

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Yellowstone National Park: America's First Wonderland

Deep in the Rocky Mountains, between Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, lies Yellowstone National Park - the very first national park in the world! Established in 1872, this magical place protects incredible natural wonders that you won't find anywhere else.

## A Land of Fire and Water

Yellowstone sits on top of a sleeping supervolcano! This giant volcano heats up the ground, creating:

- Geysers that shoot steaming water high into the air (like Old Faithful, which erupts every 90 minutes!)
- Hot springs in rainbow colors, caused by special heat-loving bacteria
- Bubbling mud pots that gurgle like a giant's breakfast cereal



Old Faithful erupting

## Wildlife Galore

The park is like a giant animal sanctuary:

- Bison (the heaviest land animals in North America) roam the grasslands
- Gray wolves hunt in the forests (brought back from near extinction in 1995!)
- Elk bugle loudly in the fall, while bald eagles soar overhead

## Adventure Awaits!

Visitors to Yellowstone can:

- Walk on boardwalks past steaming geysers
- Spot bears (from a safe distance!)
- Camp under some of the darkest night skies in America
- Learn from park rangers about geology and wildlife

## Protecting Paradise

- Park rules help keep Yellowstone wild:
- Stay on trails (the ground near hot springs is thin and dangerous)
- Never feed animals (human food makes them sick)
- Take only pictures (leave everything else untouched)

Yellowstone shows us why protecting special places matters - so kids 100 years from now can see bison herds and erupting geysers too!

1. What makes Old Faithful special?

- a) It's the tallest mountain in Yellowstone
- b) It erupts steaming water regularly
- c) It's home to many bison

2. Name two animals restored to Yellowstone.

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3. Why can't you step off trails near hot springs?

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4. The bacteria in hot springs create \_\_\_\_\_ colors.

5. Which do you think is more important to protect in Yellowstone - geysers or wild-life? Explain your answer.

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