

Putting Out the Welcome Mat

Key Objectives

In this unit, students will engage in career planning and trip planning related to State Parks. They will also understand their power as citizens of Indiana to advocate and make changes to help the environment and protect Indiana State Parks into the next century. Whether you want to work, play or volunteer at a park, Indiana State Parks welcomes you.

State Parks Featured

All State Parks stateparks.IN.gov

| Activity: | Standards: | Benchmarks: | Assessment Tasks: | Key Concepts: |
|----------------------|--------------|---|---|--|
| Working at a Park | SS.4.2.6 | Define and provide examples of civic virtues in a democracy. | Understand civic virtues and complete the worksheet provided. | Career planning Civic Virtues Volunteering Physical systems |
| | ELA.4.RV.1 | Build and use accurately general academic and content-specific words and phrases. | Identifies career words correctly with their definitions. | |
| | ELA.4.RN.3.1 | Apply knowledge of text features to locate information and gain meaning. | Correctly completes career survey to select a career. | |
| Playing at a Park | SS.4.3.2 | Estimate distances between two places on a map when referring to relative locations. | Plan a trip to a state park, including estimating the distance and driving time. | |
| | SS.4.3.6 | Describe Indiana's landforms, water features, plants and animals. | Describe the landscape of their selected park after reading the park's brochure. | |
| | ELA.4.RN.3.1 | Apply knowledge of text features to locate information and gain meaning from a text (e.g., charts, tables, etc.). | Describe the landscape of their selected park after reading the park's brochure. | |
| Being a Park Citizen | SS.4.2.6 | Define and provide examples of civic virtues in a democracy. | Understand civic virtues and volunteer at a local park or at your school. Some possible projects include litter pickup, invasive species control, and graffiti removal. | |

Key Resources

- Working as a state park interpretive naturalist (www.stateparks.IN.gov/2439.htm)
- Alphabetical listing of parks and lakes (www.stateparks.IN.gov/2392.htm)
- Annual Recreation Guide (www.in.gov/dnr/5280.htm)
- Volunteering at a park (www.stateparks.IN.gov/2443.htm)

Activity 1: Working at a Park

Activity Summary

People of all interests and backgrounds work for Indiana State Parks.

Activity Length: 20 minutes

Background

Indiana State Parks is made up of a diverse group of people with a variety of abilities, interests and educational backgrounds. There are jobs for people who enjoy writing, math, science, history, art and physical education. There are jobs for people who want to be in the outdoors year-round and for those who prefer an office setting. Many full-time jobs require a college degree and related experience. You might enjoy working for Indiana State Parks if you enjoy working with and helping people, and caring for our natural resources.

Vocabulary

Diverse: Having a lot of variety and differences.

Natural Resources: Occurring in environments that exist relatively undisturbed by people. Natural resources are characterized by amounts of biological diversity and geological diversity existent in various ecosystems.

Materials Required

- Working at a Park Career Survey
- Pencil

Focus Questions

- What do you want to do as a career? What subjects are important for that career? What activities that you currently enjoy would help you with that career?

Step-By-Step Directions

1. Complete the career survey to determine a potentially suitable career for you.

Working at a Park Career Survey

Name: _____

1. Check all the subjects you enjoy.

- Language Arts
- Art
- Science
- Math
- History
- Physical Education



2. Check which activities you enjoy.

- Digging for buried history
- Creating drawing and paintings
- Writing stories
- Constructing buildings from Legos
- Teaching others about the outdoors
- Teaching others about history
- Hiking on trails
- Working with animals
- Performing in front of an audience
- Growing plants
- Boating
- Fishing
- Hunting

3. Match your favorite subjects and activities with a job. Circle the jobs that work best for you.

Subject: Language Arts

Activities: Writing stories, teaching others about the outdoors

Career: Writer for Outdoor Indiana Magazine

Subjects: Math, Science

Activities: Constructing buildings

Career: Engineer

Subject: Art

Activities: Creating drawings and paintings

Career: Graphic Artist

Subject: History

Activities: Digging for historical structures, being in front of an audience, teaching others about history

Career: Historian/Archaeologist

Subject: Physical Education, Science

Activities: Fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, working with animals

Career: Conservation Officer

Subjects: Science, History

Activities: Being in front of an audience, teaching others about nature, hiking on trails, writing stories, working with animals

Career: Park Interpreter

Subjects: Science, Math

Activities: Hiking on trails, growing plants

Career: Forester

Subjects: Science, Math

Activities: Working with animals, fishing, hunting, hiking, teaching others about nature

Career: Wildlife Biologist

Activity 2: Playing at a Park

Activity Summary

There are many state park and reservoir properties offering a variety of locations, activities and places to stay. Students will select a park that best fits their interests and plan a 3-day trip.

Activity Length: 90 minutes (can be broken into multiple sessions)

Background

Every park is unique in what a visitor can see and do. There are parks with large forests, lakes, rivers or **prairies**. There are parks with historic **mills**, an Indian village, or a fort. There are parks that offer long hiking trails, boating, a water park, or horseback riding. Parks offer a variety of places to stay: camping, cabins or at an **inn**. There are many sources of information to help plan a park trip. Planning ahead will ensure that the visitor and the park are a perfect match.

Vocabulary

Inn: hotel

Mill: a building with machinery to grind grain

Prairie: a large grassland

Materials Required

- Playing at a Park survey
- Pencil
- Indiana State Highway map (internet or paper)
- Recreation Guide www.in.gov/dnr/5280.htm
- State Parks property/trail maps (www.stateparks.IN.gov/2393.htm)

Focus Questions

- What activities do you enjoy at a park or outdoors? Where would you like to travel to?

Step-By-Step Directions

1. Fill out the “What do you enjoy? Where would you like to stay?” survey.
2. Using the Recreation Guide’s Facility Chart, find a park that offers your top three activities and your top type of accommodation (inn, cabin, camping). www.in.gov/dnr/5280.htm
3. Find the park’s location on a state highway map. Plan the route you would take to get there from where you live. What roads would you take? How many miles do you have to travel? How long will it take to get there?
4. Download the map for your selected park. After reading the park’s description, describe the landforms (hilly, flat, canyons), water features (lakes, rivers, streams), you might find. (www.stateparks.IN.gov/2393.htm).
5. Looking at the park map’s Description of Trails and Activities and Facilities list, plan what activities you would like to do during your visit.

Playing at a Park

Planning a Visit

Name: _____

1. What do you enjoy doing?

a. Number these activities in order 1-8. Number 1 will be your favorite activity. Number 2 will be your second favorite activity and so on.

- Horseback riding
- Hiking
- Seeing Wildlife
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Visiting an historic site (village, home, barn)
- Boating
- Biking



b. Choose one place that you'd like to stay while visiting a park.

- Park Inn/hotel
- Cabin
- Campground

2. Which park is best for you?

Using the Recreation Guide, match your interests to a park. I want to visit _____
(name of park)

3. How will you get there?

Find the property's location on a map. Plan the route you would take to get there from where you live. (You may use Google Map or other computer map site)

What highways would you take?

How many miles do you have to travel?

How long will it take to get there?

4. What will you see?

Download the property map for your selected property. After reading the property description, list the landforms (hills, canyons), water features (lakes, rivers, streams), you might find.

5. What will you do?

Looking at the property map and reading the Description of Trails and Activities and Facilities list, plan the activities you would like to do during your visit.

What trails would you like to hike? Why?

What places would like to visit at the park? (lakes, historic buildings, the nature center)

Activity 3: Being a Park Citizen

Activity Summary

Students will understand and demonstrate civic responsibility by volunteering at a State Park, local community park or at their school.

Civic Virtues discussion and worksheet: 20 minutes

Volunteering: variable depending on the task

Background

Parks need you! Indiana State Parks offer some of the best examples of historic and natural Indiana, but they need your help. **Volunteering** in your **community** or nearby State Park is part of being a good **citizen** and makes sure that future **generations** have even better opportunities. Volunteering at a park can include:

- Pulling up **invasive plants**
- Serving as a receptionist at an interpretive/nature center
- Caring for live animals
- Checking bluebird nest boxes
- Working in an educational garden
- Picking up litter

Vocabulary

Citizen: a person who lives in a particular place or country

Community: a group of people living in the same place

Generation: a group of people all born at about the same time

Invasive plants: a plant that did not originally grow here and is invading the area

Volunteer: a person who offers to do a task without pay

Materials Required

- Pencil
- Civic virtues worksheet
- Supplies for volunteer project. (ex: trash bags, garden gloves, cleaning products for graffiti removal)

Focus Questions

- What is volunteering? What are some ways that you can help a state park, your school or your community? How can your personal actions (or inaction) help or hurt your community?

Step-By-Step Directions

1. Discuss and provide examples of civic virtues using the worksheet.
2. Contact a nearby state park or other park and learn about volunteer opportunities (see resources)
3. Volunteer at a state park, community park or at your school.

Some possible projects:

- a. Litter pick-up
- b. Invasive plant removal
- c. Graffiti removal

Resources

Volunteer Web Site www.stateparks.IN.gov/2443.htm

Volunteer brochure:

www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-volunteerbrochure.pdf

Contact a park near you and learn what volunteer options are available.

List of parks where you can volunteer:

www.stateparks.IN.gov/2392.htm

Being a Park Citizen

Civic Virtues

Draw a line from the civic virtue to its best example.

Civic Virtue

1. *Individual Responsibility*

We make choices and take responsibility for them, even if they don't turn out well.

2. *Self-discipline*

Controlling ourselves and our conduct.

3. *Civility*

Politeness and courtesy.

4. *Respect for the rights and dignity of all individuals*

Treating all people with respect even if they are different from you in opinions, appearance, age or abilities.

5. *Honesty*

Telling the truth.

6. *Respect for the law*

Obeying and enforcing the law.

7. *Courage*

Doing something that might frighten you.

8. *Compassion*

Showing sympathy and concern for the misfortune or sufferings of others.

9. *Patriotism*

Devotion to one's country.

10. *Fairness and commitment to the common good*

Doing things that benefit the greatest number of people.

Name: _____



Example

- a. Instead of lying, Rachel admitted that she'd picked the wildflowers in the park.
- b. When a camper's dog became lost in the park, Nathanael helped the family look for it until it was found.
- c. Kelly lowered the park flag to half-staff to show respect for soldiers who have died.
- d. When Ian punched Hunter in the campground, Hunter reported it to his aunt instead of punching him back.
- e. Thomas was always careful to obey the park rules and stay on the trails.
- f. Although Molly believed that climate change was caused by humans, she listened with respect to the speaker who did not.
- g. Michael was terrified of snakes, but held one at the nature center.
- h. The beach lifeguard, Shalaya, was always helpful and polite even when enforcing rules.
- i. When Jeremy threw a baseball too close to the park office and broke a window, he took the responsibility for the accident by paying for a new window out of his allowance.
- j. The price of swimming at the park was lowered so that more people could afford it.