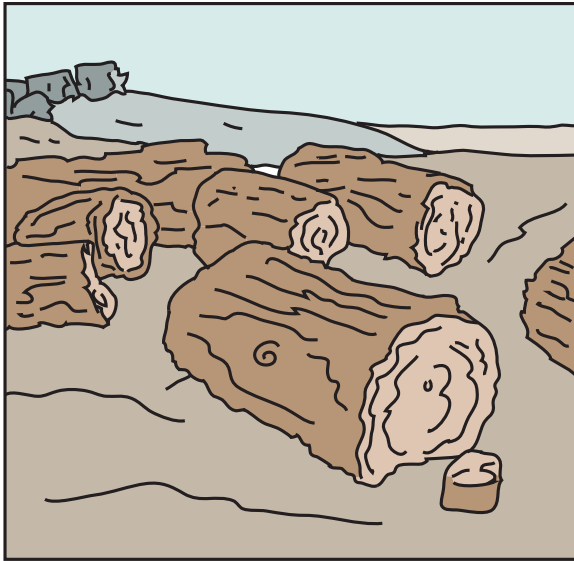
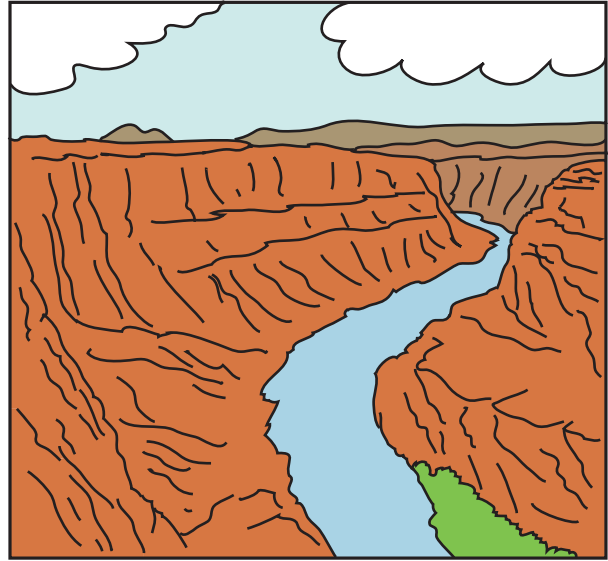


# National Parks

National Parks are large areas of protected land. It is important for the United States to keep these parks safe so they can be enjoyed by everyone for a long time. There are almost 400 protected areas in the U.S.! 58 of these protected areas are officially known as national parks.



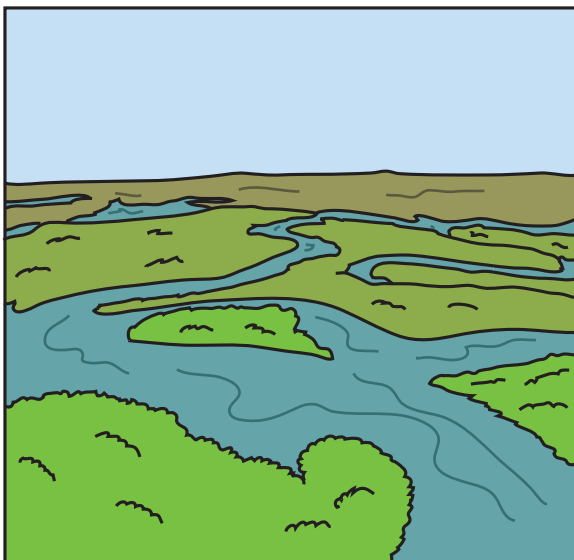
*Petrified Forest, Arizona*



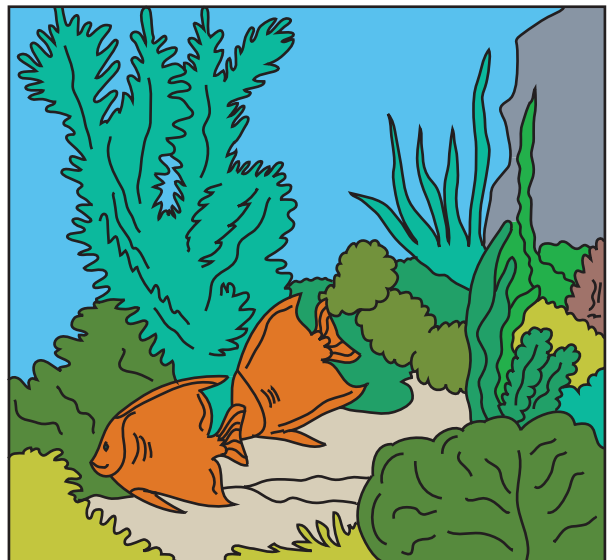
*Grand Canyon, Arizona*

Many places are protected because they are a special part of nature.

Other national parks exist to protect endangered animals living there.

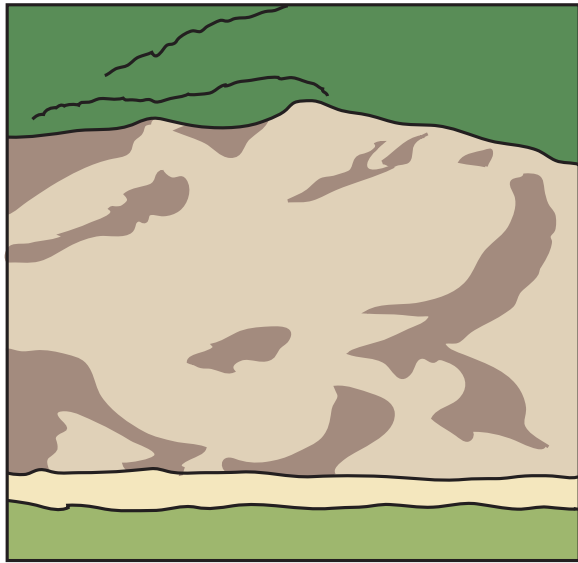


*Everglades, Florida*



*Biscayne, Florida*

Other places are protected because they are an important part of our country's history.



Great Sand Dunes, Colorado



Mesa Verde, Colorado

## Did You know...

The first national park was Yellowstone, in Wyoming, established in 1872.

The newest national park is the Great Sand Dunes, established in 2004.

The pools in Hot Springs National Park are known to have healing powers.

The wood in the Petrified Forest National Park is 225 million years old.

Redwoods in Redwood National Park are the tallest species of tree.

There are rocks in the Grand Canyon that are 2 billion years old.

The lava in the Hawaii Volcanoes is 2,150 degrees.

# Activity

Do you know any of the National Parks in your state? List the ones you know, and explain why each park is a special part of nature or U.S. history.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line, repeated 10 times for writing.