An illustration of a Yellowstone National Park landscape. A river flows through a deep canyon with brown, rocky walls. A waterfall cascades down the center of the canyon. The surrounding hills and valleys are covered in dense green coniferous forests. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

Yellowstone National Park

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Park Facts

Location: Most of the park is in Wyoming, with small parts in Montana and Idaho.

Established: March 1, 1872

Size: 2,219,789 acres

Visitors per year: 3,447,729



Climate Patterns

Spring and Fall

Day: 30°F to 60°F
Night: 1°F to 19°F



Summer

Day: 70°F to 80°F
Night: Temperatures may drop below freezing at higher elevations.



Winter

Day: 0°F to 20°F
Night: Sub-zero temperatures are common. The average snowfall is 150 inches a year.



Establishing the Park

Yellowstone National Park was the very first national park.

Early explorers determined that this land needed to be preserved, so they advocated for the land to be a national park.

President Ulysses S. Grant signed the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act in 1872 stating that the land could not be settled or sold.



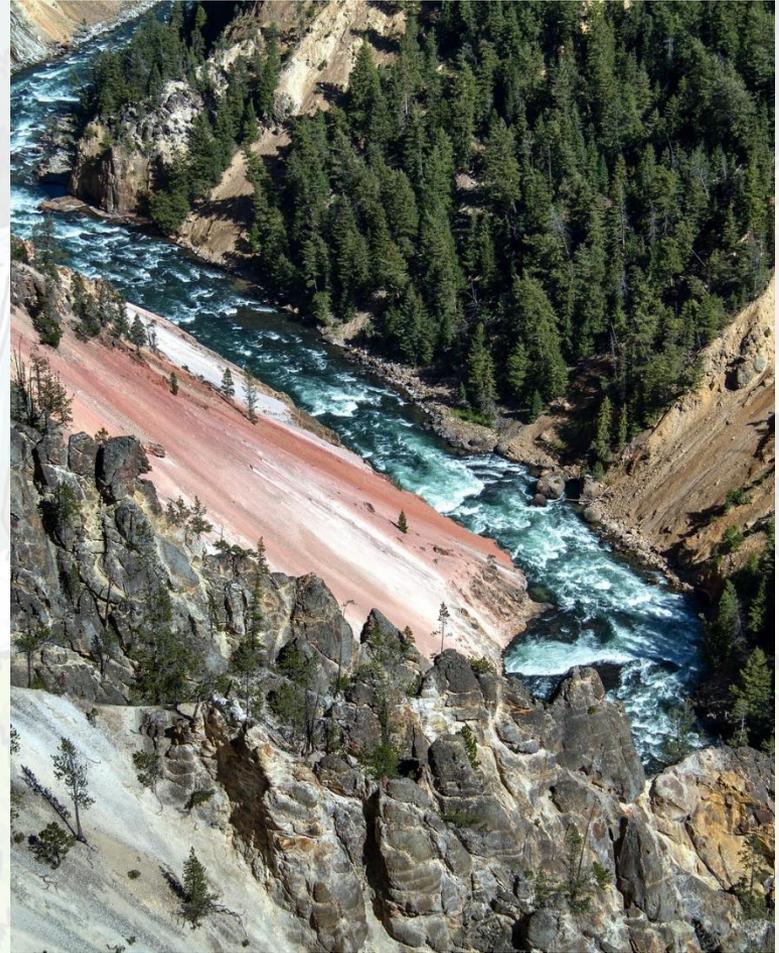
At the time, the management of the park was run by a volunteer.

Establishing the Park

In the late 1800s, poachers came to the park and nearly killed all of the bison population.

The army was brought in to govern the actions in the park; however, the men were not able to educate visitors about the park.

This laid the groundwork for the National Park Service that still governs the parks and educates visitors today.



The Park's Biggest Attractions

Click on each attraction to discover more!

