

Submission Guidelines

Collaborate with your team on your case study presentation. When it is complete, the team leader is responsible for submitting it in the Assignment Lab, or for making sure that another team member submits it. Please note that all learners should visit the assignment lab and provide feedback on at least 2 other team presentations, before the deadline.

As a reminder, your presentation should:

1. Be limited to no more than 750 words
2. Engage the materials in the case studies, lectures, and text.
3. You are free to import material from outside the course, but this is not necessary and may detract you and teammates from the task. Don't go overboard!

Instructions

Step 1: Read the case study introduction, background information, and the primary sources below.

Step 2: Work with your team to answer the challenge question for this case study.

Step 3: Go to the Assignment Lab to post your response, and to read and comment on other learners' submissions.

Track B, Case Study 6: Global conservation, scientific exploration, and hunting safaris

STEP 1

Case Study Introduction

The end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century was a period of exploration, discovery, technological change, and scientific inquiry that changed human engagement with the natural world in lasting ways. Many indigenous people with long-term histories in particular regions experienced profound shifts in long-established ways of life; many Europeans and European settler communities began to understand nature as a place that needed to be both conquered and preserved. An imagined pastoral past shaped ideas and policies on the nation and nature, on how it should look and be experienced, and how humans related to it. The establishment of national parks was to some degree the realization of the pastoral imagination, and an attempt to preserve links to an idea of the past in a rapidly changing world. Parks were both a site of exploration and potential and a retreat from the stressors of urban life and complex industrializing societies: they were seen as the link to a simple and noble past. Hunting too, was an enactment of an imagined past that was rapidly being replaced by cities and modern lifestyles. For imperialists, hunting was an exciting foray into the world of exploration and the distant realms of the kingdom, both highlighting the 'otherness' of those places and integrating them into the larger imagined community of empire. Exploration of the poles brought the most distant regions of the earth under human control, bringing glory, tragedy, and scientific advantage to those bravely venturing to the ends of the earth. The tension between shaping new nations and new homes and exploring and conquering distant regions brought worlds together that had formerly been worlds apart in new and unexpected ways.

Background Information

The late nineteenth century was an era of extremely rapid change: societies were transformed as urban centers grew and people migrated both between continents and within countries themselves. The natural environment, previously thought of as so abundant as to be almost limitless and often ruthlessly exploited in profligate hunting expeditions (particularly in outposts of empire), was now seen as something worthy of respect and even reverence. Wild places became an integral part of the identities that countries and empires developed of themselves. Nature was now seen as both a refuge and a peaceful place of contemplation and also as a frontier to be explored, discovered, and scientifically interrogated. For the first time the vying interests of business and exploitation and those of conservation and preservation came into conversation: hunting sat at the nexus of this interaction. Both rested on an understanding of man's control of and place in nature that was far-removed from the beliefs of many indigenous communities.

It is generally thought that the concept of a park or nature reserve under state ownership originated in the United States in 1870 and that the world's first such park was Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, created through legislation signed by U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant in 1872. The beginning of the twentieth century saw an expansion of these efforts under President Theodore Roosevelt, who established hundreds of reserves and monuments throughout the U.S. from 1906 on. In 1912, the United States Congress began debates, some of which would last for several years, about whether to create a National Parks Service. The following year, the National conservation exposition was held in Tennessee. But it was not just in the United States that national parks were becoming a priority. Among others, in 1879 Australia founded what we now know as the Royal National Park, Canada declared a National Park in the Rocky Mountains in 1885, New Zealand declared Tongariro National Park in 1887, the Kruger National Park was established in South Africa in 1898, and Sweden established a system of parks in 1909.

At the same time as these new engagements with local landscapes and flora and fauna occurred, empires were being forged and new frontiers conquered. The sense of daring and adventure was practically supported by wealth from a rapidly industrializing world, a new found sense of patriotism and shared identity, and the belief in science and exploration.

Science, adventure, and the parks all served nation-building roles. In the United States of America for instance, parks and the lands that they encompassed served to forge an imagination that united Americans from diverse geographic locales and built a single nation in the wake of a brutal civil war. Science (and industry) gave countries the tools and the motivations to engage in exploration, and explorers themselves were celebrated as national heroes. The advent of photography, railroads, and the car brought contact with nature to an increasingly large public audience. Competition between nations to explore and conquer new frontiers fed both imperial imaginings and the belief in discovery and conquest. National Parks, in colonial empires or in young nations, brought together artists, explorers, citizens, scientists, and governments in crafting a new understanding of how nature was to be 'owned,' managed, and preserved.

