

# BACKPACK THE PARKS

Expeditions in Education



PULLMAN



# Backpack the Parks!



At Expeditions in Education, we believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom walls. That's why we're thrilled to introduce our "Backpack the Parks" initiative, designed to ignite students' curiosity and love for the great outdoors while fostering a deeper understanding of our national parks.

With "Backpack the Parks," educators have the unique opportunity to curate and pack 8 engaging activities into backpacks, making it easier than ever for students to check out and explore the wonders of our national parks. From hands-on science experiments to wildlife scavenger hunts to historically accurate simulations, each activity is carefully crafted to immerse students in the beauty, history, and natural wonders of these treasured landscapes.

Join us in empowering the next generation of park enthusiasts and conservationists as they embark on unforgettable learning adventures in our nation's most cherished natural spaces. With "Backpack the Parks," the journey to discovery begins with the turn of a backpack strap, and the possibilities for educational exploration are endless.



# Backpack the Parks!



## *Instruction*

### **Step 1: Ask for Donations of Backpacks and Clean Them Up**

- Reach out to parents, local businesses, or the school community to request donations of gently used backpacks.
- Inspect the donated backpacks for any damage or excessive wear.

### **Step 2: Print the Activity Cards and Laminate**

- Prepare activity cards that detail each of the educational activities you plan to include in the backpacks.
- Print these activity cards on durable cardstock paper.
- Laminate the activity cards to protect them from wear and tear during use.

### **Step 3: Put Cards on Rings**

- Hole punch each laminated activity card.
- Use rings or zip ties to secure the cards together, creating a set of instructions for each activity.

### **Step 4: Purchase or Collect the Materials Needed for the Activities**

- Create a list of materials required for each activity, as outlined in your activity plan.
- Gather all the necessary materials for each activity. This may include items such as magnifying glasses, sketchbooks, rocks, clay, flashlights, and more.

### **Step 5: Put Materials in Ziplock Bags**

- Organize the materials for each activity into separate ziplock bags.
- Ensure that each bag contains all the necessary materials, making it easy for students to access and use them.

### **Step 6: Attach the National Park Tag to the Outside of the Bag**

- Create or print a National Park-themed tag that identifies the backpack as part of the Backpack the Park program.
- Attach this tag securely to the outside of the ziplock bag or backpack.

# Pullman National Historical Park

## Activity 1: Labor Union Timeline

- **Materials:**

- Paper
- Markers
- Historical labor union information (books, websites)

- **Instructions:**

- a. Research and gather information about key events in the history of labor unions.
- b. On a sheet of paper, create a timeline format.
- c. Using markers and images, illustrate and label significant events on the timeline.

## Activity 2: Model Company Town

- **Materials:**

- Cardboard
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue

- **Instructions:**

- a. Research the layout and design of a company town like Pullman.
- b. Using cardboard and construction paper, design and construct a miniature model of the town.
- c. Include details such as buildings, streets, and green spaces to represent the community accurately.

## Activity 3: Pullman Architecture Exploration

- **Materials:**

- Pictures of Pullman buildings
- Markers
- Paper

- **Instructions:**

- a. Examine pictures of Pullman buildings and pay attention to architectural features.
- b. On a sheet of paper, create sketches or diagrams of the architectural elements that stand out.
- c. Use markers to add details and labels to your sketches.

## Activity 4: Labor Union Role-Playing

- **Materials:**

- Role cards
- Printed scenarios (provided by the teacher)

- **Instructions:**

- a. Assign roles to students, including workers, managers, and union representatives.
- b. Role-play scenarios involving labor union negotiations or strikes, considering the perspectives of each character.





# Pullman National Historical Park

## Activity 5: Community Newsletter

- **Materials:**

- Paper
- Markers
- News articles (related to Pullman history)

- **Instructions:**

- a. Pretend you are a resident of Pullman during its heyday.
- b. Create a community newsletter featuring news, events, and stories about daily life.
- c. Use markers to design the layout and incorporate news articles about historical events.

## Activity 6: Pullman Factory Assembly Line

- **Materials:**

- Cardboard
- Toy assembly line (if available)
- Small items to "assemble" (e.g., puzzle pieces)

- **Instructions:**

- a. Set up a mini assembly line on a table or desk.
- b. Simulate how products were assembled in the Pullman Factory by moving items along the line from one station to another.

