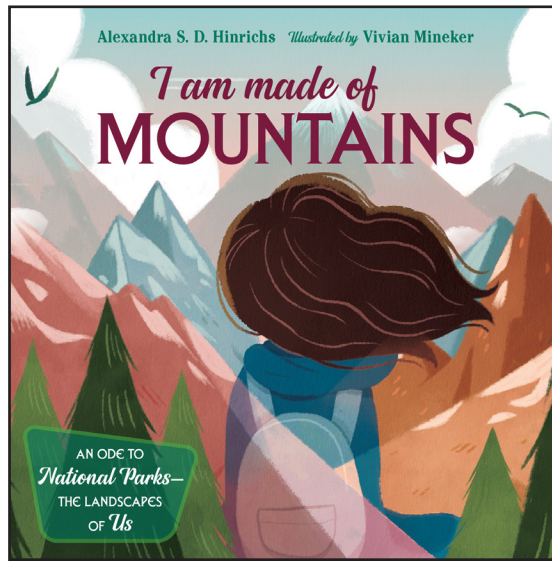


I am made of **MOUNTAINS** ACTIVITY KIT

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Alexandra S. D. Hinrichs
Illustrated by Vivian Mineker
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About the Book

From the volcanos of Haleakalā National Park in Hawai'i to the waterfalls of Yosemite to the churning ocean at Acadia National Park in Maine, *I Am Made of Mountains* takes readers on a tour of America's great outdoors. Sixteen parks are highlighted, and the story follows a different child visiting each park and exploring the natural wonders of each location.

About the Author

Alexandra S. D. Hinrichs has worked as a historical researcher at American Girl, a children's librarian, and a children's bookseller, among other things. She earned MAs in United States history and library & information studies and is the author of several children's books, including *The Lobster Lady*; *The Traveling Camera: Lewis Hine and the Fight to End Child Labor*; and *Thérèse Makes a Tapestry*. www.alexandrahinrichs.com

About the Illustrator

Vivian Mineker is the illustrator of several books for children, including *The Yeti and the Jolly Lama: A Tale of Friendship* and *What a Ship Sees*. Vivian is a Taiwanese American from Taipei and Portland, Oregon, currently working out of Ljubljana, Slovenia. www.vivianmineker.com



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Activity Kit

Before Reading

Pre-reading concept reviews help enrich students' learning experience!

For younger students (K-2nd):

- After looking at the cover of the book and reading the title, ask students what they think *I Am Made of Mountains* is about. Write their responses on chart paper.
- Explain what a national park is. Discuss the different kinds of national park: historical buildings, wilderness areas, monuments, etc. What is the difference between a national park and a local neighborhood park?

For older students (3rd-5th):

- Based on the title and cover, ask students to describe what they think the book is about. Write their responses on chart paper.
- Have students discuss the following questions in small groups. Tape questions to a wall and ask students to tape their answers beneath the questions.
 - What is a national park?
 - What kinds of activities can one do at a national park?
 - How are national parks made and managed?
- Provide a list of the national parks mentioned in the book. Ask students to locate each park and mark it on a map of the United States. Check students' work with the map printed on the endpapers of the book.

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Activity Kit

Read the Map

Name: _____

Date: _____

These are the 63 national parks in the United States. The parks which appear in *I Am Made of Mountains* are **bolded**.



1. Use a star to mark where you live on this map.

2. Use a dot to mark the location of a national park in your state or a state close to yours. Write the name of the park here:

3. Which park on this map is the nearest to you?

4. Which park on this map is the farthest from you?

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Activity Kit

Math: Visit by the Numbers

Name: _____

Date: _____

Use the table below to make a budget for an imaginary park visit. Choose any national park in the US. Use the back of this page or a spare sheet of notebook paper to take research notes, then fill in each line on the budget.

Which park would you like to visit?

How long is your visit?

BUDGET

Travel

Lodging (if trip is longer than a day)

Food

Park admission

Activities & equipment

Souvenirs

Other expenses

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST

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Activity Kit

History: Acknowledging Native Parklands

Use this guided research project for older students to reflect on the history of national parks in the United States and learn about modern Native Nations.

