

# National Parks

**Look at the picture of Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, USA**

1 Would you want to go on a trip to a place like this? Why or why not?



**Listen to the audio about another National Park**

2 Take notes on the following ideas mentioned in the audio:

<i>physical description of parks</i>	<i>emotional significance of parks</i>	<i>link between parks and memory</i>

3 What places do you have in your life like the National Parks? Think about the three categories above.

**Read the titles, publication information, and first paragraph.**

**1 What do you think is the purpose of this article?**

**Read the rest of the article.**

**2 Take notes on:**

- characteristics of the parks/monuments
- important dates
- important organizations

**3 What are the different types of monuments mentioned in the article?**

**4 How does each type of monument link with American history?**

**5 Why might FDR have taken the action he did?**

## Wonder areas of the nation

By Arno B Cammerer – Director, National Parks Service, *The New York Times*, September 2, 1934

***They not only present the work of nature in infinite beauty, but they speak of our history – and of a time before our history began...***

Scattered throughout the United States is a series of wonder areas known as national monuments. They run the gamut of scenery and historic importance, of latitude and longitude and elevation, and are of an amazing variety of type and age. From mountain top to below-sea-level desert, from Canada to Mexico they are found.

The name, perhaps, is confusing, for they are not commemorative stone monuments erected by man. Rather, they are areas of national importance from the standpoint of science, history, or prehistory. In addition, many of them are scenically striking.

Most of the national monuments are established by Presidential proclamation under the authority of an act of Congress called the "Antiquities Act," passed in 1906. Until last year the monuments were distributed under the jurisdiction of three Cabinet officers – the Secretaries of the Interior, War, and Agriculture. Those of military significance under this arrangement naturally fell to the War Department; those adjacent to or within the boundaries of national forests, to the Department of Agriculture, of which the Forest Service is a bureau, and the others to the Department of the Interior for administration by the National Park Service.

Under the broad authority granted him by Congress, President Roosevelt has now consolidated all Federal park activities under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, created by Congress in 1916 to administer the national parks, national monuments, and related areas. This consolidation automatically transferred all national monuments, at present numbering sixty-seven, to the National Park Service.

Among the scenic, scientific, and historic treasures to be found in the national monuments are trees that grew hundreds of millions of years ago and now are turned to stone, and living trees centuries old; fossils of prehistoric dinosaurs and a rare species of living elk; moving glaciers and steaming volcanic areas; ruined cliff-dweller and pueblo homes, some dating back a thousand or more years; records of early Spanish explorations, and areas important in Colonial, Revolutionary and Civil War Days.