These are the primary sources for this case study:

1. Antarctica: a new type of frontier, turn of the century
2. Extract from the Olmsted Report on Management of Yosemite, 1865, Albert Bierstadt, *Valley of the Yosemite*, 1864, and Carlton E. Watkins, *River View, Cathedral Rock, Yosemite*, 1861
3. William H. Jackson photographs of Shoshone, 1871, and of the meeting of the U.S Geological Survey, 1872, Yellowstone National Park area
4. Railways and Natural Amusements, 1885

5. Theodore Roosevelt and American natural heritage

Primary Source One: Antarctica: a new type of frontier

Background

In September 2019, a crew of scientists intends to sail to the Siberian Arctic and remain there while winter approaches and the sea turns to ice around their ship. Frozen in the ice, they expect to be carried slowly towards the North Pole, giving them the opportunity to measure changing ice flow and gain new insights into the environmental effects and implications of a rapidly warming climate. It is “the largest Arctic research expedition in history: a 12-month, \$134 million, 17-nation effort to document climate change in the fastest-warming part of the globe.”¹ The poles have been a source of fascination and adventure since the nineteenth century, which heralded a new age of exploration using the maritime prowess and resources developed through the eighteenth century. These forays in the polar regions have intensified and persist today. The intertwined ways in which science and industry shape one another and harness the resources and expertise the other offers came to the fore in the nineteenth century. Images and ideas about the polar region gripped the American and European imagination at the turn of the 20th century. A range of failed European attempts to reach the North Pole nonetheless fired the polar obsession, and famous authors and public figures made wild but acceptable suggestions about what could be there. Financiers and industrialists provided the backing to expeditions, and so did the government. The special challenges of navigating ice-bound oceans and continents inhospitable to humans made the types of equipment available to explorers of the even more inhospitable Antarctic particularly important. The United States Exploring Expedition of 1838-42 contributed significant scientific specimens and insights from voyages around the Pacific, developing oceanography and donating significant collections that would be used by the Smithsonian Museum and others. It visited the Antarctic Peninsula and Shackleton Ice Shelf of Eastern Antarctica. In August 1851, the 382-ton ship *Levant* left New York harbor on a whaling and sealing voyage, captained by Mercator Cooper. On January 27, 1853, Cooper ordered an expedition to East Antarctica. Historians suggest that Cooper’s was the first documented continental landing.² This was followed by pre-Twentieth century Antarctic expeditions by the British, the Norwegians, the Scots, and the Belgians. Aboard the ship *Belgica* from 1897 to 1899, members of the Belgian crew were the first to overwinter in the Antarctic. The weather in Antarctica is so extreme the only one insect species can survive year-round in Antarctica, a chironomid midge named the Belgica antarctica. The National Geographic Society was founded in Washington D.C. in early 1888. The earliest film in National Geographic’s archives is from the arctic 117 years ago, “a peek into a pair of wildly disastrous scientific adventures.”³ (The footage can be viewed via the link at ‘sources,’ below). In an expedition of 1901/02 funded by businessman William Zeigler, a US team unsuccessfully tried to reach the North Pole. A second expedition funded by Zeigler shortly thereafter was even less successful: the ship sank leaving the team stranded on a remote island for two years until they were rescued.

Sources:

1. Sarah Kaplan, “Adrift in the Arctic,” *The Washington Post*, June 10, 2019, https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/national/science/arctic-sea-ice-expedition-to-study-climate-change/?utm_term=.7e0088ebf366
2. New Bedford Whaling Museum Research Library Mss 85. Sub-group 2: Mercator Cooper Papers, 1829-1877
3. Nina Storchlic, “115 Years Ago, This Arctic Expedition Ended in Disaster,” *National Geographic*, January 12, 2018, <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2018/01/national-geographic-arctic-expedition/>

