

Lesson 2

Idaho State Park Origins

Theme: “Why do we need state parks?”

Content Objectives:

Students will:

- Gain an understanding of the purposes of state parks
- Understand how parks, particularly state parks, originated
- Perform skits about why parks were developed
- Design puppets or costumes for skit/play
- Develop props and set backgrounds for skit/play

Suggested Level:

Fourth (4th) Grade

Standards Correlation:

- Language Arts
 - Standard 1: Reading Process 1.8
 - Standard 2: Comprehension/Interpretation 2.1, 2.2, 2.3
- Health
 - Standard 4: Consumer Health 4.1
 - Standard 5: Mental and Emotional Wellness 5.1
- Humanities: Theatre
 - Standard 1: Historical and Cultural Contexts 1.1,1.2
 - Standard 2: Critical Thinking 2.1,2.2
 - Standard 3: Performance 3.1, 3.2, 3.3
- Physical Education
 - Standard 2: Movement Knowledge 2.1
 - Standard 3:
- Social Studies
 - Standard 1: History 1.3
 - Standard 2: Geography 2.2
 - Standard 3: Economics 3.1, 3.2

Suggested Time Allowance:

Three 1-hour sessions

Materials:

- “Idaho State Park Resource Sheet”
- “Heyburn State Park” Sheet
- “Park Play” Skit
- Art and craft supplies or clothing for costumes
- Materials for props and set backgrounds
- Theatrical music (if desired)
- Pocket folders (portfolios)

Preparation:

- Make copies of “Idaho State Park Resource Sheet” (one per student)
- Make copies of “Heyburn State Park” Sheet (one per student)
- Make copies of “Park Play” Skit (one per student)
- Decide on cast representation for play (actors or puppets) and gather materials
- Gather materials for props & sets
- Pocket folders (each student’s portfolio)

Procedures:

Session 1:

1. Hand out copies of the “Idaho State Park Resource Sheet”. Highlight the date that Heyburn became the first Idaho State Park (1908). Highlight the reasons for creating state parks as stated by the Idaho State Legislature.

2. Hand out copies of "Heyburn State Park" Sheet. Go over as a class and highlight the year it was created, natural and cultural interests, and what camp was located there in the 1930s.
3. Talk briefly about what the CCC was and why it was created. Refer to CCC materials from lesson 1.
4. Introduce play. Explain that parks were created for different reasons in different times. In the United States during this era National and State Parks lands are set aside for preservation. Ask students what the park areas might be today if they had not been designated as parks.
5. Assign parts for the play.
6. Talk about how facial features, body language, and props convey messages to the audience.

Session 2:

1. Work on costuming or puppets.
2. Work on props and set backgrounds. Add music, if desired.
3. Work on memorizing parts.
4. Have each group work independently to rehearse play then do a run-through with the entire set.
5. Invite other classes and/or parents to view play, if desired.

Session 3:

1. Set up and get ready for play.
2. Seat guests, if necessary.
3. Perform play.

Assessment Strategies:

- Class participation
- Costuming results
- Play performances

Extension Activities:

- Refer to Idaho State Park 100th Anniversary Activity Book for additional activities.
- Have each student research a park and write a play that includes when the park was created, why it was created and what activities are available there.

Resources:

- Idaho State Parks Guidebook** (Paperback) **Author:** Bill Loftus **Publisher:** Tribune Pub Co **Date Published:** 1989 **ISBN-13:** 9780960750658
- Idaho State Parks and Recreation Guide FREE** Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Regional Service Center contact information: PO Box 83720 • Boise, ID 83720-0065 • (208) 334-4199 or online at www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov
- Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Homepage** www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov

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Idaho State Park Resource Sheet

Mission:

"To improve the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship."

Vision:

"We are innovators in outdoor recreation, committed to excellent service and resource stewardship. We foster experiences that renew the human spirit and promote community vitality."