Old Faithful Geyser



Yellowstone River



Grand Prismatic Spring



Animals 



Old Faithful Geyser

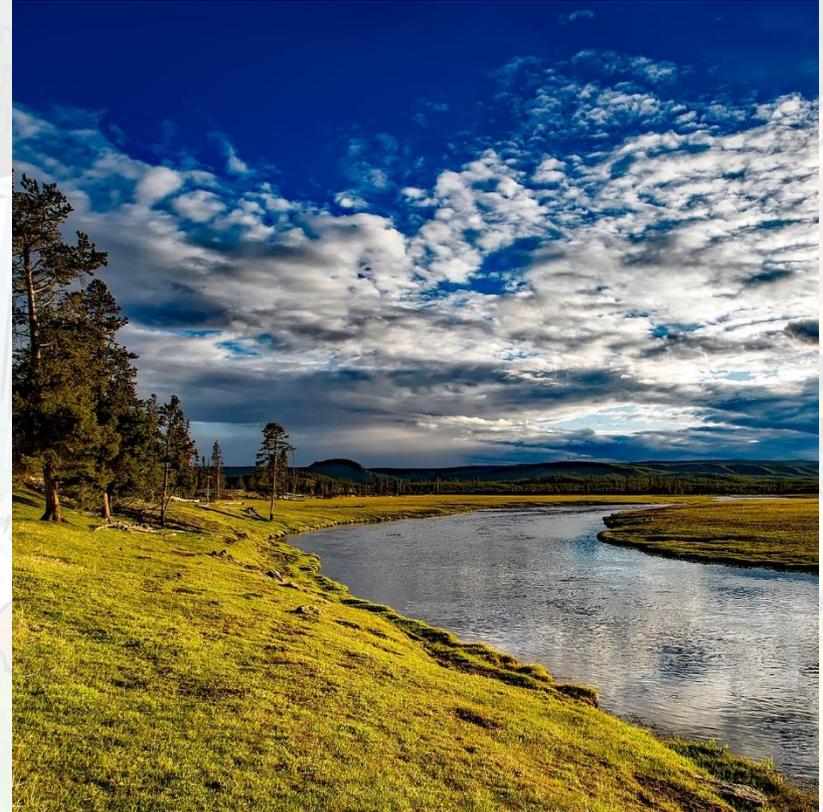
- A **geyser** is a spring that ejects water upward with steam.
- Depending on how long the Old Faithful Geyser erupts, it can shoot 3,700-8,400 gallons of water with each eruption.
- Old Faithful erupts every 35 to 120 minutes.





Yellowstone River

- The Yellowstone River is 692 miles long.
- The river stretches across three states: Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota.
- In 1806, the river was explored by William Clark during the Lewis and Clark Expeditions.





Grand Prismatic Spring

- The water in the spring travels up 121 feet (more than a 10-story building) to the surface of the spring. The water is very hot.

- It is the third largest spring in the world.
- The colored rings of the spring are created from different species of bacteria that live in the water. Some bacteria like hotter water, so they live in the center. Other bacteria like cooler water, so they live near the outer edge.



Animals in the Park

Click on each animal to discover more!

Otters



Wolves



Bison





Wolves

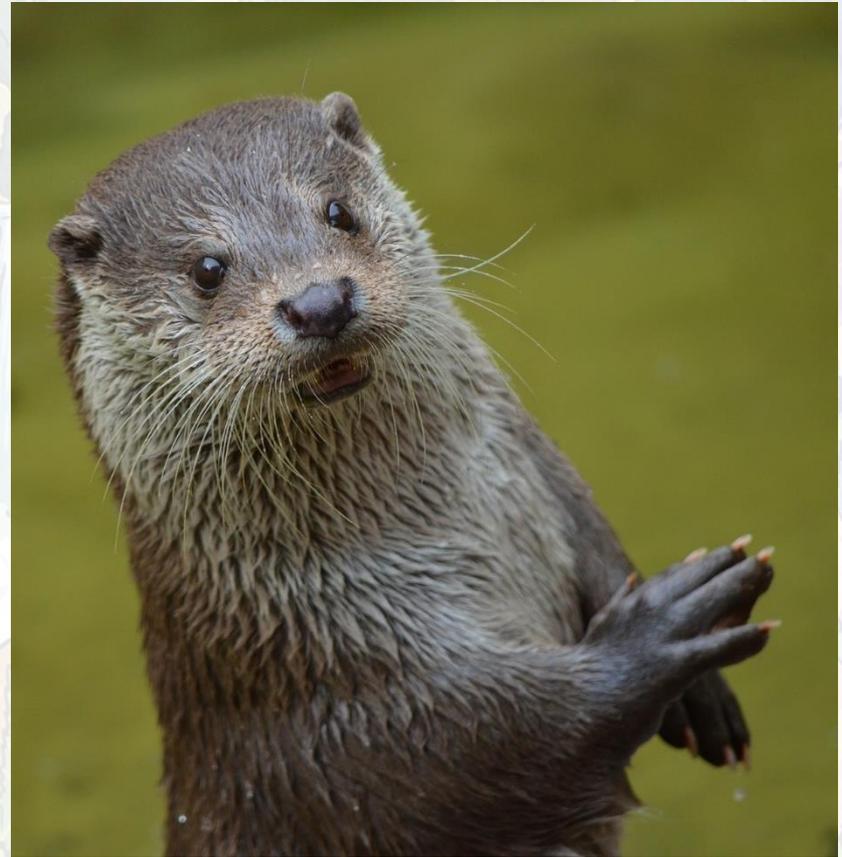
- Gray wolves were on the decline when the park was created in 1872. In 1926, the last wolves were killed to get rid of predators in the park.
- In 1955, conservationists won a campaign to bring gray wolves back to the park.
- There are about 108 gray wolves now living in Yellowstone National Park.





Otters

- Otters weigh between 10-30 pounds.
- They are active throughout the year.
- They can be seen swimming underwater at 6 mph.
- Otters eat fish, turtles, and frogs.





Bison

- Yellowstone National Park is the only place in the United States where bison have lived since prehistoric times.

- Approximately 4,800 bison live in the park.
- Bison eat primarily grass.
- Males can weigh up to 2,000 pounds.
- Females can weigh up to 1,000 pounds.





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