The *Belgica*, Antarctica

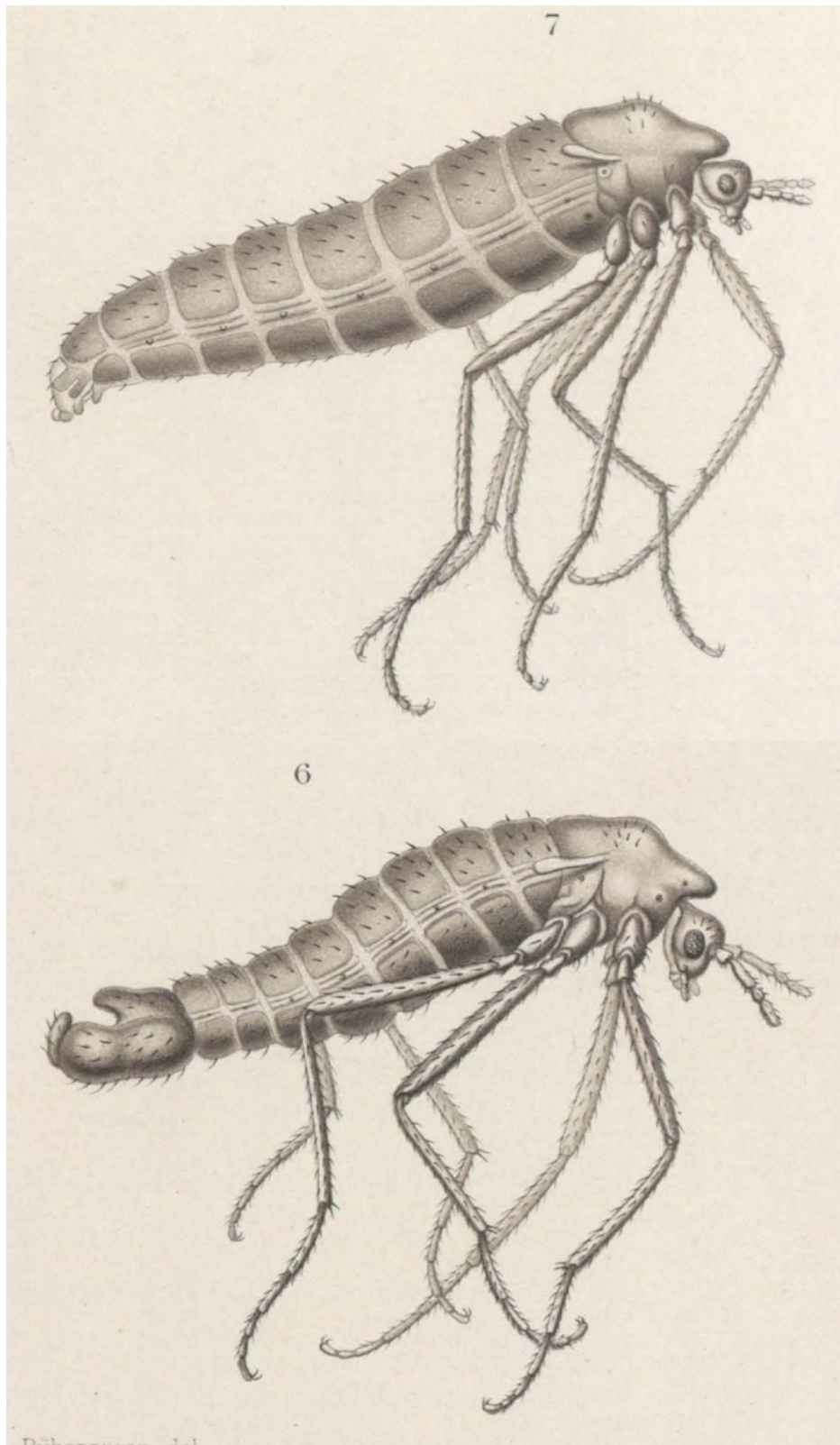


Source: The ice-bound *Belgica*, Adrien de Gerlache, *Quinze mois en Antarctique*, (Belgium: 1902), 171.

Description

This image is a photograph of the ice-bound ship Belgica, first published in 1902. An undisturbed sheet of smooth ice connects the vantage point of the photographer with the prow of the ship, suggesting the lack of movement and ice-bound situation of the vessel. The ship has extensive masts and rigging, and a lifeboat is suspended on the starboard side of the ship (left side of the photograph). The figure of a man bending over to examine something on the ice is visible on the ice on the port side of the ship (on the right-hand side of image). His posture is peaceful and focused on what he is examining rather than on the photographer. Besides the ship and the man, white is the dominant color of the photograph. This serves to emphasize how foreign the world of ice in which the ship is stranded is.

The Belgica antarctica



Source: E. Bergroth, "Zoologie: Insectes. Hémiptères," in: *Zoologie: Insectes. Résultats du Voyage du S.Y. Belgica en 1897-1898-1899 sous le commandement de A. de Gerlache de Gomery: Rapports Scientifiques (1901-1913)*, R30-R50: pp. 13-15, In: (1906). In: Commission de la Belgica Résultats du Voyage du S.Y. Belgica en 1897-1898-1899 sous le commandement de A. de Gerlache de Gomery: *Rapports Scientifiques (1901-1913)*. (Antwerpen: Buschmann, 1906).

