



Yellowstone National Park: 153 Years of Conservation

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Subject Reference: GS Paper I (World Geography) | GS Paper III (Environment)

- **The Context:** Established in 1872, Yellowstone is the blueprint for the "National Park" model. It sits atop a **Supervolcano** (Yellowstone Caldera).
- **Apt Topic:** "**Hydrothermal Ecosystems & Geopolitics of Conservation**"
- **Geological Significance:** It houses 50% of the world's geysers (e.g., Old Faithful). For UPSC, focus on the **Geothermal Gradient** and how microbial life in these hot springs (extremophiles) led to the discovery of **PCR technology** (used in COVID testing).
- **Conservation Philosophy:** Analyze the "**Yellowstone Model**" (fortress conservation) vs. India's "**Community-based Conservation**" approach under the Forest Rights Act.