# U.S. National Parks Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Acadia National Park includes much of Mount Desert Island. Which state has that coastline?
   - A. Maine
   - B. Rhode Island
   - C. New Jersey
   - D. North Carolina

   Correct answer: A. Maine
   Mount Desert Island is on the coast of Maine. Much of Acadia National Park lies on the island.

2. A postcard shows Delicate Arch, the freestanding stone landmark in Utah. Which national park protects it?
   - A. Capitol Reef
   - B. Zion
   - C. Arches
   - D. Bryce Canyon

   Correct answer: C. Arches
   Delicate Arch is one of the best-known natural stone arches in Arches National Park.

3. Which national park protects part of the slow-moving wetland often called the River of Grass?
   - A. Carlsbad Caverns
   - B. Everglades
   - C. Saguaro
   - D. Redwood

   Correct answer: B. Everglades
   The Everglades are shallow subtropical wetlands in southern Florida. Fresh water historically moved slowly through their broad sawgrass marshes.

4. Which state contains Mammoth Cave National Park and its system of connected cave passages?
   - A. Missouri
   - B. Virginia
   - C. Arkansas
   - D. Kentucky

   Correct answer: D. Kentucky
   Mammoth Cave National Park is in south-central Kentucky. It protects the cave system and land above it.

5. Mauna Loa and Kīlauea both lie within which national park?

A. Mount Rainier
B. Hawai‘i Volcanoes
C. Lassen Volcanic
D. Haleakalā

Correct answer: B. Hawai‘i Volcanoes
Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park is on the island of Hawai‘i and includes both volcanoes.

6. A sample of the pale dune sand at White Sands National Park comes from a mineral also found there as selenite. What is the mineral?

A. Gypsum
B. Quartz
C. Magnetite
D. Feldspar

Correct answer: A. Gypsum
The dunes consist mostly of grains of gypsum. Selenite is a crystalline form of that same mineral.

7. Which people built the historic cliff dwellings that include Cliff Palace at Mesa Verde?

A. The ancient Inca
B. The ancient Maya
C. The Haudenosaunee Confederacy
D. Ancestral Pueblo people

Correct answer: D. Ancestral Pueblo people
The Ancestral Pueblo people lived on the mesas and built communities including Cliff Palace in the area now protected by Mesa Verde National Park.

8. Oregon’s Crater Lake fills part of a bowl-shaped basin. What formed that basin?

A. A meteorite impact that built Mount Mazama
B. A dam across the Columbia River
C. The collapse of Mount Mazama
D. A marine inlet cut off by a sandbar

Correct answer: C. The collapse of Mount Mazama
The central part of the volcano collapsed to form a caldera. Rain and snow later supplied water to the basin.

9. Researchers visit Congaree National Park to study old-growth bottomland hardwood trees. Which setting best describes much of that forest?

A. A floodplain connected to a river
B. A mountain slope above the tree line
C. Coastal dunes exposed to salt spray
D. A high plain far from rivers

Correct answer: A. A floodplain connected to a river
Much of Congaree's old-growth forest occupies the Congaree River floodplain, where water levels can rise and fall with the river.

10. A map of Biscayne National Park shows mangrove shorelines, seagrass beds, islands, and reefs. Approximately what share of the park is covered by water?

A. 25%
B. 75%
C. 50%
D. 95%

Correct answer: D. 95%
Water covers about 95% of Biscayne National Park's area. Much of the habitat it protects is submerged.

11. Many logs at Petrified Forest National Park retain fine details of the original wood even though they are now stone. Which process accounts for much of that preservation?

A. Wind polished intact wood until its color matched the surrounding rock.
B. Sea salt coated the bark while leaving the wood underneath unchanged.
C. Silica-rich water deposited mineral material in openings in the wood.
D. Quartz crystals removed the wood and left an empty hollow where it lay.

Correct answer: C. Silica-rich water deposited mineral material in openings in the wood.
Minerals formed in spaces in the wood, a process called permineralization. In some fossils, silica also replaced some of the original material.

12. Canyonlands National Park protects a confluence at the center of its canyon landscape. Which pair of rivers meets there?

A. The Snake and Columbia
B. The Green and Colorado
C. The Gila and Salt
D. The Arkansas and the Rio Grande

Correct answer: B. The Green and Colorado
The Green River joins the Colorado inside Canyonlands. Their courses help define the park's districts.

13. A Badlands field sketch shows sedimentary layers stacked one above another and deep gullies cut across them. Which sequence explains both features?

A. Each layer formed when a modern gully filled with groundwater.
B. Gullies formed before the layers, and the layers remained uncut.
C. Erosion piled up the layers, and deposition made the gullies deeper.
D. Sediment built up in layers, and later erosion cut across them.

Correct answer: D. Sediment built up in layers, and later erosion cut across them.
Deposited sediments formed the layers. Later erosion wore away material, cutting gullies and exposing the rock.

14. Great Basin’s ancient bristlecone pines can grow very slowly on exposed sites. Which trait associated with slow growth helps their trunks endure?

A. Dense wood resistant to decay
B. Thin wood with large open spaces
C. A trunk that drops off every winter
D. Loose bark that provides no protection

Correct answer: A. Dense wood resistant to decay
Slow growth produces dense wood. The density helps the trunks resist decay and other damage.

15. Two sites near Glacier Bay have similar conditions. One is bare rock with scattered lichens. The other has a mature spruce and hemlock forest. All else being equal, which site was likely exposed by retreating ice longer ago?

A. Both sites were exposed at the same time
B. The site with scattered lichens
C. The site with mature forest
D. The lichens prove that site has never been covered by ice

Correct answer: C. The site with mature forest
Lichens can establish on newly exposed rock. A mature spruce and hemlock forest usually represents a later stage of plant succession.