<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Overview of the Text</th>
<th>National Geography Standards Connection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Anchor Text | How national parks represent the values of America                                    | 4.1  
P. community, and national identities are rooted in and attached to places                         |
| Text 1   | A brief history and background information the national park system                   | 17.3 Historical events were influenced by people’s perceptions of places, regions, and environments      |
|          |                                                                                      | 4.1  
P. community, and national identities are rooted in and attached to places                         |
| Text 2   | An excerpt from the Sierra Club Bulletin newsletter arguing for the end of exploitation of national park lands for natural resources such as timber or oil | 16.3 Humans can manage resources to sustain or prolong their use                                         |
|          |                                                                                      | 4.1  
P. community, and national identities are rooted in and attached to places                         |
| Text 3   | Map of all national park service lands                                                | 1.4  
The use of geographic representations to ask and answer geographic questions                       |
|          |                                                                                      | 4.1  
P. community, and national identities are rooted in and attached to places                         |
| Text 4   | The Congressional act which called for the                                           | 16.1 People can have different                                                                         |
| Text 4 (continued) | creation of a National Park Service | viewpoints regarding the meaning and use of resources
4.1 Personal, community, and national identities are rooted in and attached to places |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Text 5            | Railroad Advertisements encouraging national travel | 6.2 People’s perceptions of places and regions change by incorporating multiple direct and indirect experiences
4.1 Personal, community, and national identities are rooted in and attached to places |
| Text 6            | Records of the number of visitors to each area owned by the national park system | 1.2 The acquisition and organization of geospatial data to construct geographic representations
4.1 Personal, community, and national identities are rooted in and attached to places |
| Text 7            | Quote from Theodore Roosevelt on park preservation | 14.3 The physical environment can both accommodate and be endangered by human activities
4.1 Personal, community, and national identities are rooted in and attached to places |
<p>| Text 8            | Images of human                       | 8.1                                                               |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text 9</th>
<th>Poem on the lessons that can be learned from a mountain</th>
<th>4.1 Personal, community, and national identities are rooted in and attached to places</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Text 10</td>
<td>Article on President Obama’s role in protecting new areas for the national park service</td>
<td>18.2 Change occurs in the geographic characteristics and spatial organization of places, regions, and environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text 11</td>
<td>Pamphlet describing the Find Your Park initiative</td>
<td>4.1 Personal, community, and national identities are rooted in and attached to places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text 12</td>
<td>Article describing current challenges facing national parks and their future</td>
<td>16.3 Humans can manage resources to sustain or prolong their use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Compelling Question:** What is the overall role of national parks in American culture?
Anchor Text

From the Introduction of Guidebook to American Values and Our National Parks by Jonathan B. Jarvis

What are the primary American values? What gives us the sense that we as Americans, other than that we live in the geographic place called the United States of America? Do the foundation documents of the country define our collective values as a society? How have they evolved over our more than two centuries as a country?

Common values bind Americans together as people, in spite of our differences. Examples that come easily to mind are honor, freedom, and equality. These values are what have made the United States an example for other countries.

Defining the list of American values is that subject to debate. Our values have also changed over time, such as the granting of equal rights to minorities and women.

So where can someone go to find and bear witness to a host of American values in action? To feel the sense of place where that value is most powerfully established and displayed? The answer is in the parks of the National Park System.

If we start with an idea that people protect what they value most, then we see that the places set aside for protection represent the values considered most important by Americans.

In the last 100 years, Americans have chosen to set aside over 400 places within this country as part of the National Park System. We have set aside places that represent both the best of our natural landscapes and our most important historical events. The places protected must be of national historical or ecological significance. Each of these places represents not only a physical space, but also an idea or ideas that are nationally significant.

The National Park Service celebrates its centennial in 2016 with an invitation for every American to “Find Your Park.” This is an opportunity to connect with a place on a personal level and to deepen the understanding of what it means to be an American. As the National Park Service goes forward, it will continue to assist the nation in achieving its high ideals.

Questions:

How are values and ideals related to culture?

