

Lesson

23

TARGET VOCABULARY

continent  
dense  
moisture  
resources  
shallow

# Redwood Trees

- 1 Redwood trees grow in North America. They are the tallest trees on the continent.

North America is one continent. Name another continent.

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- 2 Redwood trees require plenty of moisture. They grow in places where winters are rainy and summers are foggy.

What provides moisture for trees and other plants?

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222



- 3 Even though redwood trees are very tall, their roots are **shallow**. They don't go far down into the ground.

Write a word that means the opposite of shallow.

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- 4 Redwood trees are important natural **resources**. People use the trees for wood.

What are some other natural resources that people use?

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- 5 Fallen needles from redwood trees form a **dense** mat on the ground. The needles make it hard for other trees to grow.

Would you prefer to live in a dense city or in a small town? Explain.

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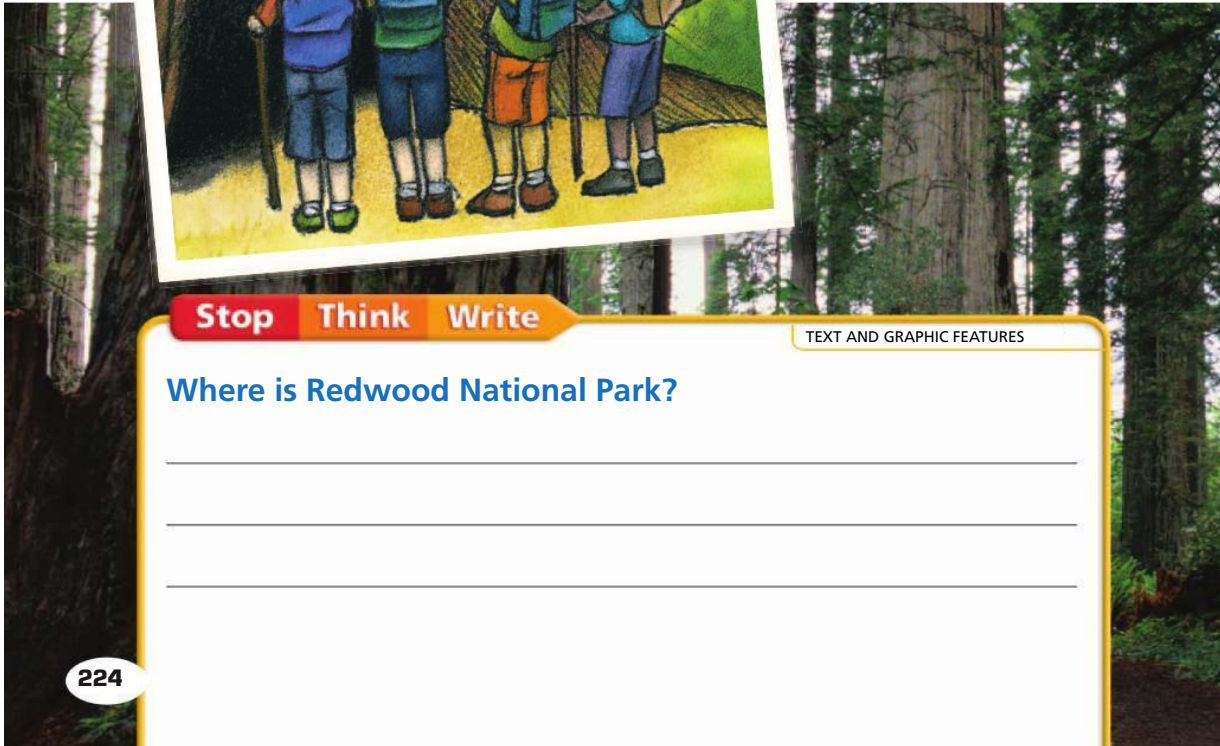
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# Exploring Redwood Park

by Lynn Frankel

**M**rs. Keith and her students are exploring Redwood National Park in California. The park was founded in 1968 to protect the redwood trees and other resources in the region.



