



2012 Student Essay Contest Official Entry Form

Why is preserving cultural resources in the Red River Gorge important?

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Date: 10/7/12

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(Please write your answer on the following pages - between 300 and 500 words)

The U.S. has so many cultural resources that are very interesting and hold information that should be protected. One of these cultural resources is the Red River Gorge in Kentucky. The cultural resources in the Red River Gorge include artifacts such as pottery, weapons, and preserved domesticated food. Protecting cultural resources is a smart move, yet hikers, campers, and rock climbers are making this next to impossible to do. These areas are full of information and knowledge that we could use to our extent. Protecting these areas is the right thing to do.

Cultural resources are very valuable. The information they hold could be irreplaceable. Knowledge learned there could change the way humans live. Native Americans were very smart and may have thought of things people nowadays haven't.

Precious artifacts crushed by hikers and campers could teach people the way they survived in their climates, and show

People what objects they used. It could teach people how they hunted, how they planted, what seasonings or dyes they used, or teach everyone what they did to survive.

Preserving these magnificent areas could be a great opportunity to be involved in teaching children the history of Native Americans. These artifacts have survived for a very long time, and crushing them would be a waste. Hikers, campers, and rock climbers have yet to find any of this out.

Simple things people could do when they visit places like the Red River Gorge is to not wander too far off the trail and leave the artifacts in place. Not try to make high jumps from rocks and make the lightest possible landing to preserve the artifacts. Finally when art written on walls is found, do not write on it. Also alert archeologists if any of these things are found.

If these artifacts were not saved, what would be left to explain to future generations? What would happen to the preserved work of the Native Americans? Shouldn't it be in Kentuckian pride to save these things? These are all very good questions to be addressed to.