

ROZZY READERS

**SEARCH AND RESCUE RANGER:
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
3-5**

Section 1:

Search and Rescue Ranger

Search and Rescue Ranger



Park rangers who assist lost and injured hikers.

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.

Rocky Mountain National Park



A national park located in the state of Colorado that was created to preserve and protect the mountain environment and cultural resources from human impact.

Career Highlight:

Search and Rescue Ranger

Search and rescue rangers are park rangers who find and assist lost and injured hikers and take them to safety.

Luckily, search and rescue rangers are not needed very often. When these rangers are not helping lost or injured hikers they assist other visitors by providing them with information about the park and how to explore safely.

Responsibilities include:

- Informing visitors of important safety information to prevent accidents and injuries.
- Searching for missing visitors.
- Rescuing visitors who are in dangerous situations or injured and need assistance.

Education required:

These rangers are trained in search and rescue and many other emergency response skills. Many search and rescue rangers are certified to work as EMTs or paramedics in the park. Education requirements vary by what kind of rescues you are performing. For example, if you were performing helicopter rescues you would need training in helicopter evacuations.



Section 2:

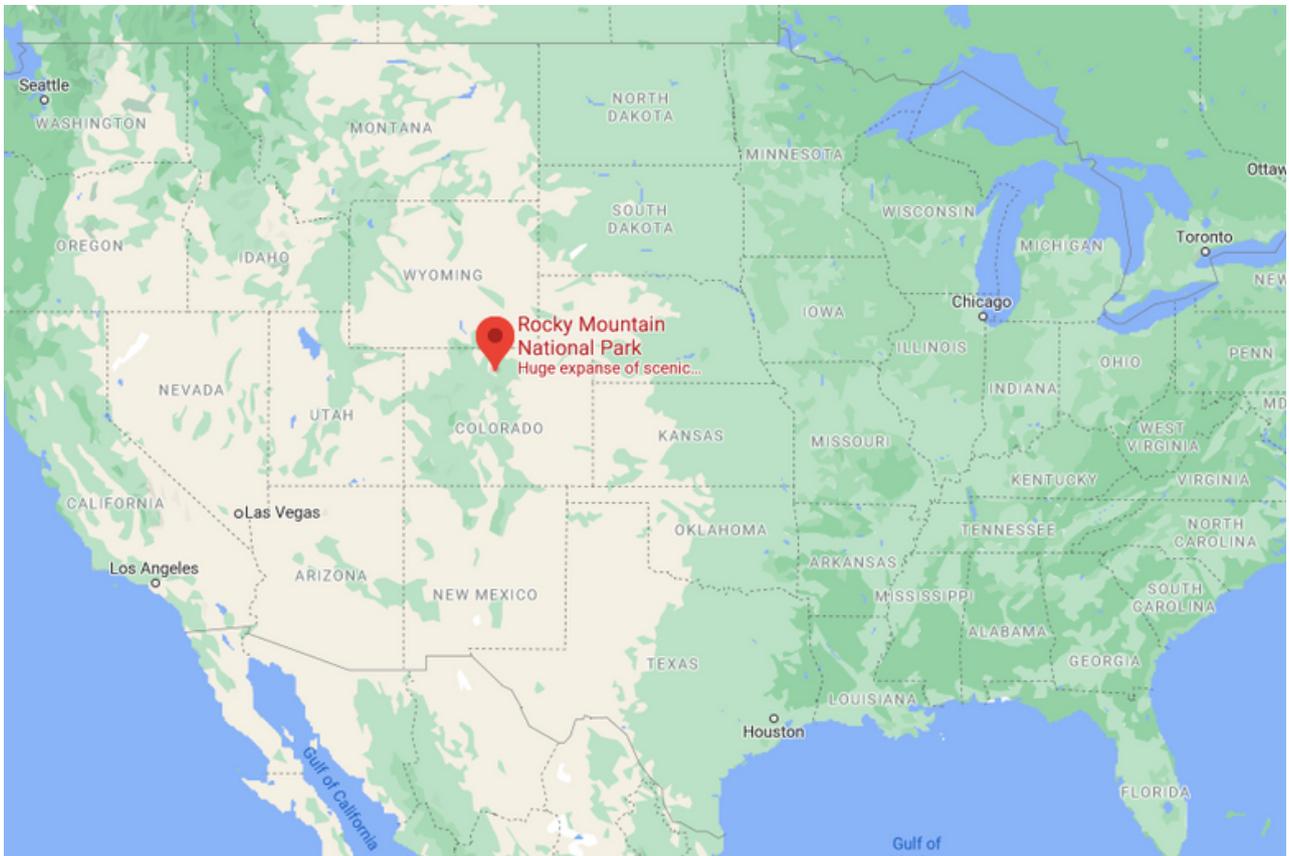
Rocky Mountain National Park

Imagine that you just got a job as a search and rescue ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park. Learn about Rocky Mountain National Park and the animals and plants who live there to prepare yourself for your new role!

Learn: Rocky Mountain National Park

LOCATION:

Rocky Mountain National Park is located in the state of Colorado.

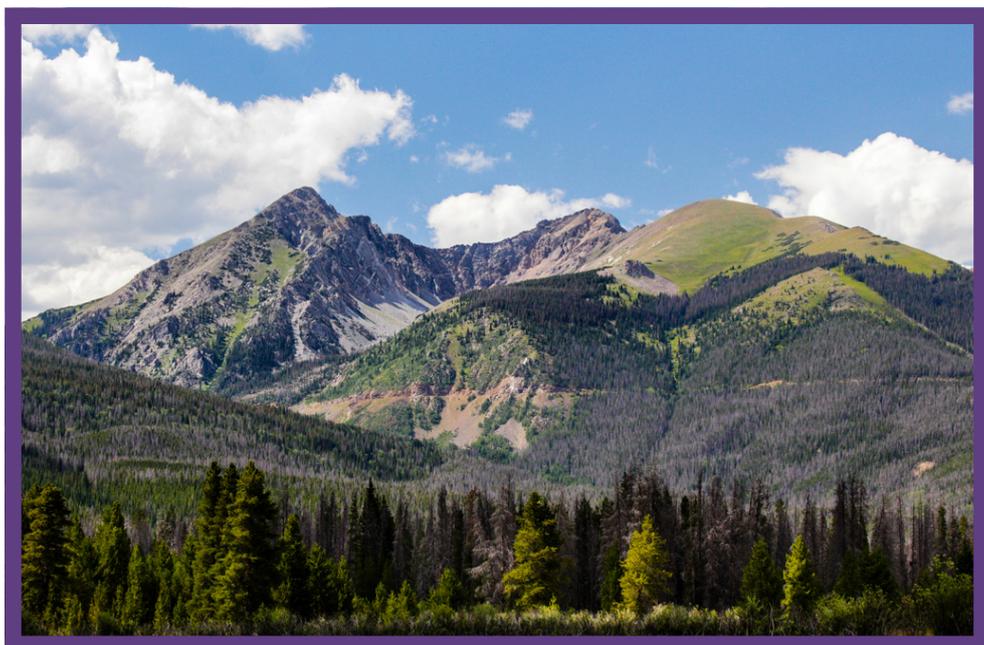


QUICK FACTS:

Rocky Mountain National Park became a national park in 1915.

The park was formed in order to preserve and protect the mountain environment and cultural resources from human impact.

Protecting the park helps to make sure that the plants and animals living there remain unharmed, that cultural artifacts are kept intact, and ensures that people can continue to come to the park for the amazing views and to participate in outdoors activities.



HISTORY:

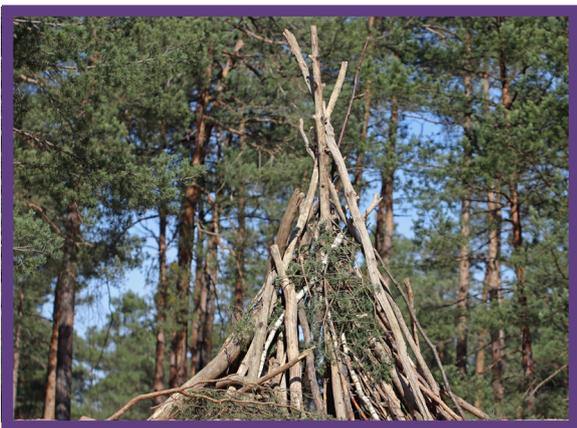
There is evidence that humans lived in what is now Rocky Mountain National Park around 12,000 years ago. These people are referred to as the Clovis people,

The Ute were the first modern peoples to use the area. Archeologists have found fire circles, tool artifacts, and wickiups that make them believe that the Ute arrived in the area around 821 years ago. Later, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes were also present in this area.

