

# AP<sup>®</sup> Human Geography Weekly Bell-Ringers



A free resource provided by the  
National Council for Geographic Education

## Special Edition of NCGE APHG Bell-Ringers for the Week of November 14, 2016: Geography Awareness Week 2016--Explore the Power of Parks!

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Students should always be prompted, probed, so to speak, to answer the WHY question when responding to geographic inquiry ☺

Celebrate and explore the power of parks November 13 - 19, 2016 during Geography Awareness Week! Spatial thinking through maps is one of the most important skills that students can develop as they learn Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, and so much more. Find Geography Awareness Week 2016 information, events & resources here: <http://www.ncge.org/geography-awareness-week-2016>

National Parks Trivia Quiz: <http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/national-parks/quiz/>

**Question #1: Why did the National Geographic Society choose the theme of the “Power of Parks” in celebration of 2016 Geography Awareness Week?**

Have students brainstorm what they think regarding the importance of having government designated park space? What are students’ own experiences relating to visiting parks, whether they be National Parks, State Parks or Local Parks? What was Teddy Roosevelt’s goal in creating the National Park system that we have today?

**From National Geographic: “President Theodore Roosevelt was one of the park system's greatest patrons. During his administration (1901-09) five new parks were created, as well as 18 national monuments, four national game refuges, 51 bird sanctuaries, and over 100 million acres (40 million hectares) of national forest.”**

\*As enrichment, have students analyze the map below to determine how many of these National Parks they have visited. What was the circumstance of their visit? Which other parks have they not yet visited that they would like to visit, and why?



<http://media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/90/33/97/903397f48008cc70fc8c0a0bda5fdc95.jpg>

**Question #2: One of the most visited U.S. National Parks is Yosemite National Park.**

Have students analyze the photo below from National Geographic and reflect upon what this photo represents to them in relation to the concepts of protection for our environment, the beauty of America, etc....

Have students go to the following website, choose another photo from a U.S. National Park, and reflect on Human Geography concepts that they may have learned in their Geography class.

Here is a good website to start with: <http://matadornetwork.com/trips/59-incredible-pictures-americas-national-parks/> A Google search will likely present more photo options ☺



*Photograph by Phil Schermeister, National Geographic*

### **Question #3: The importance of BioBlitz analysis and its connection to our National Parks.**

BioBlitz is a 24-hour event in which teams of volunteer scientists, families, students, teachers, and other community members' work together to find and identify as many species of plants, animals, microbes, fungi, and other organisms as possible.

In 2016, BioBlitz has gone national. The cornerstone National Parks BioBlitz–Washington, D.C. took place this past May, with more than a hundred concurrent BioBlitzes which occurred at national parks across the country.

Ask your students if they had an opportunity to attend a BioBlitz, or if they have done something similar, what species of plants, animals, microbes, fungi, and other organisms would they be interested in researching further?

As enrichment, have students research which national parks they would need to visit in order to find their respective species, organisms, etc.? Great interdisciplinary connection to environmental science and biology classes 😊

**Question #4: The National Park Service turned 100 on August 25, 2016.**

Have students find what they would consider their “favorite” National Park that they have already visited (or want to visit), and briefly reflect on why?

National Parks by state: <https://parachute.mapquest.com/national-parks/national-parks-by-state/>

As enrichment, is there a state park or other area in your own state which students feel should be designated a National Park, and why?

**Question #5: U.S. National Parks are facing significant issues as these Parks enter their second century of their existence.**

Have students read through the top 10 issues facing our parks and then reflect on/rank, etc. which ones they feel are the most significant and should be addressed moving forward.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/top-10/national-parks-issues/>

**Question #6: Related back to question #1. Visiting a National Park according to President Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt was all about the joy and excitement of exploration and expedition.**

Have students reflect upon this statement by discussing the importance of historical exploration and expedition, referencing specific historical examples, etc. Students can also reflect upon their own exploration and expeditions they have gone on AND/OR where they would like to explore and why?

**\*As an additional resource(s) a really good (approximately 25 minute) video on the 100 year anniversary of the U.S. National Park Service can be found here:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWYx4KQe9ew>

**\*Here’s a longer video on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary (46 minutes) from the Smithsonian Channel:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LFFLQYvJS0>