

National Parks Portfolio Assignment

SCENARIO: The future of the national parks is in jeopardy. Certain factions of Congress have begun to question the value of setting aside so much land and so many natural resources. They feel that the nation's economy would be helped if the parks were opened up for development.

You are a group of nationally renowned artists who have been called together by an organization that wants to protect the parks. Your job is to produce a modern-day version of the *National Parks Portfolio*. Each page will contain an image (illustration, photograph, or collage) and a short phrase or slogan that shows the beauty and value of the national parks. Each page of the portfolio will be reproduced as a poster, which will be distributed across the country.

Your job is to produce a poster/page for the portfolio that will convince the public and Congress that the national parks should be preserved. Each poster should focus on one specific national park. (You may let students choose a park, or you may assign a different park to each student, to ensure that a variety is covered.) The students may choose to draw, paint, or illustrate the image on the poster, or they may create a collage of photographic images.

GETTING STARTED: Begin by researching a specific national park on the [National Park Service Web site](http://www.nps.gov/index.htm) at <http://www.nps.gov/index.htm>. You may also find valuable information on the Web site for [Americans for National Parks](http://www.npca.org/what_we_do/anp_update.html) at http://www.npca.org/what_we_do/anp_update.html, a coalition of organizations that are lobbying Congress to address the needs of the National Park Service.

Once you're ready for drawing materials, see me!