Stop Think Write

TEXT AND GRAPHIC FEATURES

Where is Redwood National Park?

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An American Indian greeted the visitors. "Welcome to Redwood National Park!" he said. "My name is Standing Elk. I will show you the park today."

Standing Elk stepped onto the trail. Paco, Sarah, Carlos, Lakota, and Mrs. Keith followed him.

"Our park has many kinds of trees," Standing Elk said. "However, it's named for an exceptional tree, the redwood. Redwoods are the tallest trees on the continent. Actually, they're the tallest trees in the world!"



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A photograph of a dense forest of tall redwood trees. The trees are very tall and thin, with a thick canopy of green leaves. The ground is covered in ferns and other forest floor vegetation.

**Stop Think Write**

MAIN IDEAS AND DETAILS

**What is special about redwood trees?**

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225

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“Wow!” said Paco. He stared up at the redwoods. “I can’t see the tops of the trees.”

“That’s because the trees are so tall,” Standing Elk said. “It’s also because the forest is so **dense**. These trees grow close together.”

“Look how big!” The four students tried to touch hands around a redwood’s trunk. They couldn’t reach!

“Some of the trees in the park have been growing for six hundred years,” Standing Elk said. “Some redwoods live for two thousand years!”



**Stop Think Write**

VOCABULARY

Why is the redwood forest dense?

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# Redwood National Park Timeline

- 1968** Redwood National Park is created by Congress.
- 1920s** California creates three state parks in the redwood region.
- 1910s** Only a small area of redwood forest remains.
- 1850s** Logging of redwood forests begins.
- 1850** Gold discovery starts a rush of people to the redwood region.
- 1828** Jedediah Smith is the first explorer who isn't an American Indian to travel through the redwood region.
- 2,000 years ago** Some redwoods that sprout now will still be alive in the 21st century.
- more than 3,000 years ago** American Indians live in the redwood region.

**Stop Think Write** TEXT AND GRAPHIC FEATURES

Write two things from the timeline that help you understand why Redwood National Park was created.

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The group walked along the trail. They were awed by the giant redwoods.

“It’s so quiet here,” whispered Sarah. “Do any animals live in this forest?”

Standing Elk chuckled. “We have many animals here. Wrens, jays, chickadees, and owls live high in the trees. Foxes live in hollow trunks. Moles, insects, and worms dig in the soil around the shallow roots.”



Stellar's jay

**Stop Think Write** TEXT AND GRAPHIC FEATURES

**What animals are shown in the photos on pages 228 and 229?**

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228

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northern spotted owl



Suddenly a leaf jumped next to Carlos. "That leaf looks like a frog!" he said.

"Good eye, Carlos!" Standing Elk pointed to the small frog. "Just like redwoods, these frogs need lots of moisture. They like the rainy, mild climate of this forest habitat."

"Are any of the animals dangerous?" asked Mrs. Keith. She looked around nervously.

"Just about any animal can be dangerous. It's best to keep your distance," Standing Elk warned. "No one wants to mess with a black bear or a bobcat."

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**Stop Think Write**

VOCABULARY

What animal and plant share a need for lots of moisture?

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229

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“Large animals live in other areas of the park, too,” said Standing Elk. “Elk live in the grasslands of our prairies. Whales, sea lions, and dolphins live in the ocean along the coast of the park.”



bald eagle

“I thought this park was just about redwood trees,” Lakota said. “I can see that it’s not.”

Standing Elk smiled. “There is a lot to see, and plenty of time to see it. The park isn’t going anywhere.”



Roosevelt elk

Stop Think Write

MAIN IDEAS AND DETAILS

What are three habitats in Redwood National Park?

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# Look Back and Respond



**Hint**  
For a clue, see page 224.

**1** What is the purpose of Redwood National Park?

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**2** Look at the map on page 224. How does it help you understand the location of Redwood National Park?

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**Hint**  
Think about what you see when you look at the map.

**3** How do different animals live in and use redwood trees?

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**Hint**  
For clues, see pages 228 and 229.

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