WRITING IN YELLOWSTONE

Early descriptions of Yellowstone seemed so strange that people actually didn’t believe them! One man described geysers as “boiling water volcanoes” and “spouting fountains.”

How would you describe Yellowstone without using the word “geyser”? Make sure your description convinces people that Yellowstone is real!

ELEMENTS OF WRITING

With so much to see and describe in Yellowstone, it can be hard to focus! To start, make a frame with your hands and settle on a scene you would like to write about. Your impressions may be colors, weather details, mentions of flora and fauna, or descriptions of the geysers you hear, etc. You don’t have to write sentences; words and phrases are fine.

1 Observations of Warren Angus Ferris, a surveyor, on a manuscript map he made of Yellowstone in 1836.

Read more early accounts of Yellowstone at www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/haines1/iee1b.htm

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To learn more about art in Yellowstone, please visit
YELLOWSTONE.ORG/ART
WWW.NPS.GOV/YELL/PLANYOURVISIT/RANGER-PROGRAMS.HTM
**GUIDELINES & TIPS**

**BE THANKFUL**
Write about an experience/event/a happening for which you feel grateful. Be as specific as you can.

Use the prompts below to jump-start your writing. Try using words alongside sketches, if that helps.

- I notice . . .
- I wonder . . .
- I feel . . .
- I sense . . .

**LEARN**
Name a fact or idea that you learned today. It doesn’t have to be specifically about Yellowstone. Reflect on what you learned and how you learned it. Was this new knowledge/understanding unexpected? Was it funny? Surprising? Jarring? Delightful?

**CONNECT**
Think about what you connected with today. These connections can be between you and the people you met, or between abstract concepts. Maybe the nature in Yellowstone reminds you of the nature at home. Were those connections surprising? Did they make you think differently or change your mind about anything?