What are some other values or ideals of American culture that the National Park Service and their lands represent? (Keep this question in mind for every text in the set from this point forward!)
From the founding of the first national park in 1872, the U.S. National Park System has existed to conserve history and protect the vast landscapes and abundant diversity of life found throughout our nation for the benefit of all future generations of Americans.

A HISTORY OF OUR NATIONAL PARKS

1832
American artist George Catlin worries that the buffalo and the Native Americans who depended on them would someday be gone forever, and calls for a ‘nation’s park’ to save both.

1864
California state leaders seek to protect the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove from the effects of rising commercial interests, resulting in President Abraham Lincoln signing an act of Congress ceding the region to the state to “be used and preserved for the benefit of mankind.”

1916
With no central organization, the national parks lack protection and funding. In response, President Woodrow Wilson creates the National Park Service as a branch of the Department of the Interior.

1933
President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs Executive Order 6166, which consolidates all national parks, monuments, cemeteries and memorials into the single National Park System.

1972
Yellowstone celebrates its 100th birthday; national park attendance reaches 165 million.

1872
Following the Hayden Geological Survey of 1871, Congress is convinced to withdraw regions within the territories of Montana and Wyoming from public auction, prompting President Ulysses S. Grant to sign a bill creating Yellowstone, the world’s first national park.

1890
President Benjamin Harrison signs bill creating Yosemite National Park.

1906
Concerned about protecting native ruins and artifacts on federal lands, President Theodore Roosevelt signs the Antiquities Act, providing the authority to restrict use of public lands.

1919
Under federal protection since 1893, Arizona’s Grand Canyon is finally recognized as a national park under President Woodrow Wilson.

1955
Ill-equipped to handle post World War II tourism, the National Park Service initiates Mission 66, a 10-year program intended to dramatically expand park service by constructing visitor centers, utilities and roads.

1973
President Richard Nixon signs the Endangered Species Act; at least one or more endangered species is found in more than half of the national parks.

2013
Pinnacles National Park, CA, becomes our most recent national park.
The National Park System includes almost 400 natural, historical, recreational and cultural areas throughout the United States, its territories and island possessions.

The system is made up of:
- 59 national parks
- 77 national monuments
- 29 national memorials
- ...as well as:
  - national military parks, national parkways, national recreation areas, national seashores, national scenic riverways, national scenic trails

"There is nothing so American as our national parks....The fundamental idea behind the parks...is that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt
IN NATIONAL PARKS, YOU'LL FIND

THE HIGHEST POINT IN NORTH AMERICA
Mt. McKinley at 20,320 feet in Denali National Park and Preserve, AK

THE LONGEST CAVE SYSTEM IN THE WORLD
400 miles mapped at Mammoth Cave National Park, KY

THE NATION'S DEEPEST CAVE
1,593 feet deep in Carlsbad Caverns National Park, NM

THE DEEPEST LAKE IN THE UNITED STATES
1,932 feet deep at Crater Lake National Park, OR

THE LOWEST POINT IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE
282 feet below sea level in Death Valley National Park, CA

Image From: https://onlinempa.unc.edu/our-national-parks-the-pride-of-america-infographic/
By Logan Harper
Questions:

What events in the “History of the National Parks” do you think were the most influential in creating the National Park System we have today? Why?

Again looking at the events in the “History of the National Parks”, how has the perception of national parks changed across time?

What do you think could have been some problems of each park being individually managed before coming under the management of the US Department of the Interior?
Text 2: Ansel Adams

Background Information: Who is Ansel Adams?

Ansel Adams was a well-known photographer who focused mainly on the American West. Ansel also considered himself and environmentalist, helping fight for the lands he loved through his iconic photos. In addition to his photos, Ansel wrote frequently about the importance of national parks to Americans through letter, essays, and newsletters. The following newsletter was written for the Sierra Club Bulletin. Ansel wrote this newsletter as a response to the destruction of many national park lands for natural resources.

From “Problems of Interpretation of the Natural Scene,” *Sierra Club Bulletin*, 1945:

I believe a philosophy of appreciation has taken root in the consciousness of the American people. It has been distorted by the false emphasis and exaggerations of commercial exploitation and advertising. Yet, the facts of our magnificent land are nevertheless slowly rising above the tides of confusion. The lands are now as vulnerable as the first seedlings after rain. They may in time become firm elements of our national life, but only if we nourish them and expand the positive directions of their growth. The sum of our response is the sum of our experience of myriad actualities and forces. The sum of our appreciation lies in the mood and understanding that we bring to these intimate experiences.

The imposition of commercial “resortism” violates the true functions of National Parks. Our expectations of the Parks are largely formed by the resort-colored interpretations of the travel folders. The pleasures of the day overshadow the eternal pageant. The great mountains and forests become mere backdrops for shallow play. Pure physical recreation (which certainly works no harm in in appropriate balance) aside, the only value of most national park wilderness areas is the value of the intangibles.

Every person would rise in indignation were he to observe careless destruction of marketable timber, flooding of mines, or poisoning of lakes and rivers. Any tragic waste of our natural resources would arouse alarm and protest. But now let us pause and think. Are not the intangibles of the natural world an integral part of our national resource? And are they not of incalculable importance to the development of our civilization to the generations to follow? Can we let them be wasted?

We must fight for integrity of experience as well as for the more obvious benefits of existence. We are confronted with a terrifying danger to the Parks and to the Wilderness, and to all that they represent in our culture and way of living. Predatory interests desire to enlarge their rightful share of the natural resources. They clamor for additional exploitation and invasion of the preserved areas.
The huge and aggressive business known collectively as Travel is more dangerous adversary than all the oil, lumber, cattle, and mining interests combined. The large and confused public opinion of the prime functions of the areas under discussion further complicates the problem. Our object should be to define the character and appropriate use of all the regions known as “naturalistic.” This will allow their values will remind unimpaired for generations.

Questions:

Ansel Adams was not an employee of the National Park Service, but his passion for the parks is apparent in the newsletter above. What does Ansel’s outside role suggest about the meaning of parks? What does his passion suggest about the meaning of parks?

In the newsletter, Ansel refers to national parks as a natural resource? What do you think he meant by this? How can a national park be compared to a natural resource like timber or coal?

This newsletter was not written to members of Congress or to high officials in the National Park Service. It was written for everyday citizens. Why do you think Ansel wrote to this audience? What is his message for this audience?
Text 3: American Value: Freedom
From “Guidebook to American Values and Our National Parks” by Jonathan B. Jarvis

Definition: the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action

National Park: Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Washington, DC

Why Visit: When you enter the Jefferson Memorial, you can gaze across the Tidal Basin to the White House, home and office of the president. Since 1943, every president has gazed out of the Oval Office at the silhouette of Jefferson, as a reminder of the value of freedom.

Honorable Mention National Parks:

Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, Maryland: Slave plantation and home of the abolitionist who risked her life assisting slaves in their escape to freedom in the north.

Fort Monroe National Monument, Virginia: Site of the “contraband decision” and inspiration for President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation.

There are few universal human values more associated with being a U.S. citizen than freedom. The bedrock of our founding documents and the Bill of Rights, the United States continues to work on the balance between individual freedom and the role of the government. There are many places throughout the National Park System that exemplify the value of freedom, but perhaps it is best to start at the feet of our third president and author of the Declaration of Independence, at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. It was Jefferson who, during his early law practice, began to espouse the concept that we are born to inherent freedom, and the exercise of that freedom is necessary for individuals to achieve their highest potential. The irony, of course, was that Jefferson was a slaveholder.

When You Go: When standing in the chamber below the imposing statue, take time to read the engraved panels. These are the words of Thomas Jefferson: “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, that to secure these rights governments are instituted among men.”
Questions:

Besides freedom, what other values can be seen in the Jefferson Memorial and the other national park lands described above?

The author of the excerpt above tells visitors to the memorial to “read the engraved panels.” What does this suggest for how a value can be found in a national park? What should a visitor be looking for or have in mind when visiting a park?

The excerpt above provides a list of a few specific national parks that represent the value of freedom. How does the National Park system as a whole represent this ideal of freedom?
A Century of Parks

Over the past hundred years the National Park Service has grown from 37 protected areas to more than 400. From hallowed battlegrounds to Native American archaeological sites and breathtaking vistas, the NPS is working to ensure that the nation’s historical and natural treasures will be available for generations to come.
Questions:

How may the geographic distribution of National Park Service lands impact their influence on American culture?

Which subset or region of national park lands do you think would have the biggest impact on American culture? Why?

Why do you think the National Parks System includes more than just parks?

Compare the map above to the map of just National Parks in the Info-graphic. How does the geographic distribution change? What does this distribution say about the United States geographically? What does it say about regional cultures?
Text 5: The Organic Act

From “America’s National Park System: The Critical Documents”

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL PARK SERVICE,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,
Approved by President Woodrow Wilson on August 25, 1916
by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America

There is now created in the Department of the Interior a service called the National Park Service. This National Park Service will be under the charge of a director. The director will be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

The service established will promote and regulate the use of national parks, monuments, and reservations. The purpose of these areas is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife in them. The National Park Service will also provide opportunities for enjoyment of the areas but in a way that will leave them unharmed for future generations.

SEC 2. The director will supervise, manage, and control several national parks and national monuments. These lands are now under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior. This includes any national parks and reservations that may be created by Congress in the future.

SEC 3. The Secretary of the Interior will make and publish rules and regulations for the use and management of the parks, monuments, and reservations. Any violations of any of the rules and regulations authorized by this Act will be punished.

Questions:

Before the Organic Act, national parks had been around for over forty years. How may a Congressional act have changed the perception of national parks for Americans?

If we consider national parks a resource, what is the purpose of the Organic Act? Who is the act for? The land or the people? What does section 3 of the act suggest about how the “resource” should be used?

What do you think is the most important part of this Act in regards to preserving land for the future?

What does a Congressional act say about the role of national parks in the lives of Americans?
Text 6: “See America” Posters

Background Info: As more national parks and more national monuments were created, news of their opening needed to be spread. To do this, Railroad companies like Railroad Pacific launched the “See America First” campaign. This encouraged Americans to visit and explore the wonders in their own country before traveling to another.

Questions:

What perception of the national parks do these posters create?

What do you think the impact of this campaign was on the American people?

What influence may the media still have today on National Parks?
Text 7: Park Visitation Records

Background Information: “More than 305 million people visited national parks in 2015” according to the National Park Service.

To explore how these numbers were spread out across all National Park Service land, click the link below from the National Park Service.

https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/

Questions:

Once you have explored a little, compare the visitation numbers for Blue Ridge Parkway National Parkway and Kobuk Valley National Park. Why do you think these are the most visited and the least visited national park lands respectively? (You may need to look up additional information such as maps or park features to answer this question.)

How may geographic location and movement play into visitation numbers?

Do visitation numbers make any park area any more or less significant in American culture?
Definition: na·tion·al park

noun
plural noun: national parks

1. a scenic or historically important area of countryside protected by the federal government for the enjoyment of the general public or the preservation of wildlife.

Park Rangers in Grand Canyon National Park provide information on the wildlife found in the park.

Grand Canyon National Park: Junior Ranger Table by El Tovar Hotel- Grand Canyon National Park
Wolves in Yellowstone National Park.

Gibbon Pack – Doug Smith

Biking in Acadia National Park

Family Bike Ride on Acadia’s Carriage Roads- OakleyOriginals
A family poses for a photo in Joshua Tree National Park

My (extended) Family, Joshua Tree National Park, November 06 – ((brian))

A man standing on Overhanging Rock in Yosemite National Park

Galen Clark on Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park, ca 1900
A woman taking a photo in Arches National Park

Photography in Arches National Park, In the Heart of the Redrock Country of Southeastern Utah... - David Hiser

Headstones in Arlington National Cemetery

Graves at Arlington National Cemetery – R.D. Ward
Statue of Martin Luther King Jr. at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial

Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial (DC) 2011 – Ron Cogswell

A sunset in Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Clifftops – Aviator 31
Questions:

Do you think the Google definition of a national park is accurate? Why? What is missing from the definition?

What do the photos above add to the definition?

