

Lesson Plan

Devils Tower Details

Book: *Devils Tower*

Series: Visit and Learn

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students identify and summarize the main ideas in a short chapter about Devils Tower.

Supplies

- Several copies of the *Devils Tower* book
- Paper and pencil

Before the Activity

Divide the class into four groups. Give each group a pencil, a piece of paper, and a copy of the *Devils Tower* book.

Activity

Devils Tower describes one of the most impressive landmarks in the United States. The book is made up of four chapters and a special feature. Assign each group one of the four chapters:

- Chapter 1: A Natural Wonder
- Chapter 2: Out of the Earth
- Chapter 3: Protected for All
- Chapter 4: Visiting Devils Tower

First, the students in each group should read their assigned chapter together. Next, they should look for the main ideas of the chapter. Students should discuss these ideas in their group, identifying the five ideas that seem most important. Then they should write a paragraph that lists these ideas.

Evaluation

Collect each group's paper at the end of class. Give each group 1 point for each sentence that describes a main idea from the chapter, for up to 5 points total.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 4 (RI 4.2).

Answer Key

Answers for each chapter will vary. Use the following sample paragraphs to give readers 1 point for each main idea their paragraph addresses, for a total of 5 points.

Chapter 1: A Natural Wonder

Devils Tower is a stone tower called a butte. This kind of landform is created in dry, desert-like conditions. They have steep sides and flat tops. Buttes are common in the American West. Devils Tower is in Wyoming.

Chapter 2: Out of the Earth

No one knows exactly how Devils Tower formed, but they do know that it is made of igneous rock. Scientists think Devils tower used to be covered with sedimentary rock. Some scientists think Devils Tower formed deep underground, while others think it is part of an old volcano. Indigenous peoples have other stories about Devils Tower. They consider it to be a sacred place.

Chapter 3: President Theodore Roosevelt helped make Devils Tower the first national monument in 1906. He placed the area in a reserve, which means anyone can visit, but no one can build, hunt, or farm the land. Many animals live in the area and are protected there. For example, falcons live in cracks on Devil's Tower. Park rangers close parts of the tower every year to protect the falcons.

Chapter 4: People visit Devils Tower from all around the world. They do many things, including hiking, climbing, and birdwatching. Visitors can learn about the history of Devils Tower and go on tours with rangers. People from Native Nations visit the tower in June to honor their history. So, the National Park Service suggest that people do not climb during June to respect these events. Rangers also ask people to respect the natural area by picking up their trash, and not feeding animals so that people in the future can enjoy Devils Tower.