Procedure

- 1. Pre-project discussion.** Read the author's note sections titled "Troubled Beginnings" and "National Parks Today." Discuss the question at the end of "National Parks Today": Is it possible to celebrate the parks and mourn parts of their histories? Emphasize that Native Nations are not a "past-tense people;" they exist today as modern citizens of their tribal Nations and the United States.
- 2. OPTIONAL related reading.** Read *We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know* by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frané Lessac. Discuss as a class. How are the topics in this book related to the events discussed in the back matter of *I Am Made of Mountains*? Is there a topic from *We Are Still Here!* that they want to learn more about?
- 3. Independent or group projects.** Either assign students to small groups or ask them to individually pick a national park to research. They may look up a park on their own using the National Park Service website, or you may write the names of parks on slips of paper and ask students to randomly draw one. Students should seek to answer the following questions:
 - Whose traditional Native land does this park stand on?
 - Where is that Native Nation located today?
 - What is a piece of contemporary news from this tribe? (For example, the opening of a new art gallery or after-school program, the election of a tribal official, the celebration of an annual holiday, etc.)
- 4. Work time.** Offer students research support through your school library. Encourage them to consult both digital and print sources and to seek out resources published by Native authors and tribal governments.
- 5. Presentation of results.** Ask students to collect their research and present it to the class with a slide presentation, trifold board, or other visual aid. If working in a group, all group members should contribute to the final presentation.

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Activity Kit

Art: My Landscape

Use this art project to explore students' emotional connection with nature and place.

Procedure

- 1. Pre-project discussion.** Read the author's note section titled "Many Big Feelings" together.
Discuss: How do students feel when they experience nature? Do they see reflections of their own big feelings in the natural world around them? How does the author of *I Am Made of Mountains* use language about nature to describe feelings?
- 2. OPTIONAL related reading.** Read *Ten Beautiful Things* by Molly Beth Griffin, illustrated by Maribel Lechuga. Discuss as a class. How are Lily's feelings connected to what she sees on her road trip with Gram? How does the art help them see that connection?
- 3. Concept review.** What does the word "landscape" mean in art? What kinds of landscapes did students notice in *I Am Made of Mountains* (and optionally *Ten Beautiful Things*)? How can a landscape communicate a feeling? Talk about how Vivian Mineker (and optionally Maribel Lechuga) uses line, shape, texture, and color in landscapes.
- 4. Work time.** Provide a variety of art media (colored pencils, markers, crayons, paint, etc.) and ask students to create a landscape that reflects their feelings.
- 5. Post-work reflection.** Ask students to show you their emotional landscapes in one-on-one meetings. Thank them for sharing something so personal and discuss their artistic choices—media, subject, composition, etc. If appropriate, share an example emotional landscape that you created and talk about the techniques you used.

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Activity Kit

Word Search

Name: _____

Date: _____

E O C E A N I X W
T D O D M Q C P A
A E I F O R E S T
V S N L K P B J E
I E S U S M E W R
S R H B P A R K F
I T R H A Z G S A
T R E A S U R E L
M O U N T A I N L

PARK
VISIT
TREASURE

ICEBERG
WATERFALL
DESERT

MOUNTAIN
FOREST
OCEAN

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Related Reading

National Parks & US History

Markle, Sandra, and Alan Marks. *Family Pack*. Charlesbridge, 2019.

McHugh, Erin, et al. *National Parks: A Kid's Guide to America's Parks, Monuments, and Landmarks*. Black Dog & Leventhal, 2019.

Pearson, Carrie A., and Susan Swan. *Stretch to the Sun: From a Tiny Sprout to the Tallest Tree on Earth*. Charlesbridge, 2018.

Pimentel, Annette Bay, and Rich Lo. *Mountain Chef: How One Man Lost His Groceries, Changed His Plans, and Helped Cook up the National Park Service*. Charlesbridge, 2019.

Rosenstock, Barb, and Mordicai Gerstein. *The Camping Trip That Changed America: Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and Our National Parks*. Scholastic, 2013.

Siber, Kate, and Chris Turnham. *National Parks of the U.S.A.* Wide Eyed Editions, 2018.

Sorell, Traci, and Frané Lessac. *We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know*. Charlesbridge, 2022.

Nature & Social-Emotional Learning

Carey, Kelly, and Qing Zhuang. *How Long Is Forever?* Charlesbridge, 2020.

Griffin, Molly Beth, and Maribel Lechuga. *Ten Beautiful Things*. Charlesbridge, 2021.

Sorell, Traci, and Frané Lessac. *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*. Charlesbridge, 2021.

Trevino, Charles, and Maribel Lechuga. *Seaside Stroll*. Charlesbridge, 2021.