Description

Two images of six-legged midges drawn in the style of scientific illustrations. They are numbered 6 and 7 and each midge represented has its own particular anatomy. The midge labelled 6 has a smaller abdomen and distinct tail, while 7 is the larger female.

COMPASS POINTS

- Note how the ship is stuck in the ice. Think of the types of ships used for travel in the Antarctic now, and how they differ in shape and design.
- Imagine what it would have been like to have been on an ice-bound ship in so foreign an environment and with constant extreme cold.
- Note that the eponymous chironomid midge is the only insect to overwinter in the Antarctic, a fact that only the crew of the *Belgica Antarctica* could bear witness to as they were the first people to overwinter there too.
- Look at the date of the source for the images of the midge: scientific information gleaned from overwintering in the Antarctic was soon entering circulation in Europe. The nature of the source suggests a specific scientific motivation for the *Belgica's* journey.

Primary Source Two: Extract from the Olmsted Report on Management of Yosemite, 1865, Albert Bierstadt, *Valley of the Yosemite*, 1864, and Carlton E. Watkins, *River View, Cathedral Rock, Yosemite*, 1861.

Background

While Yellowstone became the first American national park when it opened in 1872, as early as the mid-nineteenth century the natural magnificence of the Yosemite valley inspired a sense of awe and celebration of the natural bounty of the American landscape. The California Gold Rush of the early 1850s had drawn thousands of European-Americans to the area. Competition for resources and conflicting ways of life between the Indigenous Ahwahneechee and the settlers led to the Mariposa Wars, which aimed to suppress Native American resistance. During these wars settlers first entered the Yosemite valley, and an army doctor, Lafayette Bunnell, was even so bold as to claim, “the Discovery of Yosemite” in his 1880 book *Discovery of the Yosemite, and the Indian war of 1851*. By 1889, Scottish-American John Muir, “the father of the National Parks,” was expressing concerns about the destruction of the natural regions of the Yosemite Valley, which lacked government protection (private interests such as sheep farming was proliferating, and overgrazing affected the landscape). Muir convinced Robert Underwood Johnson to introduce a bill to Congress making Yosemite a National Park as Yellowstone was. In 1890 Congress did pass a bill based on Muir’s recommendations, but left Yosemite as under the control of the state of California. Muir also invited President Theodore Roosevelt to camp at Yosemite, following which Roosevelt said, “It was like lying in a great solemn cathedral, far vaster and more beautiful than any built by the hand of man.” The sources below shown that Yosemite was, time and again, a source of inspiration for the newly emerging American imagination and identity. Furthermore, through the pastoral depictions of its landscape, it harked back to imagined notions of European (particularly British) identity and values from whence American ‘civilization’ sprung.

THE YOSEMITE VALLEY AND THE MARIPOSA BIG TREE GROVE

It was during one of the darkest hours, before Sherman had begun the march upon Atlanta or Grant his terrible movement through the Wilderness, when the paintings of Bierstadt and the photographs of Watkins, both productions of the war time, had given to the people on the Atlantic some idea of the sublimity of the Yosemite, and of the stateliness of the neighboring Sequoia grove, that consideration was first given to the danger that such scenes might become private property and through the false taste, the caprice or the requirements of some industrial speculation of their holders, their value to posterity be injured. To secure them against this danger Congress passed an act providing that the premises should be segregated from the general domain of the public lands, and devoted forever to popular resort and recreation, under the administration of a Board of Commissioners, to serve without pecuniary compensation, to be appointed by the Executive of the State of California.

His Excellency the Governor in behalf of the state accepted the trust proposed and appointed the required Commissioners; the territory has been surveyed and the Commissioners have in several visits to it, and with much deliberation, endeavored to qualify themselves to present to the legislature a sufficient description of the property, and well considered advice as to its future management. The Commissioners have deemed it best to confine their attention during the year which has elapsed since their appointment to this simple duty of preparing themselves to suggest the legislative action proper to be taken, and having completed it, propose to present their resignation, in order to render as easy as possible the pursuance of any policy of management the adoption of which may be determined by the wisdom of the legislature. The present report, therefore, is intended to embody as much as is practicable, the results of the labors of the Commission, which it also terminates.

As few of the legislature can have yet visited the ground, a short description is given.

