



Transcript for *Grand Canyon* (Roaring Brook Press, an Imprint of Macmillan) Preview Video

Preview (0:00 – 6:52)

Hi everyone! It's Colleen from the KU Natural History Museum, and I'm so excited to remind you about tomorrow's Story Book Science, here on Facebook Live. We are going to be reading the book *Grand Canyon*. This book is by Jason Chin, and it's published and being read with permission from Roaring Brook Press, which is an imprint of Macmillan. So, thank you to them for the permission to read this book.

Now, I'm very excited to read this book because we get to continue our exploration of national parks. And we're going to continue our exploration of national parks by talking about Grand Canyon National Park!

Now, this is an image of Grand Canyon National Park. As you can tell from the image, it's very big! So, it's quite grand! You can see all in the distance how the Grand Canyon takes up so much space. And it's also a very deep canyon. And you can see that in the image as well.

Now, Grand Canyon National Park, it's located in the United States. It's located, specifically, in the state of Arizona. And it's been a lot of things. It's not always been a national park. In fact, at first it was a forest reserve. And then it became a national monument. And then, in 1919, it became a national park!

Now, when you look at this photo, we've already looked at how big and grand the Grand Canyon is, and we've noticed the canyon itself. But what I want you to do is, I want you to look at this photo and think about the environment of the Grand Canyon. What is the environment of the Grand Canyon like? So, take a moment and look at this photo.

While you look at the photo, one thing you can do is look for clues in the photo to help you better understand the environment. So, for example, when you look at this photo, does it look dry? Does it look hot? What clues can you use to better understand the environment of the Grand Canyon?

Alright. I'm going to put this photo down so we can talk a little bit more about Grand Canyon National Park.

Now, Grand Canyon National Park, it is described as a semi-arid desert. But Grand Canyon National Park is huge! And it also has a very deep canyon. So, although it's described as a semi-arid desert, there are many different, distinct habitats within the park.

Now, habitat, that's a very important word, and we're going to put it on our vocabulary wall. So, let's do that.

Alright! So, habitat is a vocabulary word. And habitat, what that means is a place where plants and animals and other living things can be found. So, where they live. And in the Grand Canyon, when we talk about the habitats where these various creatures live, what we're talking about also has to do with the elevation. So, let's look at an elevation map of the Grand Canyon!

Alright. So, this is our elevation map. And when we look at this map, at the very, very bottom, that's the Colorado River. So, that's the very bottom of the canyon. And the habitat near the Colorado River, since it's

near water, we call a riparian area. So, that is the habitat based on the elevation. And if we go up in elevation, so if we go from the bottom of the canyon and start working our way up, we then get to the desert scrub, which is a distinct habitat based on the elevation of the canyon. And we could do this for all these different elevations. But the other habitat I want to point out is close to the rim. So, it's close to the top of the Grand Canyon. So, very high in elevation. And that is the ponderosa pine forest. Alright?

So, we can look at these elevation maps to better understand these habitats in Grand Canyon National Park.

Now, I will let you know, we can use another word to describe these habitats. We can use the word vegetation communities. So, I'm going to put that on our vocabulary wall as well!

And the reason we can use the term vegetation community to describe the habitat is because we're really focusing on plants. Alright?

Now, we'll talk more about those plants tomorrow. We'll talk about those different vegetation communities. But I do want to give you a little sneak peek at some of the plants we'll be talking about. And I have an example of a part of a special type of plant that can be found in certain vegetation communities of Grand Canyon National Park. So, let me grab that!

Alright. Any idea what this is? Any idea?

Alright. This is a pine cone! Now, this pine cone, this is just an example of a pine cone. And the reason I'm using this as an example is because it represents a part of a plant, a special type of plant known as a gymnosperm. And a gymnosperm is also referred to as a cone-bearing plant. So, gymnosperms produce cones. And in Grand Canyon National Park, there are gymnosperms. And I want you to think about what habitat, or vegetation community, those gymnosperms would be found at in Grand Canyon National Park.

So, that's what I want you to think about. And then I want you to join me tomorrow. We'll talk more about the vegetation communities, especially those where you can find gymnosperms, in Grand Canyon National Park. And we'll also learn a little bit more about the park when we read the book *Grand Canyon*. So, I hope you join me tomorrow. I'm really excited, and I can't wait to see you then! Alright? Bye!