



Talk About It

National parks are wonderful places. What things could you learn about at a national park?



Find out more about our national parks at www.macmillanmh.com

OUR NATIONAL PARKS

Vocabulary

roamed
completed
journey
natural
wildlife

A Prehistoric Park

More than 200 million years ago, dinosaurs **roamed** freely over the Earth. Have you ever wondered what the land was like or what kind of trees there were then? You can see some of these trees today in Arizona! Throughout 28 miles of desert in Petrified Forest National Park, you can see 225-million-year-old fossil trees. Visitors are amazed to see these trees that have turned to stone.

How did it happen? Millions of years ago, water filled with minerals flowed into the area. Over time, the minerals seeped into fallen trees and turned them into rock-hard logs.

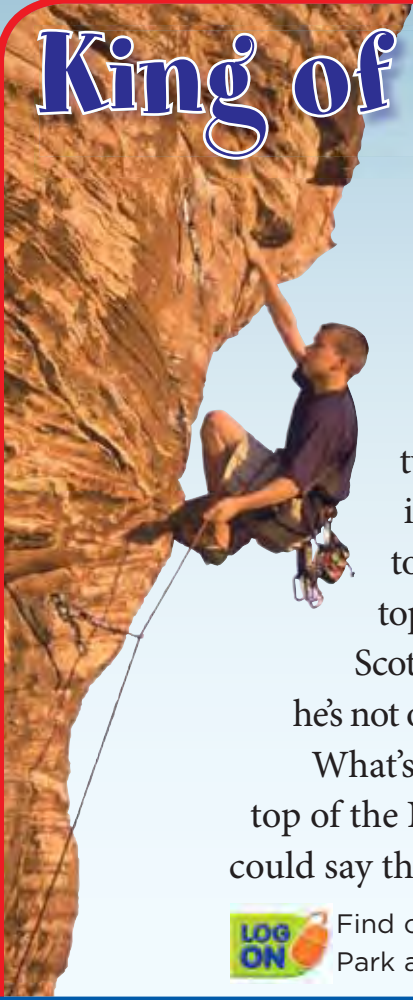
Some of these logs are 100 feet long! Today, they create a colorful and amazing sight in Arizona's desert. The petrified logs look like wooden rainbows. The colors range from red, to yellow, to green, to blue, and black and white.

Petrified Forest National Park is one of the world's biggest displays of petrified wood. Nearly one million people visit the park every year to get an up-close look at these fossils of prehistoric trees.

Logs from prehistoric trees have turned to stone in the Petrified National Forest.



King of the Mountain



By the time Scott Cory was 13 years old, he had already scaled two major peaks in California's Yosemite National Park. One was the 2,900-foot "Nose" of El Capitan. The other was the 2,000-foot face of Half Dome. The first time Scott climbed the Nose, it took him three days and two nights. One month later, he **completed** that climb in one day! Later, Scott became the youngest person to climb Half Dome in only one day. The **journey** to the top usually takes three days!

Scott started climbing when he was seven years old. When he's not on the peaks, he hits the gym for push-ups and pull-ups.

What's next for this peak pro? Scott wants to climb to the top of the Nose and Half Dome together in just 24 hours. You could say this kid really sets a goal and then climbs for it!



Find out more about Yosemite National Park at www.macmillanmh.com

The Top 5 Most Visited National Parks

In 1872, Yellowstone National Park became the first national park in the United States. Since then, more than 383 parks have been added to the list. More than three million people visit these **natural**, unspoiled places every year. They take thousands of photos of the **wildlife**. Which parks recently brought in the most visitors in a year? Here's how they ranked.

1. **Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina and Tennessee**
2. **Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona**
3. **Yosemite National Park, California**
4. **Olympic National Park, Washington**
5. **Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado**