

Name _____ Date _____

The Wonders of Yellowstone

Steaming volcanoes, quaking ground, slopping mud, and hissing jets of scalding water shooting sky-high! No, these are not scenes from an alien planet in a faraway galaxy. They are some of the attractions of a place that millions of people visit every year—Yellowstone National Park.	10 23 39 46
President Ulysses S. Grant set Yellowstone aside as a national park in 1872. It is the oldest national park in the world. Most of Yellowstone is in Wyoming, but its most remote areas are in Idaho and Montana, in the Rocky Mountain range.	60 75 89
Yellowstone is huge. Its 3,472 square miles make it bigger than the states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined. Yellowstone is wild. It has a greater concentration of animals than any other area in the United States except Alaska.	102 115 128
Yellowstone has many wonders less fearsome than steaming volcanoes. You can walk and hike on its mountains or through its valleys. You can fish in its streams, rivers, and lakes.	138 154 158
If you are feeling lazy, you can just sit and wait for some of Yellowstone’s animals to show themselves. If you’re lucky, you might see elk, deer, or bison. (Be careful, though—you might also see bears and mountain lions!) While you’re waiting, you can enjoy some of the most spectacular scenery in the world.	173 187 200 213
In some places in Yellowstone, hot water can rise freely through openings in the rock. Often it collects in bowl-shaped hollows, forming hot springs. The springs stay at about the same temperature all year. Some are too hot to touch!	225 238 253
The springs can be red, blue, yellow, orange, green, brown, gray, and even a combination of these colors. Some get their color from minerals or from tiny organisms called <i>algae</i> . These blue springs are usually the hottest of all—too hot even for <i>algae</i> to grow in!	266 280 294 300