

Mia Stewart

Yellowstone National Park: Transforming Environmental Rights and Government

Responsibilities

Junior Individual Website

Student Composed Words: 1200 words

Multimedia: 47 seconds

Process Paper: 498 words

I chose my topic because I'm interested in environmental rights and their impact. Growing up, I have always loved the outdoors and spending time in nature, such as hiking with my family. Although there were many different ways I could take environmental rights, I've always been fascinated by Yellowstone National Park. However, I've never thought about how the park was established. As I looked deeper into the establishment of the park, I realized that although many people only see the positive impact of the park and the change it brought about, there was also a negative impact. The U.S. government took more responsibility for protecting environmental rights and natural areas, but many native tribes lost their rights.

Originally during my research, I mainly used websites for information, and while this was essential to understanding different facets of my topic, I didn't have many primary sources. However, as I started digging deeper and looking further into my topic, I found primary sources that gave me insight into what it was like on the expedition documenting Yellowstone's features. I discovered newspapers detailing various experiences, and I found a letter showing me what it was like to experience the things that happened at that time. It gave me deeper knowledge from a different point of view. Primary photographs also played a large role in my research, because they gave me visuals of the park at the time of establishment. My class took a trip to the UW library, helping me find good information to use in my project.

I wanted to pick a category that enabled me to have some freedom and creativity in my project, while still getting information across efficiently and clearly, so a website seemed like the best fit. A website gives me the ability to have fun with the layout of my pages while still conveying information well. Learning to manipulate the website program was challenging, and there were many things that I had to practice to get them how I was hoping for. I worked with other classmates also doing websites to share knowledge on what we learned about the program, and that helped me find easier ways to complete my website.

Although the establishment of Yellowstone National Park on March 1, 1872, encouraged tourists to visit natural wonders in the West, it also contributed to Native American relocation to

reservations outside newly formed park boundaries, eliminating their use of the park's resources. Yellowstone National Park, sparked by the Hayden Geological Survey, spurred the government's responsibility to protect environmental rights while simultaneously taking away native rights. The establishment of Yellowstone National Park had many lasting impacts, such as the sixty-three other national parks established as a result of the success of Yellowstone. President Roosevelt was a significant supporter of the national park movement, establishing five national parks and eighteen national monuments during his presidency. He signed the Antiquities Act into law, enabling presidents to reserve public land for national monuments, making establishing these monuments easier.

Works Cited

Primary Sources

Bill Manning, shown here around 1920, led the posse that first confronted the Bannock party south of Jackson Hole 25 years earlier. *WyoHistory.org*, www.wyohistory.org/encyclopedia/who-gets-hunt-wyomings-elk-tribal-hunting-rights-us-law-and-bannock-war-1895.

This photograph helped me provide a visual of William Manning and what he looked like. It was important because of the part he played in deciding hunting rights for Native Americans.

Columbus Delano, Hon. of Ohio. Delegate to Republican National Convention at Chicago in 1860. Second the nomination of Abraham Lincoln as a candidate for Pres. U.S. State Commissary General of Ohio in 1861. Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/item/2017895072/.

I used this photo to support my section about the Secretary of the Interior and how important they were in keeping Yellowstone National Park running smoothly. This photograph gave a visual about who the Secretary of the Interior was at the time of Yellowstone's establishment.

A family group photo. *National Park Service*, www.nps.gov/yell/learn/historyculture/historic-tribes.htm.

I used this photo on my title page, to capture the reader's attention and make them interested in reading more. This photo is important because it conveys an important aspect of the establishment of Yellowstone National Park.

Jackson, William. *Hayden Party*. *National Park Service*,

www.nps.gov/features/yell/slidesfile/history/jacksonphotos/Images/09194.jpg.

This photograph gave me a good visual representation of how many people came on the expedition, as well as the things they brought. I used this photo on my Hayden Geological Survey page so that it could show what the survey was like.

---. *Lower Falls of the Yellowstone*. *National Park Service*,

www.nps.gov/features/yell/slidesfile/history/jacksonphotos/Images/09580.jpg.

This photo helped me gain a better understanding of the natural wonders in Yellowstone, and what it might have been like for the survey team to experience it. I used this photo on my home page so that people could get a good photo of the park.

Moran, Thomas. *The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone*. 1872. *US Department of the Interior*,

www.doi.gov/interiormuseum/highlights-thomas-moran-big-picture.

I used this painting to help show a different viewpoint of the survey from a different member of the expedition, one whose painting had a huge impact on the establishment of Yellowstone National Park. I used this painting on my Hayden Geological Survey page, to show a very important painting.

---. Letter. *National Park Service*, www.nps.gov/yell/learn/historyculture/moransdiarypage5.htm.

This diary helped me understand more about what Hayden's expedition was like from the perspective of someone on the actual journey. I learned about the kind of things they did on the trip, and what kind of things they experienced.

