

Primary Source Analysis Worksheet

• Document Title Organic Act of 1916

• Type of Document (Check One):

Newspaper

Map

Advertisement

Letter

Congressional Record

Telegram

Speech

Press Release

Census Report

Book

Report

Other

• Date of the Document August 25, 1916

• Author or Creator of the Document U.S. Senate and House of Representatives

Background of the Author: (position, nationality, gender, occupation, social class, religion, etc.)

• For what audience was the document written? United States citizens and government officials

• Document Information:

In your own words, list **3 main ideas** from the document. Cite a quote from the document that illustrates each main idea. (These are three possible answers, others are acceptable as long as documentation is included.)

1. The purpose of the National Park Service is to maintain the scenery, wildlife and historic sites within the park for the enjoyment of current and future generations. "...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein..."

2. The National Park Service will also advertise and promote the use of these areas by the public.
"The service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations..."

3. The Park Service can also destroy plant and wildlife that might interfere with the public use of the park.
"He may also provide in his discretion for the destruction of such animals and of such plant life as may be detrimental to the use of any of said parks, monuments, or reservations."

Why was the document written?

To create the National Park Service in order to regulate and maintain U.S. national parks, monuments and reservations.

List 3 things the document informs the reader about life in the nation/region at the time it was written.

- The cost of living was much lower when this act was passed.
- With the creation of national parks and monuments a department of the government was needed to maintain those areas.
- Wilderness areas were disappearing as the country and cities grew making the preservation of wilderness necessary.

Is the document a credible source of information? Explain.

Yes, the document is credible because it is the very law by which the National Park Service was created and sets the mission for the National Park Service even today.

Name the most memorable or powerful quote from the document. Why were these words chosen?

Many answers are acceptable as long as students provide support for the answer.