The main feature of the Yo Semite is best indicated in one word as a chasm. It is a chasm nearly

a mile in average width, however, and more than ten miles in length. The central and broader part of this chasm is occupied at the bottom by a series of groves of magnificent trees, and meadows of the most varied, luxuriant and exquisite herbage, through which meanders a broad stream of the clearest water, rippling over a pebbly bottom and eddying among banks of ferns and rushes; sometimes narrowed into sparkling rapids and sometimes expanding into placid pools which reflect the wondrous heights on either side. The walls of the chasm are generally half a mile, sometimes nearly a mile in height above these meadows, and where most lofty are nearly perpendicular, sometimes overjutting. At frequent intervals, however, they are cleft, broken, terraced and sloped, and in these places, as well as everywhere upon the summit, they are overgrown by thick clusters of trees.

There is nothing strange or exotic in the character of the vegetation most of the trees and plants, especially those of the meadows and waterside, are closely allied to and are not readily distinguished from those most common in the landscapes of the Eastern States or midland counties of England. The stream is such a one as Shakespeare delighted in, and brings pleasing reminiscences to the traveller of the Avon or the upper Thames. "Banks of heartsease and beds of cowslips and daisies are frequent, and thickets of dogwood, alder and willow often fringe the shores. At several points streams of water flow into the chasm, descending at one leap from five hundred to fourteen hundred feet. One small stream falls, in three closely consecutive pitches, a distance of two thousand six hundred feet, which is more than fifteen times the height of the falls of Niagara. In the spray of these falls superb rainbows are seen.

...

The Yosemite yet remains to be considered as a field of study for science and art.

Source: Frederick Law Olmsted, "The Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove," from *The Olmsted Report on Management of Yosemite*, 1865, as reprinted in *Landscape Architecture*, 43, 1952, 12-25.

COMPASS POINTS

- When Olmsted writes, "It was during one of the darkest hours, before Sherman had begun the march upon Atlanta or Grant his terrible movement through the Wilderness," he is referring to events of the brutal American civil war of 1861-1865, which pitted the North against the South.
- Note the awakening of the shared American imagination of the continent through images, in this case "the paintings of Bierstadt and the photographs of Watkins, both productions of the War time, (which) had given to the people on the Atlantic some idea of the sublimity of the Yosemite." The area that would be the Park thus becomes an anchor of the West for citizens of the American east. *Note that a sample each of Bierstadt's painting and Watkin's photography are included below. Think about the feelings and ideas the images evoke. Think about why Cathedral Rock might have inspired religious awe.*
- In the paragraph beginning, "There is nothing strange or exotic..." pay particular attention to the images and scenes evoked: are they foreign or familiar?
- Olmsted gives us an idea of what is expected from the future when he writes, "The Yosemite yet remains to be considered as a field of study for science and art."



Source: Albert Bierstadt, *Valley of the Yosemite*, 1864, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Public Domain.

Description

An oil painting of a majestic landscape at sunset. In the foreground deer peacefully drink or stand at the waterside. In the still body of water, the trees that line the distant shore are clearly reflected. Behind them rise the awe-inspiring cliffs and mountains of Yosemite. The diffuse light, gentle, golden colors of the scene, and the peaceful setting serve to show how idyllic it is.



