

YOU and the U.S.



September 2014

Welcome to our latest edition of the newsletter - this is the second and final part of our National Parks series, where we take a look at a famous area in Florida and one of the most iconic symbols of freedom in the U.S.!

Did you know...?

...NASA expect their Orion spacecraft to land in the Pacific Ocean on return to Earth in December, where a U.S. Navy ship will be waiting to retrieve it and return it to shore!

Quick Trivia

- Which U.K. Premier league team does World Cup American soccer hero, Tim Howard, play for?
- Which prehistoric monument in the U.K. did President Obama visit when the NATO summit had finished?
- Which of the planets, featured in our word search, is closest to the Sun?

More information for teachers can be found on our blog - [Education Matters!](#)



National Parks - 2

The second instalment of our National Parks series takes a look at two places on opposite sides of the U.S. and with very different landscapes.

Statue of Liberty - National Monument

The Statue of Liberty was a gift from the people of France to the United States to commemorate the alliance of the two countries during the American Revolution. It is universally known as a symbol of freedom and democracy. It was given National Monument status in 1924. The only way to visit Liberty Island is by boarding the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island ferry. Private boats and ships are not allowed to dock at Liberty and Ellis islands.



(Statue of Liberty - nps.gov)

The winds around the Statue can blow at 50mph causing it to sway up to 3 inches and the torch up to 6 inches! The tablet is inscribed with Roman numerals the date of American Independence - "July 4, 1776". Another important feature, which people can't see from the ground view, is a broken chain next to the Statue's feet. The chains stick out from under her robe and symbolise her being able to move forward in freedom.



(Statue of Liberty - nps.gov)

Everglades National Park

The Everglades are the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States. It is a World Heritage Site and spans across 1.5 million acres! The park is home to the American Crocodile and the American Alligator - the only place in the world where these two native species live side by side.



(Alligator Swimming - NPS.gov)

The American crocodile is lizard-shaped, with a long tail, has four short legs, a triangular shaped snout and are light in colour. The American alligator is darker with a broader snout, and there are more alligators than crocodiles in Florida. The creatures often get a bad reputation but the American crocodiles are very shy and rarely attack humans. The crocodiles often sit with their mouths open - don't be scared though! They like to bathe in the sun this way!

There are many different ecosystems in the Everglades, and they are constantly changing. Air and water quality, weather and climate all help to shape the landscapes. Even seasonal hurricanes are an important part of the long-term health of the park.



Just for Fun!

- 1) Each State in the U.S. has their own nickname, from Florida known as The Sunshine State, New Jersey as The Garden State, and California as The Golden State. How many more can you name?
- 2) Can you name some of the famous pets that have resided at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington D.C. (i.e. The White House!)?

Quick trivia answers: a) Everton; b) Stonehenge; c) Mercury

Space

*Mars Nasa Solar System Jupiter Mercury Saturn
Neptune Venus Earth Pluto Uranus Milky Way*

M A F H J M Y Q A P L
I E P A N H S G T L F
L N V I N U C F O U F
K O U N A P T Q G T U
Y P S F S T D P Z O T
W Z T S A I V I P L B
A O C I B F J W T C O
Y B U R A N U S F D U
T D Y X H B P M N K S
T E B J E O I I J O K
P L O E A R T H L C H
N S H C O P E A F K S
C R F T T B R L N F V
H A S J U S L C G M C
L M F C Y R F T O E T
G W T S N S Y S O R Z
A N T V M J F W M C U
Q E D L H A X V A U T
M S M A S S A T U R N
D Z I U X A E T K Y H
Y F N M P W S Z A N F
P E W T H M O F A B Y
V X C E N U T P E N L