

# California Parks Project

CA.GOV California State Parks  
DISCOVER THE MANY STATES OF CALIFORNIA.

Discover the many states of California™

**GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER**  
Visit his Website

**THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY**  
Lester A. Snow

PLAN YOUR VACATION

MAKE A RESERVATION

PARKS ONLINE STORE

ACCESSIBLE PARK INFORMATION

**Find a Park by Region**

Click on the number of region on the Map to the left or click the region name below. To find a specific park or to find a park by an activity go to [Visit a Park](#)

1. [North Coast](#)
2. [San Francisco Bay Area](#)
3. [Central Coast](#)
4. [Los Angeles County](#)
5. [Orange County](#)
6. [Inland Empire](#)
7. [San Diego County](#)
8. [Shasta Cascade](#)
9. [Gold Country](#)
10. [Central Valley](#)
11. [High Sierra](#)
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**Año Nuevo STATE PARK**

As a follow-up project to Landscape Photography, Art teacher Margo Wixsom created a Graphic Design unit using the California Parks website for content information. Graphic design uses Art elements to design text-image compositions that convey information and hold the attention of the viewer.

Beginning Photography students @ **Palo Alto High School** explored one of 12 regions in the diverse state of California to find a park to design a CD cover illustrating the beauty and features of that specific park.

The interactive website for the California State Parks provides students with ample visual and textual information for research.

[www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=21491](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21491)

# Learning as Recreation & Play

**Fascinating Fact:**

Did you know that California has ALL but 1 of the 9 Biozones on the planet?  
Can you guess the only 1 Biozone this amazing state does not have?

Hint: think penguins and polar bears!



**Playin' in California**

DISCOVER CALIFORNIA PLAY ME SOME INSPIRATION!

**Play your Way through California**  
Students studied park regions 2 find keywords from parks for song titles 2 inspire you 2 visit 2.

Palo Alto High School students pass the California Parks CD display in the library entrance.



Photography students linked their Landscape Photography knowledge to explore content information on the California State Parks website. Students previewed the 12 regional areas to explore images of mountain, desert, ocean, valley, and agricultural landscapes.

# Graphic Design: Text & Image

CD Project: CA Parks Rock!



Wordle

After experimenting with Photoshop filters – for this project you will alter photos in Photoshop and use an edited image for a specific application – designing a CD cover.

You will research ONE California Park and design a CD cover that communicates information about a selected State Park using landscape imagery and clever text ideas. Your projects will be entered into the 2010 California Media Arts Festival.

## PARTNER GROUPS

You will work with partners on your computer assigned to the park Region with your group number.

MAKE a new project folder on your desktop titled CAPARKS

Keep ALL of your work from this project in your project folder. When I find “floating documents” on the desktop I drag them to the trash. Keeping project folders is an essential part of digital learning – it helps you learn to SAVE TO and keep work organized, labeled and accessible.

SAVE THIS document by RENAMING it with YOUR name and drag it to your project folder.

When you see underlined text – it is an ASSIGNMENT that you will be graded on – so do it ☺

You can start  
your Internet  
Research HERE



## Find a Park by Region

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[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=21491](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21491)

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <a href="#">North Coast</a>            | 7. <a href="#">San Diego County</a> |
| 2. <a href="#">San Francisco Bay Area</a> | 8. <a href="#">Shasta Cascade</a>   |
| 3. <a href="#">Central Coast</a>          | 9. <a href="#">Gold Country</a>     |
| 4. <a href="#">Los Angeles County</a>     | 10. <a href="#">Central Valley</a>  |
| 5. <a href="#">Orange County</a>          | 11. <a href="#">High Sierra</a>     |
| 6. <a href="#">Inland Empire</a>          | 12. <a href="#">Deserts</a>         |

## INTERNET RESEARCH

We will take a virtual class TOUR of the CA Parks website:

<http://www.parks.ca.gov/parkindex/results.asp>

## Student Names:

You will take a partner TOUR of CA state parks! Partner groups by REGION

<http://www.parks.ca.gov/> Click on this link to see the map of California Parks.

Click on your group number and count the number of parks:

Pick ONE park that you would like to use for your project:



Students were randomly assigned a state park region. They worked with a partner to explore 1 of 12 California Regional Park zones to find a park that interested them enough to convince others to go and visit that park. Their goal was to find inspiring photographs and information about 1 park.

# Keywords & Revision Writing



Students used this digital worksheet for each step of the project. First they found and copy-pasted a park description into a document to rewrite for their CD content information about that park. Then they made a list of keywords for clever song titles to communicate specific features or facts about their park.

Copy-paste the park description:

REWRITE that description in your OWN words:

Click on the link for that park and make a list of keywords:

Drag & drop 3 photographs from the website for your park. Be sure to OPEN the file FIRST and then make a screenshoot, RENAME the images and drag them to your folder.

