

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Preview

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five. That's a lot. Only two states have more. Where do you start with so many choices? How about the start of the alphabet? Arches National Park might just be your favorite anyway!

Arches National Park has more than 2,000 natural rock arches. The park is almost 120 square miles (310 square kilometers). That means it has the most rock arches per square mile in the world. But how did all those rocky curves get there?

conditions to form. About 300 million years ago, that part of the desert was a big, salty sea. Then the sea dried up. It left a bed of salt behind. Over more time, other dirt and material piled up. Some of it joined with the top layer of salt. This slowly made a layer of rock.

However, the rock was heavier than the salt bed below. Think of a see-saw. The heavy rock made the salt bed shoot up into bumps and ridges. These bumps and ridges were

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perfect for wind and rain to start eating away at, or eroding. Arches National Park only gets about 8–10 inches (20–25 centimeters) of rain per year. That's still enough to break down teeny bits of the beautiful red sandstone.

It also helps that earthquakes are rare there. The arches mostly only worry about erosion and gravity. But erosion and gravity do take a toll. The

remember when you visit Arches National Park.

First, try not to go between March and October. It gets very busy then. The park gets around 1.8 million visitors a year. Many come in those months.

Second, stay on the paths! The rocky desert may look hard to hurt, but that's not true. Tiny lifeforms live in the dusty soil. All those visitors



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### Balanced Rock

Wind and rain eroded all around this rock. It looks like a giant picked up a 3,577-ton rock and balanced it 73 feet (22 meters) up.



### Double Arch

This cool double arch stretches 112 feet (34 meters) above ground. How many of you would you need to stack on top of yourself to reach it?



### Delicate Rock

At only 46 feet (14 meters) tall and 32 feet (10 meters) wide, it's not the biggest arch in the park. However, it might be the most famous. Many visitors say it's #1 on their must-see list!

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# Arches National Park

By Olivia Mendoza



1. Write the numbers **1–5** on the lines to order the events from earliest to most recent.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Heavy rock pushed salt beds upward.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The place was named a national park.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rocks began eroding and forming arches.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A salty sea in the middle of North America dried up.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dirt and other materials formed new rock.

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a. It has the most rock arches in the world.

4. What would happen in Arches National Park if it got more rain?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Delicate Rock is \_\_\_\_\_ feet taller than it is wide.
6. Personification is when an author talks about a nonhuman thing as if it were a person

Which sentence from the article uses personification?

- a. Tiny lifeforms live in the dusty soil.
- b. The arches mostly only worry about erosion and gravity.
- c. But how did all those rocky curves get there?
- d. Many visitors say it's #1 on their must-see list.

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# Arches National Park



Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. \_\_\_ r a \_\_\_ i t \_\_\_

**clue:** force pulling you toward the ground

2. c \_\_\_ n d \_\_\_ t \_\_\_ n s

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**clue:** bits used to make something

6. d \_\_\_ a g \_\_\_

**clue:** to hurt or cause harm

7. \_\_\_ r \_\_\_ h

**clue:** a curved shape or form

8. r \_\_\_ e

**clue:** unlikely; uncommon

9. \_\_\_ a l a \_\_\_ e \_\_\_

**clue:** perfectly even; not too far to one side

10. e \_\_\_ s i o \_\_\_

**clue:** the breaking down of something



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# Arches National Park



In the article, "Arches National Park," you read about one of Utah's five national parks.

Pretend you are trying to talk your family into taking a vacation to Arches National Park. What interesting facts might make them want to visit? What information do you think is important to tell them for planning a trip?

\_\_\_\_\_



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## ANSWER KEY

# Arches National Park

By Olivia Mendoza



1. Write the numbers **1–5** on the lines to order the events from earliest to most recent.

  3   Heavy rock pushed salt beds upward.

  5   The place was named a national park.



- a. Tiny lifeforms live in the dusty soil.
- b. The arches mostly only worry about erosion and gravity.**
- c. But how did all those rocky curves get there?
- d. Many visitors say it's #1 on their must-see list.

## ANSWER KEY

# Arches National Park



Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. g r a v i t y

gravity

**clue:** force pulling you toward the ground

**Preview**

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10. e r o s i o n

erosion

**clue:** the breaking down of something