



Pleased to Meet You

Chapter 1

Pleased to Meet You

Allow me to introduce myself.

My name is Venture and I'm a traveling teddy bear. As you can tell by my name (short for adventure), I'm always ready to explore.



As bears go, I'm not very big. On my tiptoes I stand just ten inches tall. What is big, though, is my curiosity. I love to see the wonders of nature. I love to learn new and exciting things.

My favorite place to explore is

Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It is in two states, Tennessee and North Carolina. A smoky haze covers the park's beautiful mountains. This smoky haze gives the mountains their name.





In the Great Smokies, rushing waterfalls, rivers, and streams flow through forests filled with plants and animals. Some life forms live only in this park and nowhere else on earth!

Because it is a national park, people protect and care for the park's natural world.

The park also preserves human history. The Cherokee



Indians and non-Indian families once lived on the land. Here they farmed, hunted, and lived closely with nature. In the park you can sit on an old front porch and imagine how people lived on this land more than one hundred years ago.



One reason I love the park is that it is home to more than 1,000 black bears. I think of bears as my long lost cousins, so I am always on the lookout for them.



My latest adventure was the best ever. Here is a list of what I took. I turned out to be a good packer. Everything came in handy.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Backpack | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camera |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Journal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pencils |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Binoculars | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hand lens |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water bottle |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rain gear | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hat |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National parks' passport | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whistle |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First-aid kit | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Insect repellent |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sleeping bag |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maps |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snacks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hot chocolate |

Of course I also brought my sense of wonder. You always need that when you “venture” to Great Smoky Mountains National Park!

Fun Facts About Great Smoky Mountains National Park

- It is the most visited national park in the U.S.
- The park has ½ million acres of land.
- More than 100,000 different life forms live in the park and new kinds are discovered each year.
- You can see more than 130 different kinds of trees.
- Many children collected pennies and nickels to help pay for this park.



Activity Page

Word Scramble Packing



Unscramble some of the words from my packing list on page 4.



1. PAMS _ _ _ _ _
2. SEPNLCI _ _ _ _ _
3. OTH LAETOCOHC _ _ _ _ _
4. LNRJUOA _ _ _ _ _
5. CBKAKACP _ _ _ _ _
6. RUISAOLBCN _ _ _ _ _
7. NETT _ _ _ _
8. ITALFLHHS _ _ _ _ _
9. AHT _ _ _
10. RCAEAM _ _ _ _ _



Activity Page



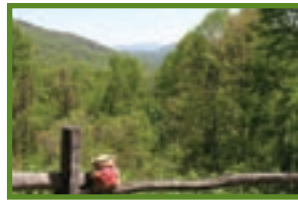
Color the States

1. Can you find Tennessee and North Carolina on the map?
Color them in and label them.
2. What state do you live in?
Color it and label it.
3. Mark Great Smoky Mountains National Park with an **X**.



Chapter 2

Oh, the Places I'll See



Spring

I started my big adventure at the Sugarlands Visitor Center. It's a great place to learn about the Smokies. First I watched a movie about the national park. Then I got a Junior Ranger activity book to become a Junior Ranger. Like park rangers, Junior Rangers help protect the Smokies so they stay beautiful for generations to come.



After that, a park ranger stamped my passport to the national parks, and I asked her for ideas of fun things to do. Her suggestions made my toes wiggle with excitement. Of course, I added a few ideas of my own.