## TEACHER EXAMPLE

I looked up the park nearest my home: Henry Coe State Park  
Search by TOPIC [place/region] – Santa Clara HENRY COE

[http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page\\_id=561](http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=561)

Copy-paste the park description:

*Coe Park is the largest state park in northern California of wild open spaces. The terrain of the park is rugged, varied and beautiful, with lofty ridges and steep canyons. Once the home of Ohlone Indians, the park is now home to a fascinating variety of plants and animals, including the elusive mountain lion. Within Coe Park are the headwaters of Coyote Creek, long stretches of Pacheco and Orestimba creeks and a wilderness area. The park is open year-round for hikers, mountain bikers, backpackers, equestrians, car campers, picnickers, photographers, and people who simply like to visit parks.*

## MY REWRITE:

The largest state park in northern California, Henry Coe Park is a rugged terrain that includes high ridges, steep canyons, creeks, and fields of wildflowers. Come and camp for the night or bring your bike to trailblaze the day away. Located in Santa Clara County in the headwaters of Coyote Creek, and sections of Pacheco and Orestimba creeks, Coe Park is a jewel of wilderness preservation right in your own back yard.

## Make a list of 10 key words [for song titles]:

Coyote Creek   goldfields   Grizzly Gulch   Middle Range   Blue Ridge   Frog Lake  
Orestimba Creek   bike trails camping   mountain lions   Pacheco Creek

Here are my song titles using the KEYWORDS list:

1. Coe with the Flow
2. I Lost My Shoe in Frog Lake
3. Grizzly Gulch Blues
4. Orestimba Samba
5. Walk Me Back to Blue Ridge
6. Back in the Middle Range
7. Take a Peek @ Coyote Creek
8. Go Go Goin' 2 the Goldfields
9. Pacheco on Parade
10. Burnin' the Bike Trail



Students watched a YouTube video on copyright and Fair Use to clarify ways in which images and Internet content can be used and shared. They copy-pasted photographs from a website, then altered images in Photoshop using filters to qualify as Fair Use transformation. Students also must cite URL links to acknowledge source websites for academic integrity.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tWhKeb-fUQ>

Great example of stating Fair Use law and showing Fair Use in practice

# Fair Use and Copyright Laws

It's essential in a digital world to teach students copyright laws and guidelines for Fair Use as artists, writers, and educators: nature, purpose, amount, and effect of use are the qualifiers for Fair Use.

The three keys: **repurpose**, **add value**, **transformative** use of copyright material.

# Visual Literacy



Students followed video guidelines on selecting full resolution images, saving JPG files, and altering them in Photoshop to meet Fair Use copyright laws. They selected a cover image to showcase the park profile and a back cover image as a backdrop for songs using keywords that communicated information about the park with the revised description.

Copy a COOL landscape - at least 3 images from the website tour of your park for a CD cover idea



Notice how pixelated these images are? They are drag-dropped from thumbnails (low **qqp** 72 dpi)  
For better quality files OPEN the image FIRST and then drag-drop it (better **qqp** 180)

Drag and drop the OPENED photos onto your desktop and you have a MUCH higher resolution. I changed the saturation (increased 80%) and **posterized** both images at 6 (see changes next page).



NOTICE what better resolution these 2 images have



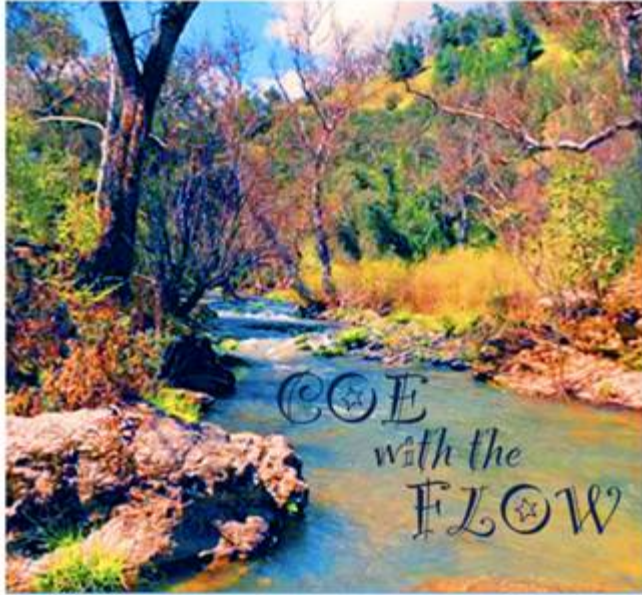
CROP a square section using screenshot  
RENAME your screenshot and drag it into your folder

Fair Use video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tWtKAp-fUQ>

When where and HOW you can use/copy other images – watch this video with your partner group to clarify where-when-how you can use images from the Internet without plagiarizing.

Design a CD cover using 2 FILTERED images from one of the state websites (include link)

Create Front cover with a TITLE using the state park name in a fun/informative way



Notice how I created neon colors by increasing the saturation of the original photo – and then posterizing it in the filters menu of Photoshop for my cover design.