## Activity 7: Pullman Porter's Art

- **Materials:**

- Art supplies (paper, pencils, markers)

- **Instructions:**

- a. Research the contributions and experiences of Pullman Porters.
- b. Create artwork inspired by the stories and experiences of Pullman Porters using art supplies.

## Activity 8: Create a Company Town

- **Materials:**

- Poster board
- Markers
- Stickers

- **Instructions:**

- a. Design your ideal company town on a large poster board.
- b. Include essential facilities and services, such as housing, schools, parks, and stores.
- c. Use markers and stickers to add details and make it visually appealing.

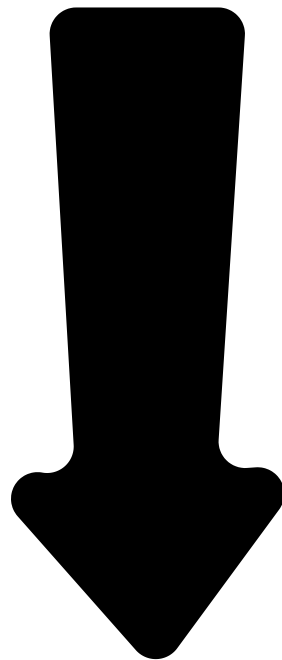
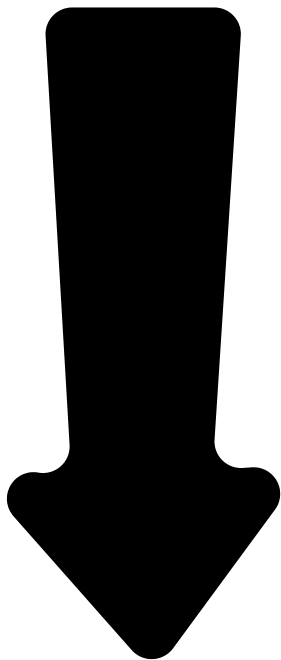


# Activity Cards

Print on cardstock

Laminate

Put on rings





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**BAG TAG BELOW!**



**Pullman National  
Historical Park**

**Backpack the Parks!**

**#ExploreTheParksWithUs**

**"Pack Your Curiosity,  
Explore Nature's Beauty!"**

**[www.expeditionsineducation.org](http://www.expeditionsineducation.org)**

# Pullman Timelines

## 1862:

- George Pullman founded the Pullman Palace Car Company, initially specializing in luxury railcar design.

## 1865:

- The first Pullman sleeping car, named "Pioneer," was introduced.

## 1880s:

- Pullman's business expanded rapidly, and the company became the leading manufacturer of sleeping cars and luxury rail travel services.

## 1894:

- The Pullman Strike occurred in response to wage cuts and poor working conditions for Pullman Company employees. The strike led to significant labor unrest and federal intervention.

## 1900s:

- Pullman introduced new and innovative designs for sleeping cars, dining cars, and lounge cars, setting industry standards for passenger comfort and luxury.

## 1920s:

- The Pullman Company introduced the first steel passenger cars, enhancing safety and durability.

## 1929:

- Pullman introduced the "Pioneer Zephyr," a streamlined diesel-electric train that revolutionized rail travel with its futuristic design and speed.

## 1930s-1940s:

- The heyday of Pullman travel saw the introduction of famous named trains like the "20th Century Limited" and the "Super Chief."

## 1940s:

- The decline of rail travel began as air travel and the interstate highway system gained popularity.

## 1960s:

- Facing financial challenges and a changing transportation landscape, Pullman ceased manufacturing sleeping cars.

## 1981:

- The Pullman Company formally exited the railcar manufacturing business, marking the end of an era for the company's original core business.

## 1987:

- Pullman Standard, a company that continued the legacy of railcar manufacturing, ceased production.

## 1991:

- The last remaining Pullman sleeping car, the "City of Spokane," was retired from Amtrak service, marking the end of Pullman-branded cars on American railroads.

# Pullman Architecture

Pullman, Illinois, is renowned not only for its historical significance in the labor movement but also for its distinctive and innovative architecture. The town was designed in the late 19th century as a model industrial community, and its architecture reflects the utopian vision of its founder, George Pullman. This one-pager explores the key architectural elements and styles that characterize the Pullman community.