In 1965, the Idaho State Legislature enacted legislation creating the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR). The legislation reads, in part:

"It is the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Parks and Recreation shall formulate and put into execution a long range, comprehensive plan and program for the acquisition, planning, protection, operation, maintenance, development and wise use of areas of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historic archeological or scientific interest, to the end that the health, happiness, recreational opportunities and wholesome enjoyment of life of the people may be further encouraged."

Before Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation was created, there were areas declared "Scenic and Recreational". These areas were parks and campgrounds taken care of by the State Land Board starting in 1907. Heyburn became the first Idaho State Park and first state park in the Pacific Northwest in 1908. In 1947 the Highway Department became responsible for parks along with any new ones. In 1949 the State Land Board again took control of the areas and in 1953 a Parks Division was created within the Land Board. A former superintendent of Glacier National Park took charge of the Idaho program in 1958.

In 1965, two things came together that resulted in the creation of a state park system in Idaho. First, Roland and Averell Harriman agreed to donate what is now Harriman State Park to the State of Idaho on the condition that a professional agency be created to manage it. Second, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund was created. Statewide recreation planning was required to qualify for the federal funds, which were used to develop state and local recreation facilities. It would take a state agency to do that. Currently there are 30 state parks and recreational trailways in Idaho. This year we are celebrating 100 years of state parks in Idaho.

Even though Idaho has vast wildernesses and a high percentage of federal lands, the state does not have a single *national park* within its boundaries. However, the National Park Service administers several national monuments, a historical park and a national reserve in Idaho.

Idaho State Parks Fast Facts

State Park	Acres	Elevation	Campsites
Bear Lake	966	6,000	48
Bruneau Dunes	4,800	2,470	98
Castle Rocks	1,240	5,800	0
City of Rocks	14,300	6,500	76
Coeur d'Alene Parkway	34	2,188	0
Dworshak	850	1,600	105
Eagle Island	545	2,724	0
Farragut	4,000	2,054	184
Harriman	4,440	6,120	0
Hells Gate	960	733	93
Henry's Lake	585	6,470	45
Heyburn	5,505	2,140	132
Lake Cascade	4,450	4,825	300
Lake Walcott	65	4,250	23
Land of the Yankee Fork	482	5,280	115 nearby
Lucky Peak	240	3,000	0
Massacre Rocks	990	4,400	43
McCroskey	5,412	3,600	12
Old Mission	18	2,200	0
Ponderosa	1,470	5,050	117
Priest Lake	755	2,440	151
Round Lake	142	2,122	53
Thousand Springs	1,900	3,190	0
Three Island Crossing	513	2,484	82
Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes	1,056	2,300	0
Winchester Lake	418	3,900	68

Heyburn State Park

Idaho's First State Park

Senator Weldon B. Heyburn wanted to make sure there was at least one national park in Idaho. In 1908 he chose a Chatcolet Lake site that had been preserved intact as part of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation in Idaho. He was unable to make it a national park after it was sold to Idaho for \$12,000.00. By an act of congress signed on April 20, 1908 by U.S. President William Howard Taft, the area became Idaho's first state park as well as the oldest park in the entire northwest. It was named in honor of the person who worked so hard to make it a park, Senator Weldon Brinton Heyburn

A Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp was located at the park in the 1930's. Company 1995 was assigned to Camp SP-1, short for State Park One. They were tasked to build visitor facilities and improve recreational resources. The trails, bridges, campgrounds, roads, picnic areas and shelters, and the Rocky Point Lodge (Now called the Rocky Point Interpretive Center) opened the park up to the public.

Heyburn State Park is located five miles east of Plummer from Highway 95. The natural interests of the park consist of the three (3) lakes Chatcolet, Benewah, and Hidden Lakes, along with the shadowy St. Joe River located at the eastern boundary of the park which make up 2,333 acres of water. 5,500 acres of land are home to Ponderosa pines, wildflowers, cedar trees, hemlocks, and white pines. Wildlife includes an abundance of fish, waterfowl, bear, upland birds, and deer.