# CD Artworks

Digital worksheet models front and back cover content information and graphic design guidelines.



Back cover includes: Keyword song titles, park description, source image info, and URL.  
**Some tips:**

For your BACK cover you will need to LIGHTEN it so that the text and website URL show up.

In the Photoshop ENHANCE pull-down menu you can use BRIGHTNESS/CONTRAST to reduce brightness and contrast or COLOR ALTERATION and reduce OPACITY

Remember for many effects in Photoshop – there are several ways to do most effects 😊

Using the digital worksheet, students selected 2 photographs from their park website to alter in Adobe Photoshop using filters to meet Fair Use guidelines. Photographs needed to illustrate their park in an engaging way to convince viewers to visit their park.

For the back of the CD, they wrote a park description and compiled keywords for song titles that educated readers about park locations, features, and activities. The goal was to learn about the geography of California, the resources and recreational heritage of CA, and showcase those images and park information to inspire others to visit state parks.

# Assembling the CDs

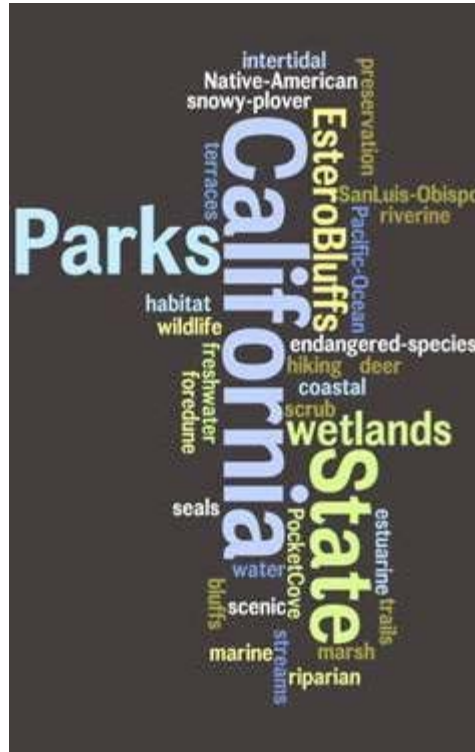


Students designed a California Parks CD with a catchy front cover title and informative back cover song titles with description of their park features. They copied their cover images onto a Word document and printed their cover designs to assemble in CD cases as a music parody.





# Sharing the Wealth



Student trimmed and framed descriptive Wordle posters to pair with their CD designs to share the wealth of what they learned about California State Parks for a library display.

# Class Presentations



When all the CDs were assembled student partners made presentations of their research to peers. We set the criteria that the best CD design presentation was the one that enrolled the majority of the class to go and explore the park described.



Many students made lively sales pitches to win over their peers with their park features.



# Library Display



Students arranged their CD artworks and accompanying Wordle posters in one of the library display cases. They printed a state flag, seal, and a screenshot from the California State Parks website to post alongside the project description of using state parks as a topic for Graphic Design.

# California State Parks on Display



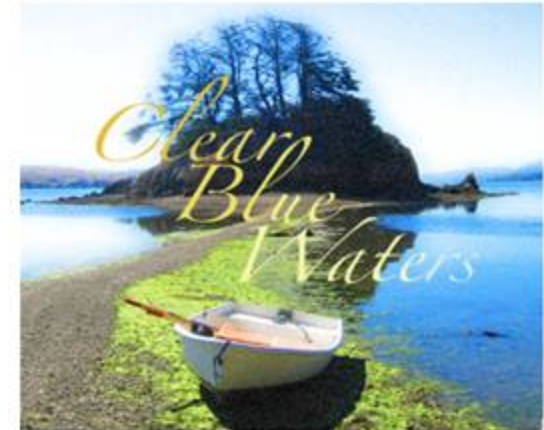
Students walk past California State Parks display in the Palo Alto High School library.



California State Parks  
DISCOVER THE MANY STATES OF CALIFORNIA.

# Student Gallery of CD Artworks

North Coast    San Francisco Bay    Central Coast    Los Angeles County  
Orange County    Inland Empire    San Diego County  
Gold Country    Central Valley    High Sierra    Deserts



Student CDs with informative title and songs titles with park descriptions and URL links.



Discover the many states of California™

# Special Thanks

To Director Ruth Coleman and the **California State Parks** for designing such an engaging and useful educational resource in their website.

[www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=21491](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21491)

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For the inspiration and invaluable technology instruction of the **Krause Center of Innovation staff and KCI Merit teachers**

[www.krauseinnovationcenter.org/kci/](http://www.krauseinnovationcenter.org/kci/)

**The 2009-10 Palo Beginning Photography students**

who made the many aspects of learning through technology pure joy!

**The PAHS Technology Support Team of Pat O'Hara, Will Yu, and Van Simmons**

who made all things technological - possible!

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  6. Sacramento Valley
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  9. Gold Country
  10. High Sierra
  11. Sierra Nevada
  12. Other



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