

Let's Take a Hike!

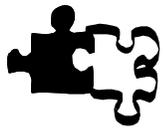
White Mountain National Forest Quarter

Grades Two and Three



OBJECTIVES

Students will analyze and choose items appropriate for a hiking trip. Students will write and illustrate narrative postcard accounts of their imaginary trip.



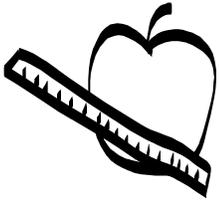
SUBJECT AREA CONNECTIONS

- Social Studies
- Language Arts
- Art



SUMMARY

1. Display and examine the “White Mountain National Forest Quarter” page. Locate this site on a class map. Note its position in relation to your school’s location. Tell the students that the front of a coin is called the “obverse” and the back is called the “reverse.” Explain to the students that the United States Mint began to issue the quarters in the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program in 2010. By the time the program ends in 2021, there will be a total of 56 designs. Each design will focus on a different national site—one from each state, territory and the District of Columbia.
2. Show the students images and videos about White Mountain National Forest’s climate and unique environmental features. Look closely at a map of the forest and locate some key sites, including the Appalachian Trail, the New Hampshire/Maine state line, the Presidential Mountain Range, the Sandwich Mountain Range, and Mount Chocorua, the mountain featured on the quarter.
3. Ask the students to imagine what it would be like to take a hiking trip in White Mountain National Forest. Brainstorm ideas about what the students might do, see and bring on their hike. Encourage the students to share previous experiences with hiking and camping.
4. Introduce the students to the “What’s in My Backpack?” worksheet. Review the directions as a class. Distribute glue and scissors. Have the students complete the worksheet. In small groups, have the students compare and contrast what they packed in their backpack. Lead a class discussion about what items are necessary for a hiking trip and what items should be left at home.
5. Write the phrase “Leave No Trace” on the board or overhead. Ask the students to share ideas about what they think this phrase means. Encourage the students to consider ways they can hike responsibly and respectfully.



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6. Introduce the students to the “Postcard from the Trail” worksheet. Review the directions as a class. Have the students complete the worksheet. In small groups, have students share their postcard writing and illustrations. Lead a discussion about the diverse and unique experiences students might have while hiking in White Mountain National Forest.



ASSESSMENTS

- Take anecdotal notes about the students’ participation in class discussions and activities.
- Evaluate the students’ worksheets for understanding of the lesson objectives.
- Use the “Postcard from the Trail Checklist” to assess the students’ work.



RESOURCES

- Worksheets:
 - “White Mountain National Forest Quarter”
 - “What’s in My Backpack?” Backpack
 - “What’s in My Backpack?” Items
 - “Postcard from the Trail”
 - “Postcard from the Trail Checklist” (1/2 sheet per student)
- Age-appropriate, relevant Web sites, such as:
 - United States Mint America the Beautiful Quarters® Program lesson plans: www.usmint.gov/kids/teachers/lessonPlans/atb/
 - U.S. Forest Service: www.fs.fed.us/
 - White Mountain National Forest: www.fs.usda.gov/whitemountain



What's in My Backpack? Items





Name _____

Postcard from the Trail

Directions: Write and illustrate a postcard to a family member or friend. Describe your experiences in White Mountain National Forest. Draw a picture of a favorite moment from your trip.





Name _____

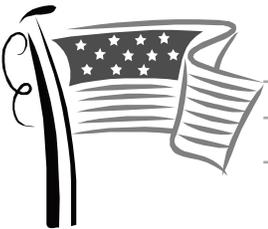
Postcard from the Trail Checklist

This student:

- Wrote a postcard to a family member or friend.
- Thoroughly described hiking experiences.
- Used standard letter writing conventions.
- Addressed the postcard.
- Created a stamp for the postcard.
- Drew a picture of a favorite moment from the trip.



Notes:



Name _____

Postcard from the Trail Checklist

This student:

- Wrote a postcard to a family member or friend.
- Thoroughly described hiking experiences.
- Used standard letter writing conventions.
- Addressed the postcard.
- Created a stamp for the postcard.
- Drew a picture of a favorite moment from the trip.



Notes:



White Mountain National Forest Quarter



The United States of America

