

Views of the National Parks

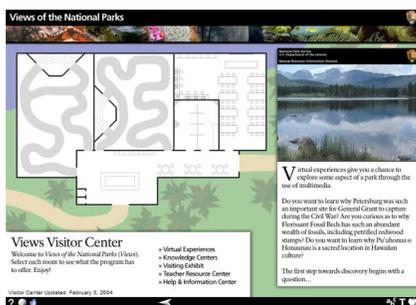
An Educational Computer Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Natural Resource Information Division
Denver, Colorado



Visit *Views of the National Parks* online:
www2.nature.nps.gov/synthesis/views



Welcome to the Views Visitor Center. Explore national parks in detail through virtual experiences, or learn about natural resource themes while exploring knowledge centers.

Welcome to *Views of the National Parks*. The United States' national park system is a magnificent quiltwork of people and places stitched seamlessly in the fabric of the American experience. Come, explore this mosaic where the natural world and our cultural heritage are deeply intertwined. Investigate natural wonders and the powerful forces that sculpt them. Discover how the natural landscape has shaped - and been shaped by - the American people. Recognize the uniqueness and diversity of our many cultures and celebrate the threads that join us all as Americans. Connect with the stories of your national parks, and "Experience your America."

Views of the National Parks (Views) consists of two complementary components: virtual experiences and knowledge centers.

Virtual experiences provide multimedia gateways to park-based educational experiences. They help park interpreters and education specialists reach a greater number of people, including park visitors that do not have time to take a ranger-led tour, students in classrooms (local and distant), handicapped visitors who cannot reach remote park sites, or members of the public unable to visit the park. Virtual experiences also allow interpreters and educational specialists to re-create historical, natural, and cultural landscapes. The ability to experience vanished landscapes will provide a new understanding of the past.

Knowledge centers present general information and principles on a variety of natural resource themes. These knowledge centers also contain park-specific case studies. Knowledge centers provide a means of connecting national parks that share natural resource themes.

Coordination of the project is done by staff in the Natural Resource Information Division (NRID) of NPS. To ensure high-quality information, subject matter experts are recruited to help design and build each module. The project philosophy is that park educators, interpreters, and resource staff should select the material, the stories, and the best methods for presenting information from their park.

Goals

The overall goal of *Views* is to provide America's national parks with a powerful interactive tool for the enhancement of interpretation and education programs.

Major objectives of the project include:

- Bringing national parks into the classroom
Use national parks to teach natural, cultural, and historical themes
- Making connections to all Americans
Provide ways for everyone to discover personal connections to each topic
- Inspiring everyone to visit national parks
Whet a user's appetite to visit their national parks to pursue a greater understanding

Teaching Standards

Each module is associated with applicable national teaching standards. Teachers can look up a standard to find out which modules provide appropriate information, or can look up a module and see which standards it covers.

Features

Views is designed for personal use or to complement interpretation and education programs. Explore some of these features:

- Virtual experiences
Bring national parks to your computer, engaging yourself in the story, and exploring connections to other national parks.
- Knowledge centers
Explore themes that stretch beyond park boundaries, that link America's national parks and all Americans.
- Innovative multimedia presentation
Video, audio, panoramas, maps, diagrams, and activities will immerse you in the stories and experiences.
- Modular design
Each module is self-contained, yet connections to other modules can be explored for a richer experience.
- Multiple platforms
Any computer with a web browser can use *Views*. It may be run on the Internet or from a CD.

Contact us

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"... the National Park Service embrace[s] its mission, as educator, to become a more significant part of America's educational system by providing formal and informal programs for students and learners of all ages inside and outside park boundaries."

— National Park System Advisory Board
"Rethinking the National Parks for the 21st Century"