

Building "Parchives" Project



[\(Click here to see photo info\)](#)

Assignment Description

For this collaborative archive-building assignment, groups of 4-5 students will be assigned one park. Throughout the semester, each student in the group will share at least four digital artifacts—photographs, maps, digital humanities projects, films, online artwork, newspaper articles, posters, etc.—connected to their assigned park. The purpose of this assignment is to view park spaces as locations that inspire diverse physical and digital archives and to understand “the archive” as a living, expanding, in-process collection of artifacts. This assignment also shows us that specific choices are made about what gets archived and what does *not* get archived.

Each students must share **four different types** of artifacts throughout the semester from the following categories:

- Newspaper articles published pre-1960 (see [Chronicling America](#) [Links to an external site.](#))
- Photographs, posters, paintings, or other visual artifacts completed pre-1960
- Magazine articles published pre-1960
- Park interpretive devices: official park brochures, links to NPS-produced videos, park signage, Visitor Center exhibits, etc.
- Letters, travelogues, or diary entries written in or about the park pre-1960
- Virtual tours, digital humanities projects, or other interactive online materials (any date)
- Images of physical artifacts or natural resources connected to the park: pottery, binoculars, wagons, tools, minerals, petrified wood, etc. (any date)

- Other artifacts: contact me via email if you want to share something that exists outside of the above categories

In addition to sharing images and links, please also describe the artifact in 150+ words. Here are some possible questions to consider in your description:

- How and where did you find the artifact?
- Describe the appearance or nature of the artifact.
- Who made or used the artifact?
- What makes it interesting, historically significant, etc.?
- What can we learn from it?
- Why did it appeal to you?
- Make sure to always provide a link to the artifact somewhere in your post.

Groups

Each group will be building an archive around a specific park. You will be developing an archive for your one assigned park all semester. If you and your group members wish to build an archive for a different park, please let me know.

Group 1: Joshua Tree NP

Group 2: Death Valley NP

Group 3: Grand Teton NP

Group 4: Glacier NP

Group 5: Badlands NP

Group 6: Mesa Verde NP

Group 7: Isle Royale NP

Group 8: Hawai'i Volcanoes NP

Submission Dates and Archival Requirements

Parcible #1: 9/11 (20 points)

- Share an artifact of your choosing
- Briefly introduce yourself, do some informal research on this park, and tell your group a few things you learned about both the park and your chosen artifact. (200+ words)

Parcible #2: 9/25 (20 points)

- Share an artifact of your choosing
- Describe the artifact. (See the questions above.) (150+ words)

Parcible #3: 10/25 (20 points)

- Share an artifact of your choosing
- Describe the artifact. (See the questions above.) (150+ words)

Parchive #4: 11/8 (40 points)

- Share an artifact of your choosing
- Describe the artifact. (See the questions above.) (150+ words)
- Provide a 100+ word summary of the Parchives project.

Assessment

For this assignment, I will use the philosophy of "ungrading" to assess your work. If each submission reflects the guidelines and effectively contributes to the ongoing, collaborative project, then you will receive full points. I will grade the assignment in its entirety at the end of the semester, but please make sure to meet the four deadlines above.

While it is not a requirement, you are encouraged to like and respond to your classmates' *parchival* submissions!