---. Letter. *DocsTeach*,

www.docsteach.org/documents/document/letter-from-thomas-moran-to-frederick-v-hayden.

This letter gave me good information about Thomas Moran and the paintings he was creating of Yellowstone. I used a quote from his letter to show his thoughts on nature's beauty.

Obsidian Cliff. 1953. *National Park Service*,

www.nps.gov/articles/archeology-obsidian-mvp-yellowstone-stones.htm.

I used this photograph to give a visual of what Obsidian Cliff is so that it's easier to understand how important this resource was to Native Americans who were living in the Yellowstone area.

Theodore Roosevelt at his Sagamore Hill home. *National Park Service*,

www.nps.gov/articles/000/theodore-roosevelt-biography.htm.

I used this photograph on my long-term impact page to further elaborate on the Antiquities Act, and provide a visual that gives more information on the topic.

Trunks and suitcases are stacked outside the Union Pacific depot at West Yellowstone, Mont.

This route was most popular with visitors. *Wyoming Public Radio*,

www.wyomingpublicmedia.org/open-spaces/2022-10-14/transportation-in-yellowstone-has-gone-through-many-changes-over-the-past-150-years.

This photo was important because it gave me a visual of what the railroad looked like at the time, such as how the trains looked. I used this photo to illustrate the railroad to readers.

United States, Congress, Senate. Yellowstone National Park Protection Act. *National Archives*,
catalog.archives.gov/id/596351. 42nd Congress, 2nd session, Senate Bill 392 (enacted).

This bill gave me good evidence to use in my website, supplying me with a photo of this document to use as well as quotes I pulled from this. This is important because it was an essential part of creating Yellowstone, so it's important to include it.

Secondary Sources

A 10,000-year-old hunting spear tip made of obsidian. It was produced by knapping, using hard rocks and antlers to break off flakes. *Smithsonian Magazine*,
www.smithsonianmag.com/history/lost-history-yellowstone-180976518/.

This photo helped me get a better understanding of what types of tools Native Americans made from obsidian, and the different uses for tools.

"Antiquities Act." *U.S. Department of the Interior*, www.doi.gov/ocl/antiquities-act.

This website was helpful to me because it provided me with some of the basics about the Antiquities Act so that I could get a simple understanding of what this act enabled presidents to do. I used this information on my long-term impact page so that I could include more details in my section.

Cantrell, Megan. "Thomas 'Yellowstone' Moran: Influencing Change with Art." *National Parks Conservation Association*, 18 July 2014,
www.npca.org/articles/376-thomas-yellowstone-moran-influencing-change-with-art.
Accessed 24 Oct. 2024.

I used this source to learn about how paintings and photographs influenced the creation of Yellowstone National Park. I learned how it changed people's opinions and brought life to the topic of environmental rights.

Cyca, Michelle. "How Yellowstone Became America's First National Park." *History*, A&E Television Networks, 16 Feb. 2023,
www.history.com/news/yellowstone-national-park-origins.

This website was helpful to me because I learned more about how Yellowstone's establishment inspired the formation of many other national parks, as well as helping many people adjust to the idea of public land set aside for public enjoyment. This added to my long-term impact page, giving me more information to strengthen my claim.

"Edward Henry Harriman." *Encyclopedia Britannica*,
www.britannica.com/money/Edward-Henry-Harriman.

I used this website to learn more about Edward Henry Harriman so that I could better understand why he had an impact on the railroads leading to Yellowstone National Park. This was important because I now know why he was so important in creating a new railroad line.

"Ethnic Cleansing and America's Creation of the National Parks." *ScholarWorks at the University of Montana*, June 2007,
scholarworks.umt.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1267&context=plrlr.

I used this source to learn about the hunting rights that the Native Americans were given in their original treaties, and how even though they were guaranteed these,

they were still denied the right to hunt in Yellowstone National Park. I got some good examples of cases like this, and how the Native Americans were treated.

"The First National Park: Yellowstone and the Hayden Survey." *National Archives*, [visit.archives.gov/whats-on/explore-exhibits/first-national-park-yellowstone-and-hayden-survey#:~:text=After%20his%20survey%2C%20Hayden%20traveled,the%20Department%20of%20the%20Interior.](https://www.visit.archives.gov/whats-on/explore-exhibits/first-national-park-yellowstone-and-hayden-survey#:~:text=After%20his%20survey%2C%20Hayden%20traveled,the%20Department%20of%20the%20Interior.)

This website helped me understand more about Ferdinand Hayden's survey expedition, and some of the things they did while they were there. I also learned more about how Hayden influenced Congress to establish Yellowstone National Park.

"Historic Tribes." *NPS*, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 11 Oct. 2023, www.nps.gov/yell/learn/historyculture/historic-tribes.htm.