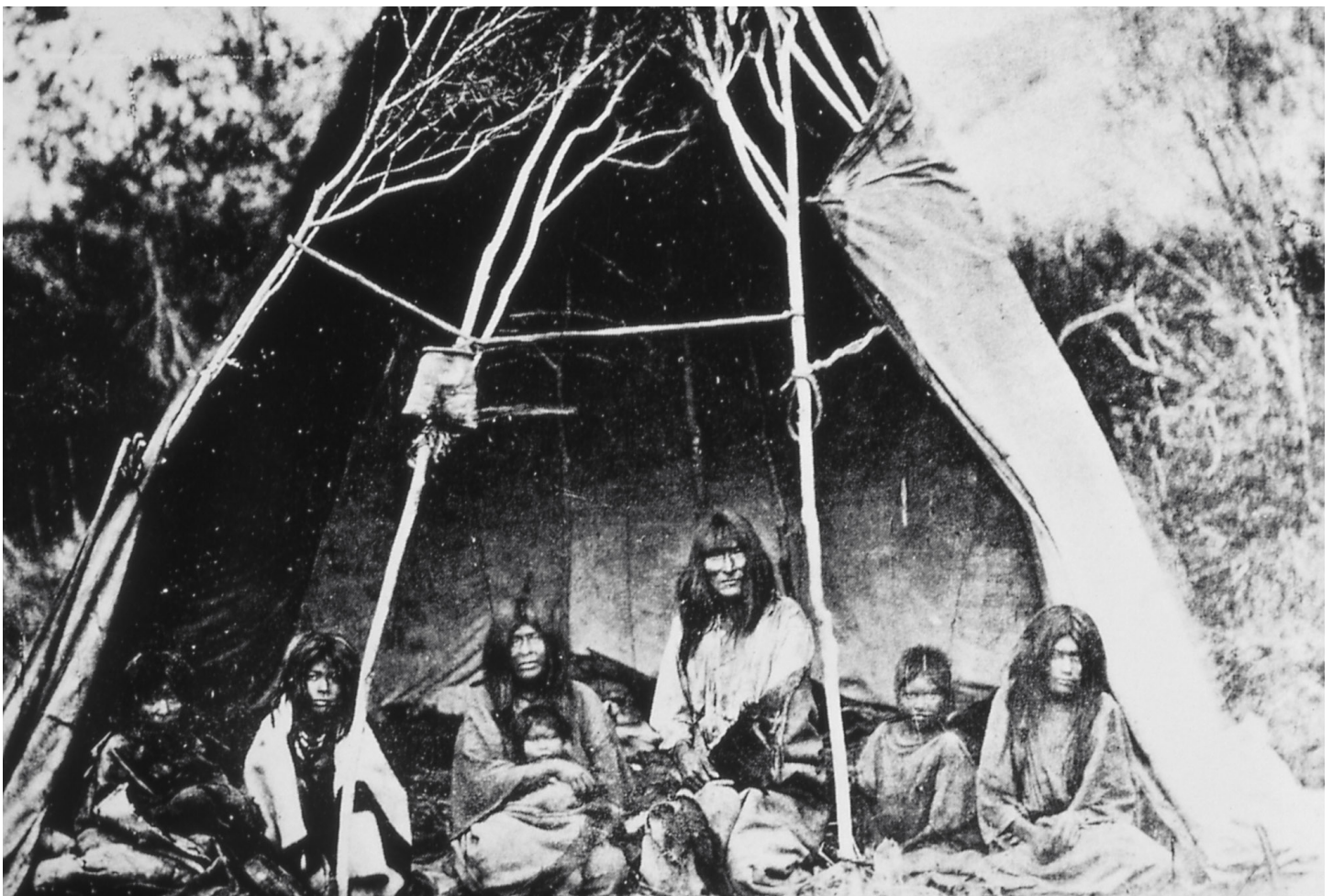
Source: Carlton E. Watkins, *River View, Cathedral Rock, Yosemite*, 1861. Public Domain.

Description

A sepia photograph of Cathedral Rock at Yosemite, with the river flowing in front of it. The image is photographed so as to attract the viewer's eye to the center and upward, creating a sense of reverence and awe. The shape of the photograph, with the top corners rounded, reinforces this impression, and is reminiscent of the arch of a cathedral roof. The lush foliage of the trees that line the peacefully-flowing river serves to emphasize the abundance and health of the natural world, and the abundance and health of humans in it.

Primary Source Three: William H. Jackson photographs of Shoshone, 1871, and of the meeting of the U.S Geological Survey, 1872, Yellowstone National Park area

Although there had been one or two earlier visits to the region by European arrivals in America, it was only in 1870 that the first organized expedition to explore the area took place. It was led by Ferdinand V. Hayden, who soon returned with a large, federally funded, geological survey. On March 1, 1872, Yellowstone National Park was established *The Act of Dedication* signed by President Ulysses S. Grant. Eleven years later the park was connected to the United States railroad network, ushering in a new age of mass transit of people to the parks, and a new type of relationship with nature and wildlife ‘management.’ The Park was further ‘opened up’ in 1915 when cars were allowed in. In the first two decades of its existence, many indigenous Americans tribes were excluded from Yellowstone Park. The Eastern Shoshone, traditionally year-round residents of the area, left under a 1868 treaty that guaranteed their continued right to hunt in the area but took away their land. However, they effectively lost all rights when the US government failed to ratify the treaty and did not recognize the claims of any indigenous Americans with regards Yellowstone.



Source: photo of Shoshone Indians; k# 64,339; William H Jackson; 1871, Yellowstone National Park Photo Collection, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Public domain.

Description

This image is a photograph of indigenous American people of the Shoshone community. There are seven people seated in a tent-like structure called a Wickiup. They appear to be members of the same family and include four children, a baby, and two adults. They are wearing traditional clothing and appear to be at home. The Wickiup is situated in front of trees and grasses.