The Coeur d'Alene Indian tribe used the general area of this site as an encampment site. This is some of the cultural heritage behind Heyburn State Park.

To contact Heyburn State Park the mailing address is 1291 Chatcolet, Plummer ID 83851. The local phone number is 208-686-1308, and the fax number is 208-686-3003.

Civilian Conservation Corps Heyburn State Park

Heyburn State Park has a strong Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) legacy. When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt took office in 1933 our nation as a whole was bankrupt in money and spirit. He asked Congress for a large amount of money to create new jobs. The Emergency Work Act was passed and President Roosevelt took the money and created the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The corps was put in place to provide conservation jobs for thousands of unemployed young men that in turn would help preserve our nations natural resources. These young men worked in forests, parks, lands and water. The majority of the camps were located at state and national parks as well as Forest Service areas. They worked on erosion issues, trails, buildings, wild land fire suppression, power and telephone line installation, logging and fire road construction, archaeological excavation, beekeeping, fence building, tree planting, furniture manufacturing, and were the first organized wildland fire suppression crews. Each state had camps and was allocated funds to run their CCC programs. One such camp was at Heyburn State Park.

Although Heyburn State Park had belonged to Idaho since 1908, little improvement work had been completed at the site before Company 1995 established their CCC camp there in October of 1934. They completed much of the original construction at Heyburn from 1934 – 1942. The CCC camp known as SP-1, short for State Park One, had approximately 150 – 200 young men, including 17 sets of brothers. Most were from Idaho, and some from Illinois, New York, Oklahoma and other parts of the country. Those not from Idaho signed up at their local agencies but were transferred to work in Idaho.

Company 1995 had a project superintendent and eight foremen who trained and supervised the CCC young men. Enrollees were trained in construction, masonry, and road building. Later in life many of the participants used what they had learned in the CCC camps in their careers. The young men were paid \$30.00 per month, of which \$25.00 was sent home to help their families. With careful budgeting, the boys could stretch their five dollars for an entire month. Food was provided along with two sets of clothes. Each participant had work uniforms and dress uniforms that came from army surplus. The barracks that the men lived in were similar to those on military bases. The government spent about \$500 per participant for the six month period.

Living at SP-1 was like living in a small city. There was a mess hall, school building, recreation hall, office and supply building, four large barracks, buildings containing the toilets, showers, washroom and drying room, forestry quarters, officers quarters, light plant, repair shop, blacksmith shop, and numerous other buildings. All the modern conveniences at the time were found at the camp. This included electric lights, flush toilets, hot and cold showers, and a sewer system. Many of the CCC participants came from small rural areas and for many it was the first time living with electricity, flush toilets and running water. Between the buildings there were gravel walkways edged with logs and plants. The door and window frames of the buildings were painted green.

During the seven years that the camp was at Heyburn, several hundred thousand dollars worth of development was completed. They built fire circles, boat landing slips, swimming rafts, bath houses, seats along the lake shore, picnic grounds and tables, parking areas, community kitchens, bathrooms, two caretakers houses, the Rocky Point Lodge, campsites with fireplaces, shelters, roads, trails, bridges and water systems. All of these combined to turn Heyburn into a park that the state could be proud of. Many of the original CCC structures still stand today.

Weldon Britton Heyburn, 1852-1912 A Short Biographical Sketch



Weldon Britton Heyburn was born May 23, 1852 near Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania the son of Sarah Gilpin and John Britton Heyburn. He attended schools there and studied civil and mining engineering, metallurgy, and geology along with law at the University of Pennsylvania. After becoming a lawyer and practicing for a short time in Pennsylvania, he moved to Colorado and then in 1883 to Wallace, Idaho. Here he had a legal practice and also engaged in mining ventures. His partnership discovered the first lode claims along the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. He was a delegate member of the convention that framed the constitution of the State of Idaho in 1889. The Idaho Legislature elected Heyburn to the United States Senate in 1902. In 1903 he began his political career and also married. Heyburn served in the senate from March 4, 1903 until his death in Washington, D.C. on October 17, 1912.

