



Name: _____

The Forest of Stone: Bryce Canyon National Park

Bryce Canyon, located in southern Utah, is not actually a single canyon. Instead, it is a giant "amphitheater," which is a natural space shaped like a large bowl or stadium. It is famous for having the largest collection of hoodoos in the world. Hoodoos are tall, thin spires of rock that look like frozen stone people or totem poles. These pillars are painted in bright shades of orange, red, and white, making the park look like a magical forest made entirely of stone.

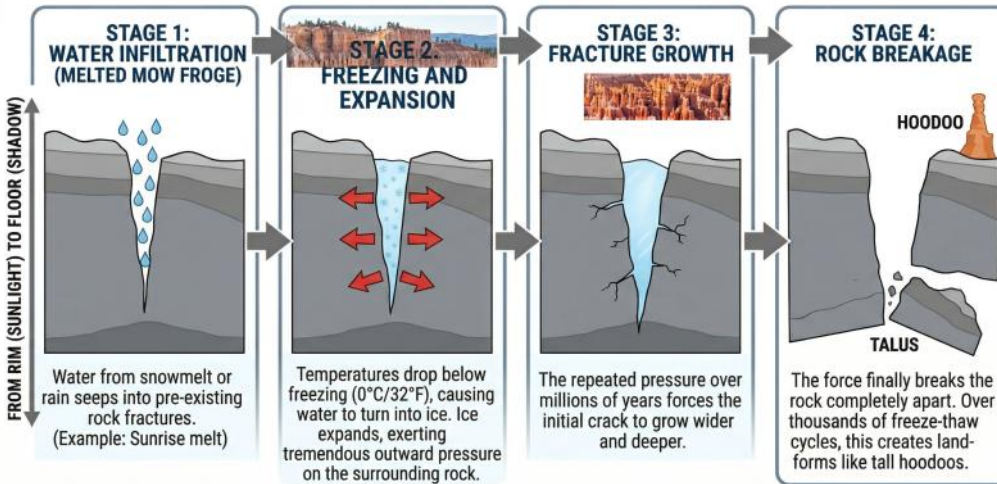


Bryce Canyon "amphitheater"

These strange rock shapes were created by a process called "frost wedging." Even though the park can be hot in the summer, it gets very cold at night during the winter. Water from melting snow seeps into tiny cracks in the rocks. When the sun goes down and the temperature drops, the water freezes and turns into ice. Since ice takes up more space than

water, it pushes against the rock and makes the cracks bigger. Over many years, this force breaks the rocks apart, leaving behind the tall hoodoos we see today.

THE PROCESS OF FROST WEDGING (PHYSICAL WEATHERING)



that have adapted to the high elevation. Because Bryce Canyon is much higher up than other parks in Utah, the air is thinner and cooler. You might spot a Utah prairie dog scurrying through the grass or a mountain lion prowling near the trees. In the sky, you might see a Peregrine Falcon, which is the fastest animal in the world when it dives! These animals rely on the park's clean air and water to survive.

People have visited Bryce Canyon for a long time. The Paiute Native Americans were the first to live near the rocks. They had a legend that the hoodoos were actually "Legend People" who were turned to stone as a punishment. Later, an explorer named Ebenezer Bryce moved to the area to raise cattle. He once joked that the canyon was a "terrible place to lose a cow!" On June 8, 1923, the area was protected as a national monument, and it officially became Bryce Canyon National Park in 1928. Today, it is a place where people from all over the world come to hike and stargaze under some of the darkest night skies in the country.

1. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - a. Bryce Canyon gets very cold during the winter months.
 - b. Ice takes up more space than liquid water when it freezes.
 - c. Tall hoodoos are painted in bright shades of orange and red.
 - d. The process of frost wedging creates the unique hoodoo rock shapes.

2. Based on the passage, why would a hiker at Bryce Canyon likely feel cooler than a hiker in a lower desert area?
 - a. The high elevation of the park makes the air temperature lower.
 - b. The tall hoodoos block the sun and create shade everywhere.
 - c. The park is located in the northernmost part of the state.
 - d. The "Legend People" keep the canyon cold with their magic.

3. What is the cause of the cracks in the rocks becoming larger over time?
 - a. Mountain lions scratching the rock while they hunt.
 - b. Cattle grazing and stepping on the edges of the canyon.
 - c. The wind blowing sand against the pillars during the summer.
 - d. Water freezing and expanding inside the cracks during the winter.

4. In the first paragraph, the word "spires" most likely means:
 - a. Deep, dark holes in the ground.
 - b. Tall, pointed towers or pillars.
 - c. Small, round pebbles found in rivers.
 - d. Flat, wide plains covered in grass.

5. Based on the Paiute legend, why are there so many hoodoos in the canyon?

- a. They are people who were changed into stone long ago.
- b. They were built by the first tribes to live in the area.
- c. They were left behind by explorers like Ebenezer Bryce.
- d. They are totem poles carved by the "Legend People."

6. Read this sentence from the passage: "These animals rely on the park's clean air and water to survive." What is the effect of the park being protected by the government?

- a. The Peregrine Falcon can dive faster than any other bird.
- b. The animals have a safe place with clean resources to live.
- c. The prairie dogs can finally leave the grass and climb the rocks.
- d. The mountain lions are moved to other parks in southern Utah.

7. Why does the author use the word "stadium" to describe the canyon?

- a. To explain that many sports are played inside the park.
- b. To show that the canyon has many rows of seats for visitors.
- c. To help the reader picture the bowl-like shape of the amphitheater.
- d. To tell the reader that the canyon was built by people.

8. In the third paragraph, the word "adapted" most likely means:

- a. Changed to fit a specific environment.
- b. Stayed exactly the same for years.
- c. Moved to a different state to find food.
- d. Learned how to perform tricks for visitors.

9. If the winter temperatures at Bryce Canyon stopped dropping below freezing, what would most likely happen?

- a. The hoodoos would grow much taller and thinner.
- b. Frost wedging would stop breaking the rocks apart.
- c. The Colorado River would start flowing through the canyon.
- d. The park would be closed to visitors and explorers.

Want to know more? Visit, <https://www.nps.gov/bryce/index.htm>