What values of American culture can be seen in the photos above? Make a list of at least one value for each photo.
Background Information: During his time in office, Theodore Roosevelt fought for the protection of America’s greatest lands. He signed the Antiques Act in 1906. This act allows a President to set aside land as a national monument without any support from Congress. Theodore Roosevelt put the powers of the Antiques Act to work in January 1908 by making the Grand Canyon a national monument. The quote below comes from the speech he gave at the dedication ceremony.

"In the Grand Canyon, Arizona has a natural wonder which is in kind absolutely unparalleled throughout the rest of the world. I want to ask you to keep this great wonder of nature as it now is. I hope you will not have a building of any kind, not a summer cottage, a hotel or anything else, to mar the wonderful grandeur, the sublimity, the great loneliness and beauty of the canyon. Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it." – Theodore Roosevelt
Questions:

Who do you think Theodore Roosevelt is directing this statement towards?

If Theodore Roosevelt had already preserved the Grand Canyon under the Antiquities Act, why would he include this plea in his speech? (What is the big idea?)

While Theodore Roosevelt made this comment specifically about the Grand Canyon, how could it work to support other areas fighting for preservation?

What kind of an outcome do you think this statement had? On the American people? On preservationists? On companies hoping to exploit the land for resources? On already established National Parks?
Text 10: Wildlife in the National Parks

Background Information: As more visitors began visiting the National Parks, interactions with wildlife began to increase. The knowledge and regulations we have today that protect the wildlife were not set in place yet. In the first photo, visitors in Yellowstone National Park are feeding two black bears. In the second photo, a grizzly bear breaks into garbage left behind by visitors.
Questions:

Is the role of the National Parks to save the land alone? Or should the National Park Service protect the wildlife in these lands as well?

How does wildlife in the protected areas of the national park system contribute to the American culture?

When considering a national park or other National Park Service land as an ecosystem, how do the geographic areas surrounding the park play a part? Does the ecosystem end at the park border?
Dear Friend,

Reach new heights

Savor life’s peak experiences

There is beauty as far as the eye can see

Stand in the strength of Your True Nature

Be uplifting

Follow the trails of the Wise Ones

Protect and preserve timeless beauty, silence, solitude, serenity, flowing rivers, ancient trees

Rise above it all

Make solid decisions

Climb beyond your limitations

Leave no stone unturned

Never take life for granite

Get to the point

Patience, patience, patience

Life has its ups and downs

Let your troubles vanish into thin air

To summit it all up It’s the journey step by step

Rock on!

Used by permission. (c)2005 ilan shamir  www.yourtruenature.com.
Questions:

What lessons can you learn from nature?

What role do national parks play in “teaching” or sharing these lessons?

What lessons can national parks and other preserved lands teacher Americas? Or What role do these lessons have in American culture?
Text 12: In Photos: President Obama Designates 3 National Monuments in California

Summary: President Obama has protected more acres of public lands and water than any Administration in American history

"Our country is home to some of the most beautiful God-given landscapes in the world. We’re blessed with natural treasures – from the Grand Tetons to the Grand Canyon; from lush forests and vast deserts to lakes and rivers teeming with wildlife. And it’s our responsibility to protect these treasures for future generations, just as previous generations protected them for us."

President Obama

Preserving the richness of our national parks, monuments, forests, and public lands is among the greatest challenges we leave to future generations. That is why President Obama has made it a priority from the start of his Administration to invest in and conserve America’s natural treasures. He has protected more than 265 million acres of land and water (through the Antiquities Act). This is more than any other president in American history.

Now, he’s added a few million acres more.

Last week, he designated three new national monuments in the California desert. These were the Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument, and Castle Mountains National Monument.

These designations encompass nearly 1.8 million acres. This essentially doubles the number of acres of public lands he has protected during his time in office. This also solidifies his place as the most prolific conservationist in US history.
Mojave Trails National Monument spans 1.6 million acres. This includes 400,000 acres of previously protected wilderness. The Mojave Trails National Monument is comprised of a stunning mosaic of rugged mountain ranges, ancient lava flows, and spectacular sand dunes.

