# Amazing National Parks: Data Sheet

The National Park Service (NPS) is a government agency. It cares for about 400 sites across the United States. The NPS manages parks in every state except Delaware. It oversees more than just parks. It also protects rivers, monuments, historical sites, seashores, recreation areas, and trails. Even the White House is an NPS site! Hundreds of millions of visitors enjoy our national parks every year.
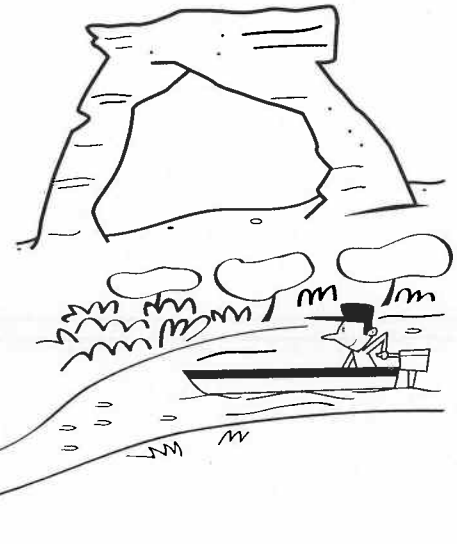
Yellowstone was the first national park. It was established in 1872. The table below lists some other spectacular national parks. It shows their location, year of authorization, and size in acres.
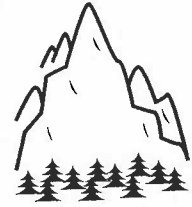
## Notable National Parks

| Park Name | State | Authorized | Size, in Acres* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acadia | Maine | 1916 | 47,390 |
| Arches | Utah | 1929 | 76,519 |
| Big Bend | Texas | 1935 | 801,163 |
| Cuyahoga Valley | Ohio | 1974 | 32,861 |
| Denali | Alaska | 1917 | 4,740,912 |
| Everglades | Florida | 1934 | 1,508,539 |
| Grand Teton | Wyoming | 1929 | 309,995 |
| Kings Canyon | California | 1890 | 461,901 |
| Mammoth Cave | Kentucky | 1926 | 52,830 |
| Mesa Verde | Colorado | 1906 | 52,122 |
| Petrified Forest | Arizona | 1906 | 221,540 |
| Shenandoah | Virginia | 1926 | 199,074 |

* 1 acre = 4,840 square yards, about the size of a soccer field
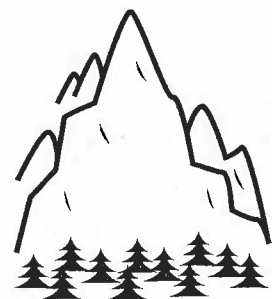
# ⬠ Amazing National Parks:

## Activity Sheet

**Use the Data** Use the table on the Data Sheet and any new data included below to answer each *What if?* question.

1. What if 20,000 acres were added to Cuyahoga Valley National Park? Which parks would it be larger than? _____

2. What if the number of acres of Mesa Verde National Park were increased by a factor of 10? Where would this park appear, in size order, from greatest to least acreage?

_____

3. What if Utah's Zion National Park with its 146,598 acres replaced Arches National Park in the table? Which of the following descriptions of park sizes would be affected: the mean, median, mode, range? _____

4. What if South Dakota's Badlands National Park, established in 1929, were added to the table? How would it affect the authorization data? _____

5. About 20,000 employees and about 145,000 volunteers work in the National Park system. What if the same number of workers worked in each of the 391 areas the National Park Service runs? About how many workers would be at each site? _____

**Create the Question**

The exercises below have answers but not questions. Your job is to use the information in the table to write questions for the answers.

6. **Answer:** 1926      Question: _____

_____

7. **Answer:** about one-third as great      Question: _____

_____

**Write About It**

Make up two **Create the Question** problems of your own for classmates to solve. Write the solutions (questions for the answers) on the back of the page.