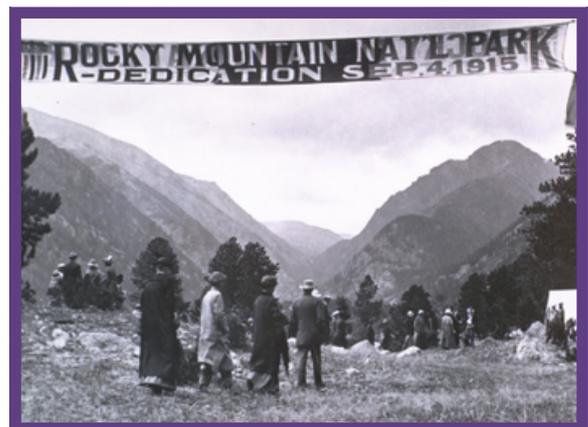
In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase made the area a part of the United States.

The discovery of gold at Pike's Peak in 1859 and the Homestead Act of 1862 brought settlers to the area with the promise of free land and hopes of finding gold or other valuable minerals. At this point, most Native Americans had moved to other locations or were forced to live on reservations.

Rock Mountain National Park was officially made a national park on January 26, 1915.



Example of a Wickiup



People gathering for the ceremony to establish Rocky Mountain National Park in 1915.

ECOSYSTEMS

Rocky Mountain National Park is made up of three ecosystems. They are the montane, subalpine, and alpine tundra.

Montane

Consists mainly of meadow valleys and slopes.



Subalpine

Consists mainly of Evergreen forests and lakes.



Alpine Tundra

Few plants and wildlife due to the fierce winds and cold temperatures.



Read more about the three ecosystems in Rocky Mountain National Park on the next pages.

ECOSYSTEMS-MONTANE

The montane ecosystem has the lowest elevation ranging from 5,600 – 9,500 feet. This ecosystem is warmer and drier than the other two. In the montane ecosystem you will find trees such as ponderosa pine and the douglas-fir tree. Shrubs such as sagebrush, the common juniper, and shrubby cinquefoil make up meadows in the montane ecosystem that help feed the wildlife in the park.

Many animals live in the montane ecosystem. The Abert's squirrel and Steller's jay both live in the montane ecosystem and eat the seeds of the ponderosa pine. A few examples of other animals that live in this ecosystem are coyotes, red fox, deer, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain lions.



Ponderosa Pine



Shrubby Cinquefoil



Bighorn Sheep



Steller's Jay

ECOSYSTEMS-SUBALPINE

The subalpine ecosystem is higher than the montane. It begins between 9,000 – 9,500 feet and continues up to about 11,000 feet. This ecosystem is cooler and has long, cold winters. It is not uncommon to see snow into the summer months. Common trees in this area are the subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce. You may also see plants such as broadleaf arnica, fairy slipper orchids, and Parry primrose.

Animals that live in the subalpine ecosystem have had to adapt to the cold conditions and deep snow. For example, the snowshoe hare uses its back feet to slide across the snow to search for food and changes their fur to white in order to blend in with the snow. In the subalpine ecosystem you may also see animals such as the American marten, longtailed weasel, or southern red-backed vol.



Subalpine Fir



Fairy Slipper Orchids



Snowshoe Hare



American Marten

ECOSYSTEMS-ALPINE TUNDRA

The alpine tundra ecosystem starts between the elevation of 11,000 to 11,500 feet. This ecosystem has harsh winds and very cold temperatures. The wind and cold make it difficult for trees and other plants to grow. Plants in the alpine are usually small and low to the ground to avoid the wind. Some common alpine plants are the alpine avens, sky pilot, and clover.

The marmot, white-tailed ptarmigan, and the pika are all animals that can be found in the alpine tundra. Like the animals in the subalpine ecosystem, the animals in the alpine tundra also have to adapt to the extreme conditions. For example, the white-tailed ptarmigan have feathers covering their entire body to keep them warm. They also burrow in the snow in order to escape the cold winds.