## Key Architectural Features:

- 1. Victorian Influence:** Pullman architecture is primarily Victorian in style, characterized by ornate detailing, intricate woodwork, and colorful facades. The homes and buildings in Pullman showcase the opulence of the era.
- 2. Row Houses:** A hallmark of Pullman's architectural design is its rows of nearly identical worker housing units. These row houses featured shared walls and uniform facades, reflecting the efficient use of space and materials.
- 3. Variety of Styles:** While row houses dominated the landscape, Pullman also included larger, more elaborately designed homes for managerial staff. These houses often featured Queen Anne, Gothic Revival, and Italianate architectural elements.
- 4. Red Brick:** Most buildings in Pullman were constructed using red brick, giving the town a cohesive and aesthetically pleasing appearance. The use of brick was not only practical but also added to the town's visual appeal.
- 5. Elaborate Facades:** Many Pullman buildings displayed elaborate facades with decorative brickwork, arched windows, and ornate cornices, showcasing George Pullman's commitment to architectural grandeur.

## Functional Design:

- 1. Natural Light:** Pullman row houses were designed to maximize natural light. Bay windows and skylights in some units ensured that workers had well-lit living spaces.
- 2. Community Infrastructure:** The town featured essential amenities like schools, churches, a market hall, and a hotel, providing residents with easy access to essential services.
- 3. Landscaping:** Pullman's landscape design included tree-lined streets and well-maintained green spaces, creating a visually appealing and pleasant living environment.

## Legacy:

- 1. Historical Significance:** The Pullman architecture stands as a testament to the vision of George Pullman and the era's industrial ambitions. It serves as a symbol of a unique chapter in American history.
- 2. Preservation:** Many Pullman buildings have been preserved and restored, and the Pullman National Monument was designated to honor and protect this architectural heritage.
- 3. Visitor Attractions:** Today, Pullman's architecture is a draw for history enthusiasts and tourists interested in exploring the well-preserved town and learning about its role in the labor movement.



# Labor Union Role-Playing

1. **Passenger and Pullman Porter Interaction:**
  - Scenario: You're a passenger in a Pullman sleeping car, and the Pullman Porter is attending to your needs. Role-play a conversation with the porter about your journey, accommodations, and any special requests.
2. **Labor Negotiation:**
  - Scenario: You are a representative of the Pullman workers, negotiating with the Pullman Company for better wages and working conditions. Engage in a negotiation with company officials, addressing the workers' concerns.
3. **Onboard Dining Car Experience:**
  - Scenario: You are a passenger in a Pullman dining car, and the server is taking your order. Role-play the interaction, including ordering a meal, discussing the menu, and experiencing the dining service of the era.
4. **The Pullman Strike Meeting:**
  - Scenario: You are a Pullman worker attending a union meeting during the Pullman Strike of 1894. Discuss the strike's progress, strategies, and how to address workers' grievances with fellow strikers.
5. **Company Town Resident Meeting:**
  - Scenario: You are a resident of Pullman, Illinois, attending a community meeting. Discuss town matters, concerns, and community improvements with other residents.
6. **Boarding the Pullman Train:**
  - Scenario: You are a passenger waiting to board a Pullman train. Interact with other passengers, exchange pleasantries, and prepare for your journey.
7. **George Pullman and Company Executive Meeting:**
  - Scenario: You are a high-ranking executive of the Pullman Company, meeting with George Pullman to discuss company strategies, expansion plans, and new innovations in rail travel.
8. **Travel Agent Assisting Passengers:**
  - Scenario: You are a travel agent helping customers plan their Pullman train journeys. Provide information on routes, fares, and accommodations while addressing travelers' questions and preferences.
9. **Union Organizing Committee Meeting:**
  - Scenario: You are a member of a union organizing committee, strategizing on how to recruit more Pullman workers to join the labor movement. Discuss outreach, tactics, and goals with fellow organizers.
10. **Historical Tour Guide at Pullman National Monument:**
  - Scenario: You are a tour guide at the Pullman National Monument, leading a group of visitors through the historic town. Provide insights into the architecture, history, and significance of Pullman while engaging with tourists' questions and interests.