The monument will protect irreplaceable historic resources. These include ancient Native American trading routes, World War II era training camps, and the longest remaining undeveloped stretch of Route 66.
The area has been a focus of study and research for decades. Geological research and ecological studies focus on the effects of climate change. Land management practices on ecological communities and wildlife have also been studied.
Sand to Snow National Monument

Sand to Snow National Monument covers 154,000 acres. This includes just over 100,000 acres of already preserved Wilderness. Sand to Snow National Monument is an ecological and cultural treasure. It is one of the most biodiverse areas in southern California. The area supports more than 240 species of birds and 12 threatened and endangered wildlife species.

The monument is home to the tallest alpine mountain in the region. The mountain rises from the floor of the Sonoran Desert. The monument also will protect sacred, archaeological and cultural sites. This includes an estimated 1,700 Native American petroglyphs. The monument features 30 miles of the world famous Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The area is a favorite for camping, hiking, hunting, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing, and even skiing.
Castle Mountains National Monument

The Castle Mountains National Monument is an integral piece of the Mojave Desert. It has important natural resources and historic sites, including Native American archeological sites.

The 20,920-acre monument will serve as a critical connection between two mountain ranges. It will also protect water resources, plants, and wildlife. Some of the wildlife includes golden eagles, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, and bobcats.
Questions:

Consider the timeline of the newly designated National Park Service lands described in this article. What does this suggest about the value placed on national parks by Americans today? What may it suggest for the future?

Do you think these will be the last areas of land preserved by the national park system? Why or why not?

Take another look at the photos in this article. Do these look like national parks or National Park Service lands? What about them makes you say yes or no? What “meaning” of national parks do these photos suggest?
Text 13: Find Your Park
Lexile 990

Share your story. #findyourpark
or visit findyourpark.com

THANK YOU
The National Park Service thanks our premier partners for their support of the Find Your Park centennial campaign.
The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation are inviting people everywhere to discover their own personal connections to parks. So much more than vast landscapes, there are urban parks, cultural treasures, and historical places—all within the National Park System. A park can even be a feeling or a state of mind. You may also find that a National Park Service program helped preserve a special place in your community. With more than 400 national parks and thousands of historic and recreational lands across the country, there are endless ways for you to find your unique connection.

If you found your park today, please share your story now using #findyourpark or by going to findyourpark.com. Enter your story for a chance to win some amazing prizes.

If you haven't found YOUR park yet, visit findyourpark.com for inspiration and ideas on where to go and what to try.
Questions:

The pamphlet says that a park can be “a feeling or a state of mind.” What do you think this means?

Do state and local parks play a role in the Find Your Park initiative? How so?

How does the Find Your Park initiative encourage citizens like you to become involved in the national park experience?

What are some characteristics of a park that people may look for during their search?

Some states do not have national parks and have very limited National Park Service land. How does the idea of National Parks in American culture play into these states?
Text 14: U.S. National Parks—Today's Challenges

America’s national parks boast a very rich history. Their stewards always have an eye toward protecting them for the future.

Today the parks face a daunting array of challenges. These include land development and climate change. Budget shortfalls and the changing culture of America itself are also challenges.

“One of the greatest challenges we face is in making the National Park Service relevant to all Americans”, explains David Barna, public affairs chief for the National Park Service.

Barna cites a need to inspire new generations of urban youth with the wonders of nature. He also warns of a loss of cultural literacy. That problem poses a serious threat to the system. Two-thirds of the parks were designated because of their historic or cultural relevance.

Those Americans who do love to visit the parks are choosing to use them in more conflicting ways. Off-road drivers and backpackers, snowmobilers, and stargazers each have their own vision of how best to enjoy America’s parks. But these diverse activities and attitudes create usage conflicts. These conflicts must be managed to provide the best experience for all while preserving the parks' ecosystems and natural characters for the future.

Questions:

Why is culture so important to national parks?

The article states that the “changing culture of America” is a challenge to National Parks. What may these changes be? Do national parks still hold a place in American culture?

Based on everything you have read so far, suggest some ideas for how to make National Park Service lands “relevant” again.

Look back to the introduction. Can the values that Jonathan Jarvis suggests as fundamental to our national parks still appear in this article?

Final Question:

What is the overall role of national parks in American culture?