Alpine Avens



Sky Pilot



White-Tailed
Ptarmigan

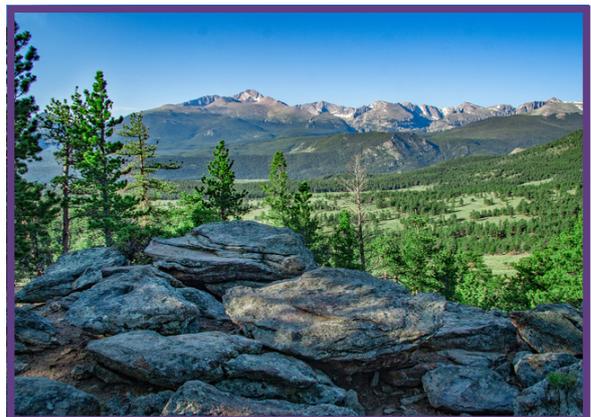


Marmot

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

Answer the questions below in complete sentences.

1. Below are the three ecosystems that are located in Rocky Mountain 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.

Montane:

Subalpine:

Alpine tundra:

2. Name two animals that have adapted in order to survive in their environment and explain how their adaptation helps them survive.

Section 3:

Math Practice-Multiplying Money

Search and rescue rangers are people who search for lost park visitors and assist visitors who are injured or in danger. Imagine you are a search and rescue ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park. Complete the math problems below to prepare for your role as a search and rescue ranger.

You need to buy new gear to prepare for your job as a search and rescue ranger. Use the table below to calculate the cost of your new gear and answer the questions. Use scratch paper to do your work. Look at the example below before you get started.

EXAMPLE

GEAR	ITEM COST	# NEEDED	YOUR COST
Sunglasses	2.34	2	\$4.68

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Item Cost} \quad \$2.34 \\ \text{\# Needed} \quad \times \quad 2 \\ \hline \text{Your Cost} \quad \$4.68 \end{array}$$

GEAR	COST	# NEEDED	YOUR COST
Rope	\$5.65	3	
Water Pouch	\$11.45	4	
First Aid Kit	\$30.50	2	
Compass	\$4.87	5	
Flashlight	\$3.10	6	

1. What is the total cost for all of your gear?

2. You brought the following types of dollar bills to the store. Do you have enough money to buy all the gear?

- 5 twenty dollar bills
- 3 ten dollar bills
- 10 five dollar bills

Section 4:

ELA Practice-Similes and Metaphors

Search and rescue rangers help keep visitors at the park safe. Learn about similes and metaphors below. Then, create safety signs for the park using similes or metaphors.

Imagine that you are a search and rescue ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park. You want to make sure everyone in the park is safe so you are creating safety signs to put around the park! You want to make the signs interesting so you decide to use similes and metaphors to catch peoples attention! Learn about similies and metaphors below.

Similies

Compares things using the words "like" or "as".

Examples:

Kevin is as tall as a tree.

Kathy runs fast like a cheetah.

Slippery like an eel.

Metaphors

Compares two things by saying one is the other. Metaphors do not use "like" or "as".

Examples:

My legs were jelly.

You are my sunshine.

Her voice was music to my ears.

On the next page, decide which sentences are similes and which are metaphors.

Decide if each sentence below is a simile or a metaphor. If it is a simile, write "S" on the line next to it. If it is a metaphor, put an "M" on the line next to it.

1. Be careful, wet rocks are as slippery as ice. _____
2. Alli should wear sunscreen, or she will be a tomato at the end of the day. _____
3. Stay away from rivers with high waters, they are as fast as lightning. _____
4. Hearing that people are being safe is music to my ears. _____
5. Never approach a mountain lion, their teeth are sharp like daggers. _____
6. The altitude could make you sick as a dog if you aren't prepared. _____
7. Dress warmly during the cold months or you will be a popsicle. _____
8. Visitors who do not feed wildlife are shining stars. _____

On the next page, create two signs using similes and metaphors to put in Rocky Mountain National Park. You could make a sign that tells visitors information about the park, or you could create a sign to help people stay safe. One sign must be a metaphor and on the other must be a simile. Your signs must be unique and should not use any of the similes or metaphors that have already been used in this lesson.

Example: The subalpine fir tree is as tall as a skyscraper.

Example: Dress warmly during the cold months, or you will be a popsicle.

Create your signs below.

Sign 1: Similie



Sign 2: Metaphor