Source: Hayden Geological Survey Expedition members at Firehole Basin; k# 64,301; William H Jackson; 1872, Yellowstone National Park Photo Collection, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Public domain.

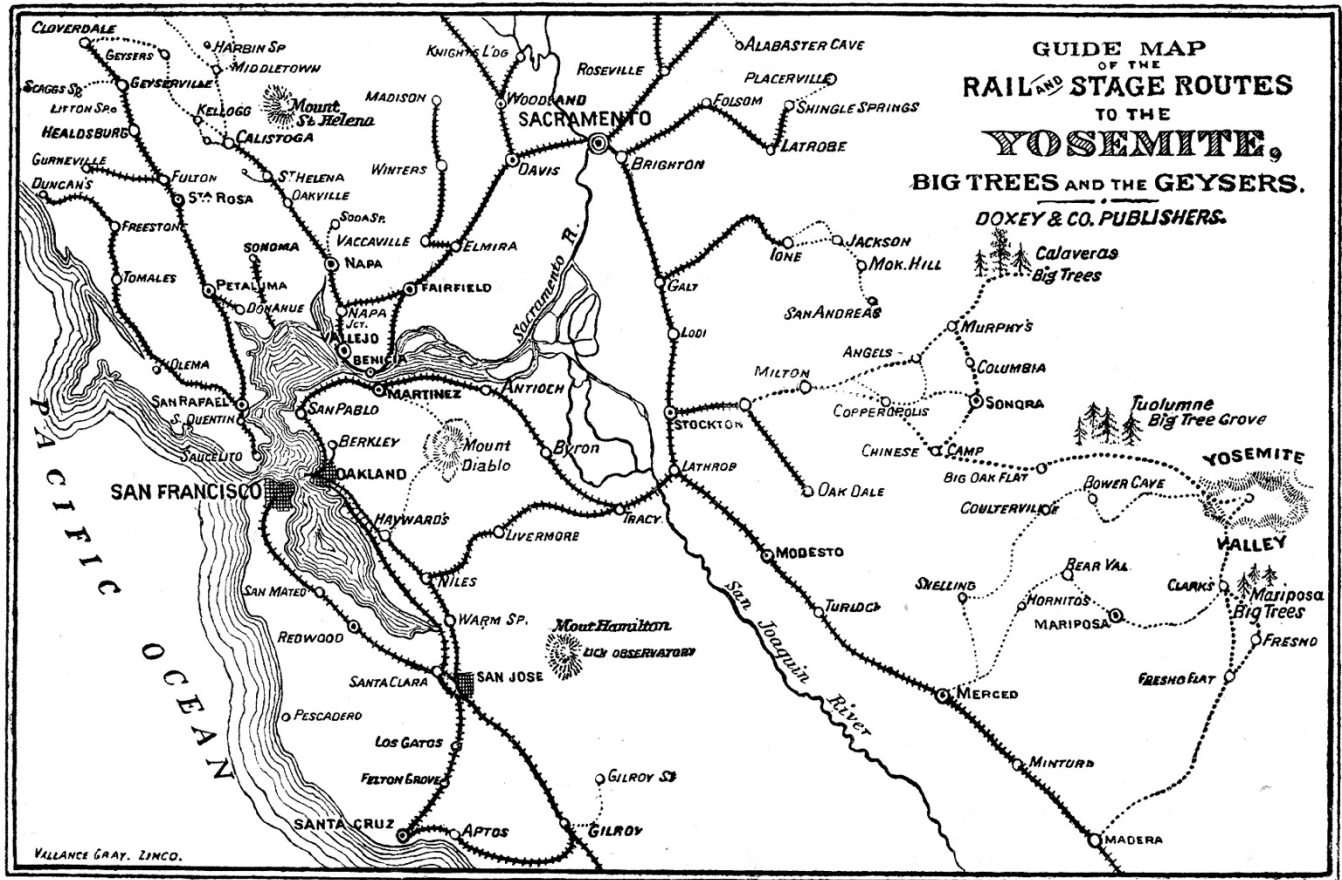
Description

A large group of men of European heritage are shown informally posing for a photograph. In front of them is an area of grass. Behind them pine-type trees stretch to the hill on the horizon. The men are dressed in European clothing typical of the late nineteenth century, and most wear hats and are facing the camera. The left of the image contains the caption, Meeting of the U.S. Geological Survey, Firehole Basin.

