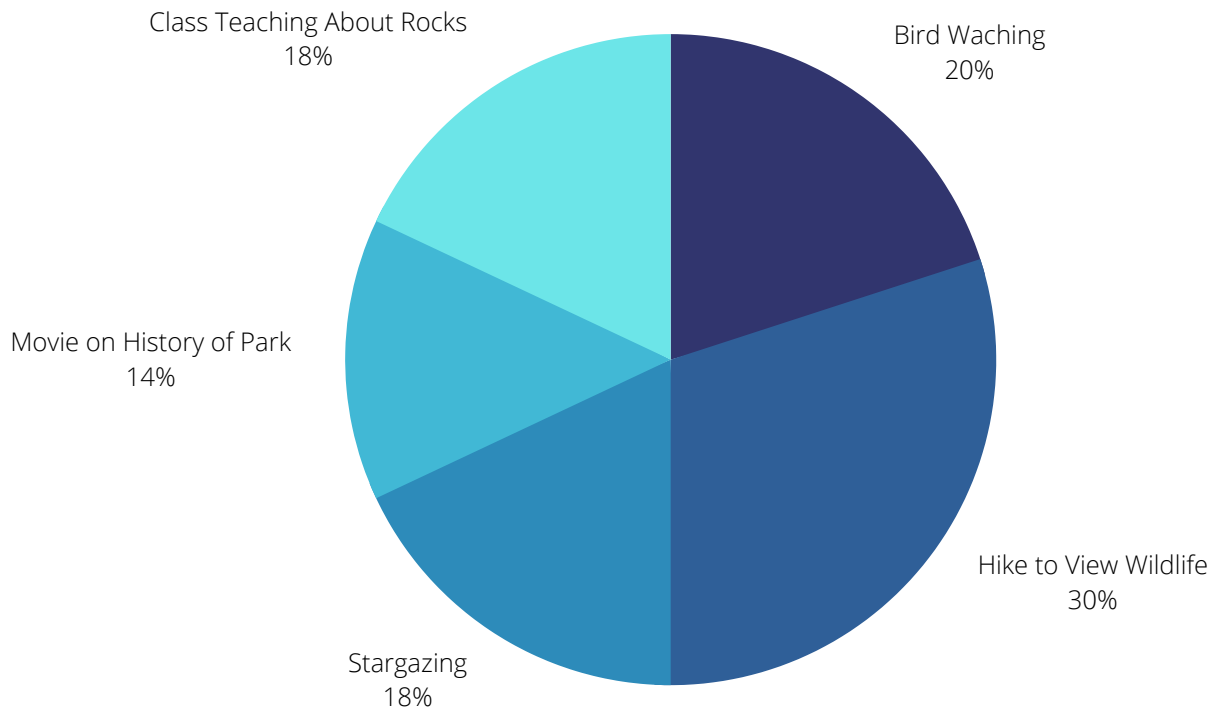
2. Name at least two reasons why people visit Zion National Park. Then, explain which activity you would like to do if you were to visit Zion National Park.

Section 3:

Math Practice–Pie Charts

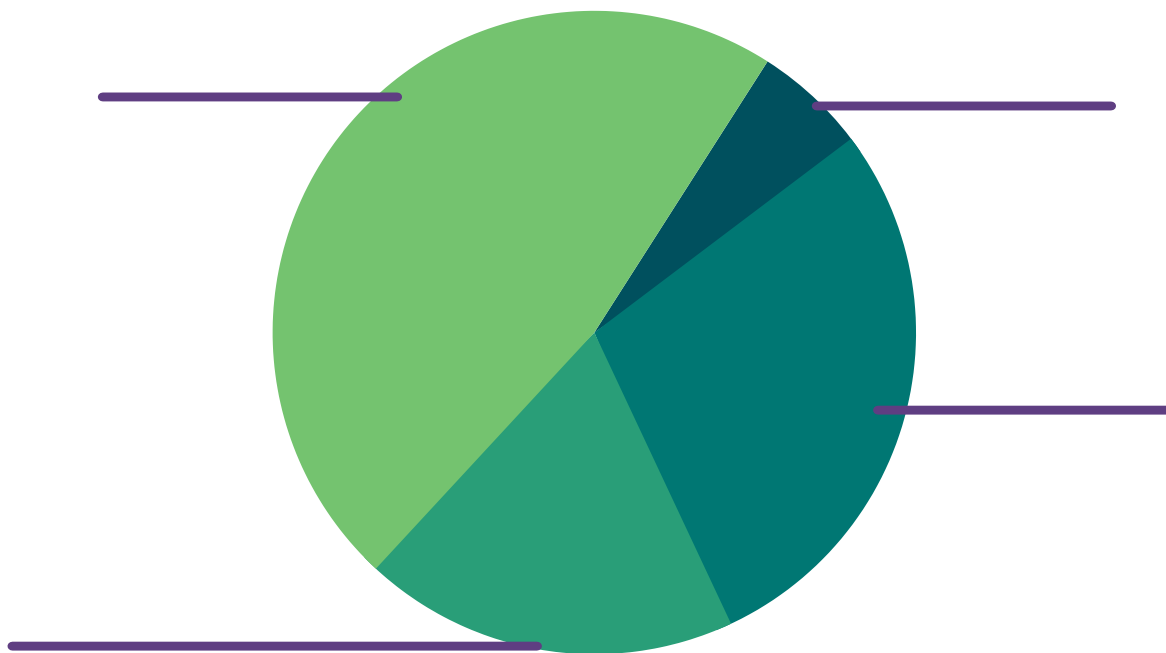
Imagine that you just got a job as a wildlife biologist at Zion National Park. Learn about Zion National Park and the animals and plants who live there to prepare yourself for your new role!

Imagine that you are creating new activities to help teach visitors about the park. You asked the visitors to vote on which activity they like the best. Use the data you collected to label the pie chart and answer the questions.



1. Which activity was the most popular?
2. Which activity was the least popular?
3. List the activities from the most popular to the least popular.

You also asked visitors to vote on which animal they would like to learn about the most. Use the results to label the pie chart below.



Mountain Lions	6
Porcupines	30
Wild Turkeys	20
Bank Beavers	50

Section 4:

ELA Practice-Elements of Poetry

Wildlife biologists are people who learn about and protect wild animals and the habitats they live in. Learn about different elements of poetry and then write a poem about Zion National Park.

Imagine that you are a wildlife biologist at Zion National Park. You want to tell others about the park using poetry. Learn about a few different elements of poetry before you write your own poem.

Tone

The feeling that a writer has towards the main topic in the poem.

Example:

serious
humorous
scared
easy going

Rhyme

The use of words with the same ending sounds.

Example:

I walked through the desert at night. I saw two lizards fight.

Alliteration

The use of the same letter or sound at the beginning of words.

Example:

The sweet sound of summer makes me smile.

Repetition

The use of repeated words, lines, or phrases.

Example:

Summer break is hot and sticky.
The summer sand warms my feet. The summer sand sticks to my toes.

Use what you have learned to help you write a poem about Zion National Park. Your poem could be about the plants, animals, or views at Zion National Park. View some example of poems below before you write your poem in the purple box.

"Afternoon On A Hill"

By Edna St. Vincent Millay

I will be the gladdest thing
Under the sun!
I will touch a hundred flowers
And not pick one.
I will look at cliffs and clouds
With quiet eyes,
Watch the wind bow down the grass,
And the grass rise.
And when lights begin to show
Up from the town,
I will mark which must be mine,
And then start down!

"Caterpillar"

By Christina Rossetti

Brown and furry
Caterpillar in a hurry,
Take your walk
To the shady leaf, or stalk,
Or what not,
Which may be the chosen spot.
No toad spy you,
Hovering bird of prey pass by you;
Spin and die,
To live again a butterfly.