# Headlines from the Pullman Era

## 1. Pullman Strike (1894):

1. Headline: "Labor Unrest Grips the Nation"
2. Summary: The Pullman Strike of 1894, one of the most significant labor disputes in U.S. history, began as a protest against wage cuts and poor working conditions for Pullman Company employees. It led to a nationwide strike that disrupted rail travel and prompted federal intervention.

## 2. Homestead Strike (1892):

1. Headline: "Battle at Homestead: Clash between Workers and Pinkertons"
2. Summary: The Homestead Strike of 1892, centered around the Carnegie Steel Company's Homestead Plant in Pennsylvania, witnessed a violent confrontation between striking steelworkers and Pinkerton agents, resulting in multiple casualties.

## 3. Women's Suffrage Movement:

1. Headline: "Fight for Women's Right to Vote Gains Momentum"
2. Summary: During the Pullman Era, the women's suffrage movement gained momentum as suffragists campaigned for women's right to vote, leading to the eventual passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

## 4. Inventions and Innovations:

1. Headline: "Electricity and Invention Revolutionize Daily Life"
2. Summary: The era saw remarkable technological advancements, including the widespread use of electricity, the invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell, and the introduction of automobiles.

## 5. Spanish-American War (1898):

1. Headline: "U.S. Declares War on Spain: The Birth of a Global Power"
2. Summary: The Spanish-American War marked a significant turning point for the United States, as it acquired territories such as Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam, establishing its presence as a global power.

## 6. Immigration and Ellis Island:

1. Headline: "Mass Immigration Transforms the Nation"
2. Summary: Ellis Island in New York Harbor became the gateway for millions of immigrants entering the United States during the Pullman Era, contributing to cultural diversity and urbanization.

## 7. Teddy Roosevelt's Presidency (1901-1909):

1. Headline: "Roosevelt's Progressive Reforms and Trust-Busting"
2. Summary: Theodore Roosevelt's presidency was marked by progressive reforms, including trust-busting, consumer protection, and conservation efforts, as well as the construction of the Panama Canal.

## 8. World's Columbian Exposition (1893):

1. Headline: "Chicago's Grand Showcase: A Glimpse into the Future"
2. Summary: The World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago showcased technological and cultural innovations of the era, including the first Ferris wheel and the "White City" of neoclassical buildings.

## 9. The Klondike Gold Rush (1896-1899):

1. Headline: "Gold Fever Grips the Klondike"
2. Summary: The discovery of gold in the Klondike region of Canada's Yukon Territory led to a gold rush, drawing thousands of prospectors in search of fortune.

# **Pullman Porters**

Pullman Porters were African American men who played a pivotal role in the history of American rail travel during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They served as attendants on Pullman Palace Cars, providing essential services to passengers while facing social, economic, and racial challenges. This information sheet sheds light on the contributions and experiences of Pullman Porters.

## **Who Were the Pullman Porters?**

- Pullman Porters were African American men hired by the Pullman Company to work on luxury railcars, ensuring the comfort and well-being of passengers.

## **Roles and Responsibilities:**

- Porters were responsible for making beds, shining shoes, assisting passengers with their luggage, and maintaining cleanliness in the sleeping cars.
- They served as servers in the dining cars, attended to passengers' needs, and acted as stewards of the train.

## **Challenges Faced:**

- Long Hours: Pullman Porters often worked long hours, with irregular schedules that made it challenging to maintain a work-life balance.
- Low Pay: They received low wages, with a significant portion coming from tips, which made them economically vulnerable.
- Racial Discrimination: Porters faced racial discrimination both on and off the trains, enduring derogatory treatment and segregated accommodations.

## **Formation of the Brotherhood:**

- In 1925, A. Philip Randolph founded the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP), the first African American labor union. It aimed to improve working conditions, job security, and the rights of Pullman Porters.

## **Contributions and Impact:**

- Pullman Porters played a crucial role in the Great Migration, as they often shared information about job opportunities and urban life with passengers, encouraging African Americans to move from the South to Northern cities.
- They also contributed to the civil rights movement by organizing and advocating for improved working conditions and civil rights.

## **Legacy:**

- The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP) was a precursor to the broader civil rights movement, paving the way for future activism.
- The contributions of Pullman Porters are celebrated today as a symbol of African American resilience and their role in challenging racial injustices.