U.S. National Parks Trivia

Choose one answer per question. Circle A, B, C, or D.

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

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

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

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

5. Mauna Loa and Kīlauea both lie within which national park?
   - A. Mount Rainier
   - B. Hawai‘i Volcanoes
   - C. Lassen Volcanic
   - D. Haleakalā

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

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

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

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

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%

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.

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

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.

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

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