I used this source to learn about the Native Americans living in the Yellowstone area and their lifestyles there. I specifically learned about the Tukudika tribe, how they were dependent on the resources Yellowstone had to offer, and how their lives changed after the park was created.

"History & Culture." *NPS*, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 5 Dec. 2024, www.nps.gov/seki/learn/historyculture/index.htm#:~:text=On%20September%2025th%2C%201890%2C%20President,to%20protect%20a%20living%20organism.

This website gave me good information about Sequoia National Park, such as why it was established. I used a picture from this website to further illustrate the national park idea, as well as using a quote from the website to highlight why the park was established.

"The History of Transportation with Miriam Watson." *National Park Service*,

www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=831AD20C-6202-4B02-88A9-9A67C45D2B05.

I used this source to get more details about what kinds of things tourists did while visiting Yellowstone National Park and what their visits looked like. This video contributed to my section about tourism, giving it more useful information.

"Indigenous Homelands in Yellowstone National Park." *University of British Columbia*,

cases.open.ubc.ca/indigenous-homelands-in-yellowstone-national-park/#:~:text=Negative%20Impacts%20on%20Indigenous%20Communities&text=There%20are%20several%20associated%20Indigenous,forced%20off%20of%20their%20land.

This source gave a good perspective on how the establishment of Yellowstone impacted the Native Americans living in the area. I used this to add to my information about how the tribes were affected when they were forced into reservations.

Jones, Karen. "National Park System." *Dictionary of American History*, edited by Stanley I.

Kutler, 3rd ed., vol. 5, Charles Scribner's Sons, 2003, pp. 549-54. *Gale in Context: High School*,

link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3401802863/SUIC?u=northshore&sid=bookmark-SUIC&xid=9850d60b. Accessed 11 Oct. 2024.

This source gave me good information about the National Park movement and how it influenced the need to protect nature's wonders and conserve them for future generations. It gave me a good sense of the bigger picture that the creation of Yellowstone National Park fits into and lets me see things more clearly as a whole.

Kaeser, Sean. "Theodore Roosevelt and Conservation." *The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History*,

www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/lesson-plan/theodore-roosevelt-and-conservation#:~:text=Roosevelt%20said%2C%20%22the%20rights%20of,as%20the%20National%20Forest%20Service.

This website gave me information about Theodore Roosevelt's opinion on national parks and environmental rights and how important this was during his presidency. I pulled a quote from this website to further highlight the importance of national parks.

"The Lost History of Yellowstone." *Smithsonian*, Jan. 2021,

www.smithsonianmag.com/history/lost-history-yellowstone-180976518/.

I used this source to learn more about what artifacts people found in Yellowstone National Park, and what these tell us about how Native Americans lived and the resources they used. I learned a lot about how obsidian from Obsidian Cliff was utilized, and how they used a lot of it and it was highly valued.

"National Park Movement." *Gale U.S. History Online Collection*, Detroit, MI, Gale, 2022. *Gale in Context: World History*,

link.gale.com/apps/doc/OYRFQZ793323367/WHIC?u=northshore&sid=bookmark-WHIC&xid=94f6b037. Accessed 1 Oct. 2024.

I used this source to get a basic understanding of the who, what, when, where, and why of my topic. This is important because I can now dive into deeper parts of my topic to get more details, and I will know most of the simpler parts of the creation of Yellowstone National Park.

Peabody, Erin. *A Weird and Wild Beauty : the Story of Yellowstone, the World's First National Park*. SkyPony Press, 2016.

I used this secondary source to learn about the start of Ferdinand Hayden's expedition to go and explore the Yellowstone area. I learned about how they got there, the struggles they faced, and what they did when they first got there.

"Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History (Chapter 1)." *NPS*, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/sellars/chap1.htm.

I used this source to gain knowledge about how the idea of tourism impacted the creation of Yellowstone National Park, both in persuading the government to establish the park, and after, thinking about the profit gained from the tourism.

Spence, Mark David. *Dispossessing the Wilderness : Indian Removal, National Parks, and the Preservationist Ideal*. Oxford UP, 1999.

I used this book to learn about the reservations for Native Americans and how the government moved them to the reservations, as well as the aftereffects of this and how it affected the Native American tribes.

"Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) The Conservation President." *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, www.fws.gov/staff-profile/theodore-roosevelt-1858-1919-conservation-president#:~:text=During%20his%20very%20active%20presidency,the%20first%2018%20national%20monuments.

I used this source to learn more about President Roosevelt and what he did for the national park movement and environmental rights, specifically the number of national parks and monuments he established during his presidency. This was

important because without him we probably wouldn't have as many national parks as we do today.

"Travel by Train." *Museum of the Yellowstone*, museumoftheyellowstone.org/trains. Accessed 28 Oct. 2024.

I used this source to learn about the railroads that increased tourism in Yellowstone National Park, how they did this, and how they grew in popularity and size as a result.