



Experiencing America Series

National Parks – California and the West Joshua Tree National Park EDU 590GD

Part A

All materials in Part A are for informational purposes only and are not to be mailed with the completed assignments.

A1 - Course Introduction

Welcome to the Experiencing America Series designed by the University of San Diego, Division of Continuing Education. The major focus of this Series is encouraging teachers to travel and experience our country by viewing, studying and reflecting on historical sites, museums, parks, and memorials. For complete information regarding the Experiencing America Series, please visit www.usd-online.org.

This section, **California and the West National Parks** consists of 4 one semester unit courses: **Joshua Tree National Park EDU 590GD**, **Yosemite National Park EDU 590GE**, **Death Valley National Park EDU 590GF**, and **Point Reyes National Park EDU 590GG**.

The fee for this course covers only the cost of the one semester unit tuition and one official transcript. Any travel expenses or admission fees are your responsibility. You will receive an official transcript from the University within three to four weeks of submitting satisfactory coursework. After the grade is posted, additional transcripts can be ordered online for \$5.00 at www.usd-online.org or by mail:

USD Continuing Education
Attention: Transcripts
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110-2492

After 3 to 4 weeks, questions regarding transcripts can be answered at (619)260-4585. USD Continuing Education does not fax or overnight transcripts, so please allow 3-4 weeks for evaluation and to receive your transcript by U.S. Mail.

Information about other USD Independent Study Courses is available at: www.usd-online.org.

***Please note that the written assignments must be typed if possible, double-spaced on 8 1/2 " x 11" standard copy paper using 12 pt. font. Hand-written papers must be legible and easy to read.**

Section A2 - How to Proceed

- **Read the Course Objective – A3**
- **Read all Assignments**
- **Read Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – A4**
- **Visit** and investigate all required sites
- **Complete** all parts of **Assignments**
- **Make copies** of all course work for your records.
**Your mailed assignments will not be returned to you.*
- **Complete and Sign Affidavit Form** and mail with all completed

**Assignments to: USD Continuing Education
Attn: Experiencing America Grader
210 Bordeaux Court
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762**

Coursework mailed requiring signature at receipt may be delayed.

Section A3 - Course Objective / Grading Rubric

I. OBJECTIVE

After viewing, studying and reflecting on the required site(s) for this course, the participant will show that due to his/her participation he/she now has a greater understanding of the “American Experience.”

II. GRADING RUBRIC

Exemplary: A+ to A-	Acceptable: B+ to B-	Unacceptable: Must be resubmitted
Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignment are clearly stated	Presents some relevant ideas and connections to the assignment	Ideas are not clear or relevant
Very well organized and assignments are well labeled	Is generally well organized and assignments are well labeled	Shows little or no organization and assignments are poorly labeled.
Reflective pieces cover numerous facts and specific details of the learning experience	Some facts and specific details of learning experiences are included	Few or no facts or specific details of the learning experience are included
Free of spelling and/or grammatical errors	Writing contains a few spelling and/or grammatical errors	Numerous spelling and/or grammatical errors. Difficult to read

Section A4 - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- Q. Whom do I contact if I have a question about the content of this course?
A. You can e-mail questions to amex@usd-online.org or phone (916) 939-2449.
- Q. How much time do I have to complete this course?
A. You have nine months from the time of registration to complete all coursework.
- Q. What if an emergency occurs and I need more than 9 months to complete my coursework?
A. Please e-mail sandiego@usd-online.org or call (619) 260-4585 to request an extension. If one is granted, *it is final*.
- Q. What if I change my name or address during this time.
A. Login to your account at www.usd-online.org and edit your contact information as soon as possible AND also update your address with our receptionist by calling (619)260-4585.
- Q. Can I use both sides of the paper in completing the assignments?
A. No. Although it may save paper, it makes your paper more difficult to read and may lead to a second side being missed in the grading process.
- Q. Can I send completed work via e-mail or on a disk?
A. No. All work must be sent in as hard copies. For your own protection, please make sure to keep copies of ALL your work. Your mailed assignments will not be returned to you.
- Q. Can I send in each assignment as I complete it?
A. No. All assignments must be sent in together upon completion of the entire course.
- Q. What do I do when I have completed all the required coursework?
A. There is a list of required assignments on the Passport/Affidavit Form. Check to make sure you have completed all items listed and have placed responses on separate pages with appropriate label at the top of the page (example: B1 - Assignment Title). Fill out the Passport/Affidavit Form and sign and date the form. Arrange the Assignments in numerical order and place the Passport/Affidavit Form on top. Mail all Assignments, along with the signed Passport/Affidavit Form to:
- USD Continuing Education
Attn: Experiencing America Grader
210 Bordeaux Court
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762**
- Q. Is there a required sequence for taking courses in the Experiencing America Series?
A. No. Each course is independent.

Part B - Assignments

All completed **Assignments** must be placed on separate pages with the appropriate label at the top (example B1 – Assignment title) and mailed together for grading. Please place **Passport/Affidavit Form** on top of all **Assignments**.

National Parks California and the West – Joshua Tree National Park

Assignments:

Visit the Oasis Visitor Center in Twentynine Palms. Obtain a signature or stamp on the Affidavit Form. Give responses to B1 and B2 from information gained from the Center.

B1 – History

In your own words give a brief history (geographical and human) of the Joshua Tree area.

B2 – Science

What kind of animals and plants are found in the Joshua Tree area?

Visit the Joshua Tree Visitor Center in the village of Joshua Tree. Obtain a stamp or signature on the Affidavit Form. While at the Center inquire about Keys View and Indian Cove.

B3 – Keys View

Describe visual evidence of the geographical history you cited in B1. Attach a picture of yourself overlooking the Coachella Valley.

B4 – Indian Cove

Describe visual evidence of plants and/or animals described in B2, that you observed on the nature trail of Indian Cove.

Visit Cottonwood Visitor Center in Cottonwood Springs. Obtain a stamp or signature on the Affidavit Form. While at the center ask about the Cahuilla Indians and the mining prospectors of this area.

B5 – Cottonwood Springs Oasis

Visit the Cottonwood Springs Oasis and discuss the visual evidence of the human history narrated in B2. Attach a picture of yourself at the Oasis.

Visit the Black Rock Nature Center and talk to the Ranger about wildlife living in the Black Rock Canyon area. Obtain a stamp or signature on the Affidavit.

B6 – Black Rock Canyon Wildlife

Describe the wildlife viewed at this location. Attach a picture of yourself at Black Rock Canyon.

B7 – Educator

How has your stay at Joshua Tree National Park inspired you as an educator?



Joshua Tree National Park EDU 590GD

Passport/Affidavit Form

Ask a representative at each site to sign/stamp and date in the space below.

In addition, attach to this page any other evidence you have to document your experience. You can use items such as tickets (or photos of tickets) and photos of you in and around the required sites.

Instructions:

- Complete the Student Information section
- Sign and date the Passport/Affidavit Form
- Place the Passport/Affidavit Form on top of all Assignments and mail to:
USD Continuing Education
Attention: Experiencing America Grader
210 Bordeaux Court
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Student Information

Name _____ SS# (last 4 digits) _____

Address _____
 Street _____ City _____ State/Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

District _____ School _____

Grade level/subject _____

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> B1 – History | <input type="checkbox"/> B4 – Indian Cove | <input type="checkbox"/> B7 - Educator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B2 – Science | <input type="checkbox"/> B5 – Cottonwood Springs Oasis | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B3 – Keys View | <input type="checkbox"/> B6 – Black Rock Canyon Wildlife | |

I _____ verify that I did visit **all required sites** for
Joshua Tree National Park EDU 590GD and **all written responses** are my own original comments.

Signature _____ Date _____

OFFICE USE: Grade _____ By _____ Date _____