Mount Heyburn, a jagged peak in the Sawtooth Mountains, is named for the senator. Heyburn, Idaho is also named after Weldon Heyburn, as is Heyburn State Park near Plummer, Idaho. Heyburn, Idaho and Heyburn State Park are located at opposite ends of the state and are often confused together.

Mr. Heyburn helped establish the first state park in the Pacific Northwest. During the early 1900s there was no general understanding of park standards or the purpose of parks. Some thought of parks as preserves of nature's monuments, and other thought of them as places for outdoor recreation. It is thought that the intention behind the creation of Heyburn State Park was for a genteel summer retreat and beach resort. Some believe that Weldon Heyburn was trying to increase the interest of tourism for the local economy and refused to support his national park idea. After negotiations and compromises, a state park was created. For whatever reasons Mr. Heyburn had, we are all indebted to his foresight to preserve the area now know as Heyburn State Park.

PARK PLAY

“Parks? Who needs them?”

Cast:

Sumaria:

Sargon: boy or girl
Sándor: boy or girl

Ancient Greece:

Zoe: boy or girl
Adara: boy or girl

Medieval Time:

Servant: boy or girl
Lord of the Manor: boy

Boston, Mass.

Mr. Charles: boy
Miss Olivia: girl

Idaho:

Senator Heyburn: boy
Mrs. Jones: girl
Idaho Citizen: boy or girl

Extras:

Deer
Fig Trees
Flowers
Pool of clear water
Fountain
Desert sheep
Waterfowl
Fish
Castle
Water
Trees/Bushes

Sign Carriers:

“Scene 1: Sumaria 2300 B.C.”
“Scene 2: Ancient Greece”
“Scene 3: Medieval Times”
“Scene 4: Boston, Massachusetts 1634”
“Scene 5: Heyburn, Idaho 1908”

Scene 1:

Sumeria 2300 BC

Sargon: "This is a beautiful garden filled with fig trees, flowers and pools of clear water."

Sándor: "Oh look, wild deer and desert sheep. If we had our bows we could hunt them."

Sargon: "We are so lucky to be rich enough to have this park just for ourselves."

Sándor: "I wonder what the common folk do? Surely there is nothing this lovely where they live."

Scene 2:

Ancient Greece

Zoe: "Good citizens of Greece, welcome to this new public area, open to all."

Adara: "How pleasant it will be to wander through the fountains during the heat of the day."

Zoe: "The trees will provide shade so we may sit under them while we speak of politics and philosophy."

Adara: "The children enjoy hiding among the bushes. All of the people will benefit from this oasis in the city."

Scene 3:

Medieval Times

Servant: "Lord will you be going to your woods to hunt today?"

Lord of the Manor: "Yes, I feel like hunting for deer today. Have you seen any in my forest lately?"

Servant: "Yes, my Lord. Several large stags were close to the thick hedges that border the edge of your private park. We drove them back towards the castle."

Lord of the Manor: "Very good. Make sure that none of the people from the villiage have found a way through the hedges. I want this forest to remain just for me!"

Scene 4:

Boston, Mass. 1634

Mr. Charles: "People of Boston, welcome to the first public park in America. It will be called The Boston Commons for the common man!"

Miss Olivia: "What a lovely idea, a place with trees in the middle of a city with buildings and streets all around it."

Mr. Charles: "It will be so pleasant to sit under a tree in the summer. We don't have a single tree on the street where we live. I bet we could play games on the grass, like croquet."

Scene 5:

Idaho 1908

Senator Heyburn: "As of this date, April 20th, 1908, let this land, all 5,505 acres, and water, 2333 acres, be known as the first Idaho State Park."

Mrs. Jones: "This is such a pretty spot, with meadows for deer and marshes for waterfowl and lakes full of fish."

Idaho Citizen: "Now that this is a state park this land will be here for generations to enjoy. There will be places to picnic and camp in the beautiful natural wilderness."