Colorado National Monument

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

3rd Grade Ranger Programs Available for Field Trips:

To make a reservation, or if you have any questions, please call our Education Rangers **(970) 858-3617 ext 367.**

Option 1: Cycles in the Canyons (3 miles, 4 hrs.)

Teachers may choose either theme for this hike depending on season (spring or fall) and educational goals.

Fall Theme: Rock Cycle Ramble *(Earth Materials: Rocks & Soil/Rock Cycle)*
Along the hike students will take a closer look at different rocks and how they form.
Science 3.1 – *Earth's materials can be broken down and/or combined into different materials such as rocks, minerals, rock cycle, formation of soil, and sand – some of which are usable resources for humans.*

Spring Theme: Spring into Life Cycles *(Growth & Development: Life Cycle Events)*
Students will explore the life cycles of insects, amphibians, and mammals in and around a seasonal pool.
Science 2.1 – *The duration and timing of life cycle events such as reproduction and longevity vary across organisms and species.*

Option 2: Activity Stations and Walks (Choose 3)

Students will participate in 3 different activity stations which include short hikes, games, and hands-on activities near the Saddlehorn Picnic Area.

A. Radical Rocks *(Earth Materials: Rocks & Soil/Rock Cycle)*
Saddlehorn Picnic Area, 1 hour
Through games and explorations students will learn to look at rocks like geologists. They will discover how the three types of rocks form and change throughout the rock cycle.
Science 3.1 – *Earth's materials can be broken down and/or combined into different materials such as rocks, minerals, rock cycle, formation of soil, and sand – some of which are usable resources for humans.*

B. Looking at Landforms *(Geography of the Grand Valley)*
Window Rock Trail, 1 hour, 1 mile (round trip)
On a ranger-led walk to an overlook of the Grand Valley, students will identify landforms and discover the processes that shape them.
Science 3.1 – *Earth's materials can be broken down and/or combined into different materials such as rocks, minerals, rock cycle, formation of soil and sand – some of which are usable resources for humans.*
Social Studies G.1 – *Use various types of geographic tools to develop spatial thinking.*

C. From Utes to Cowboy Boots *(The Grand Valley: Early Settlers)*
Book Cliffs View, 1 hour, 1 mile (round trip)
Students will go on a short walk to learn about the history of the Grand Valley and Colorado National Monument. While exploring historic artifacts and photos students will gain a better understanding of what life was like for the area's earliest residents.
Social Studies H.1 – *Develop an understanding of how people view, construct and interpret history.*
Social Studies H.2 – *People in the past influence the development and interaction of different communities or regions.*

D. Insect Investigation *(Growth & Development: Life Cycle Events)*
Saddlehorn Picnic Area, 1 hour
Through games and observations students will investigate the life cycles of insects.
Science 2.1 – *The duration and timing of life cycle events such as reproduction and longevity vary across organisms and species.*