COMPASS POINTS

- The people photographed in the two images above no doubt saw the Yellowstone area through different eyes: the Shoshone and certain other groups of indigenous people had a history with the region going back as far as 11,000 years (as evidenced by Clovis point discoveries).
- Note how the people in the first photograph are in a Wickiup, a temporary home for nomadic people, while those in the second pose as visitors in the natural surroundings.
- The men in the second picture, members of the U.S. Geological Society in 1872, brought new ideas about science, nature, and industry to the land. The subtitle of the USGS's annual report for that year was, "being a report of progress of the explorations for the year 1872."
- Think about how a long history with a place might change one's relationship to it in contrast to exploring it for the first time.

Primary Source Four: Railways and Parks, 1885



Source: "Guide Map of the Rail and Stage Routes to the Yosemite, Big Trees and the Geysers," in *Specimen Book of Electrotypes Comprising Pacific Coast Scenery, General Illustrations, Trade Cuts, Advertising, Novelties, &c.*, (Oakland, CA: Pacific Press Publishing House, 1885). Public domain.

Description

This image is a simple black and white hand drawn map of the rail and stage networks of the area around San Francisco to Yosemite in the East and Sacramento in the north. Natural features such as Mount St. Helens and Mount Hamilton (and its observatory) are noted and towns and suburbs are named, especially where these correspond with rail or stage route stops. In the top right-hand corner it is noted, Guide Map of the Rail and Stage Routes to the Yosemite, Big Trees and the Geysers, Doxey and Co. publishers.

COMPASS POINTS

- Note how the stage routes are planned to take people from the rail routes to natural sites of interest (for instance, big trees and geysers).
- Note how the rail and stage routes link urban centers to the Yosemite valley and surrounds.

Primary Source Five: Theodore Roosevelt and American natural heritage

"We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune." - Theodore Roosevelt!

Background

Before becoming President, Theodore Roosevelt had led a cavalry group that included indigenous Americans, college sportsmen, cowboys, ranchers and others, in Cuba in the Spanish-American War of 1898. He described his regiment as, "peculiarly American," an indication of how a shared sense of national identity had developed just thirty years after the American Civil War. An avid hunter, in the 1880s Roosevelt had published articles in popular magazines on life in wild areas, often with illustrations. His engagement with art was through a European lens, informed by childhood visits to museums and galleries in London, Paris, and Vienna. Paradoxically, while his writings celebrated hunting kills, they also lamented the loss of wild areas and species (for instance, bison were rapidly decimated in this period). These ideas on nature, man's place in it, and the heterogenous character unique to American identity came together in informing policies that Roosevelt adopted as President from 1901 on. His vision of preserving 'natural' America became realized with the 1905 creation of the United States Forest Service and the 1906 *American Antiquities Act*, which preserved or created 150 national forests, fifty-one federal bird reserves, four national game preserves, five national parks, and eighteen national monuments. His efforts were not without opposition. For instance, Congress opposed the establishment of a national park at the Grand Canyon, and Roosevelt used executive power to create it.



Source: Theodore Roosevelt in Buckskins, Dakota Territory, ca. 1885. Posed for the cover of Roosevelt's book, *Hunting Trips of a Ranchman*. Roosevelt R500. R67, Theodore Roosevelt Collection, Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

¹ Quote from the National Parks Service website, <https://www.nps.gov/thro/learn/historyculture/theodore-roosevelt-quotes.htm>.

Description

Theodore Roosevelt is photographed in sepia dressed in buckskin and holding his rifle. He is positioned in a natural environment standing on hay with a backdrop with flowers and ferns foregrounding trees and a peaceful and indistinct natural scene. Roosevelt carries a rifle in both hands and faces the camera; in his bullet-belt is a knife. He has a serious expression on his face.

COMPASS POINTS

- Roosevelt is dressed in Buckskin, more akin to the clothing of some indigenous American communities than to the typical western dress associated with cowboys or ranchers.
- Note the appearance of nature in this posed image: it presents a soft and pleasant background, with Roosevelt foregrounded and clearly master of the natural kingdom. Think about how this depiction and Roosevelt's informal European art education relate to the pastoral imagination of nature.
- His gun, knife, and demeanor suggest a resourceful person, ready to fend for himself in an abundant natural world.
- Roosevelt's love of hunting led to his growing awareness of the need for active conservation measures as he witnessed the decline of major species.

Case study challenge question

Please answer the following question (750-word response):

How did conquest and control of the natural world contribute to the development of national identity?