

Smoky mountains

Main themes:

1. Why
2. Where
3. name
4. landscape
5. animals and plants
6. What to do
7. curiosity

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Liceo Scientifico Ferraris, 2022-23



Smoky mountains- Why

- They are best known for the National Park, which **protects** most of their range.
 - it is the **most visited** national park in the United States.
 - They are a **subrange** of the Appalachian Mountains.
 - The **name** is commonly **shortened** to the Smokies.
-



Smoky mountains- Where

- The Great Smoky Mountains are mountain range rising along the Tennessee–North Carolina border in the southeastern United States.

- They are a **subrange** of the Appalachian Mountains.
- The **name** - - > Smokies.

- National Park
- **most visited** national park in the United States.



Smoky mountains- the name



- the **name** of the Smoky Mountains comes from the Cherokee Indians, - - > "shaconage" or "place of blue smoke";

- This smoke - - > amount of **water vapor** that cover the mountain slopes.



Smoky mountains- Flora and fauna



In the Smoky Mountains there's a lot of flora and fauna!
BUT WHAT'S THE REASON?

**last Ice Age - - > glaciers covered nearly all of North America
except for the peaks of the Smoky Mountains, which were a
habitable and comfortable zone for animals.**

--> Many species of **animals have moved - - > **new home** .**



Smoky mountains- Plants

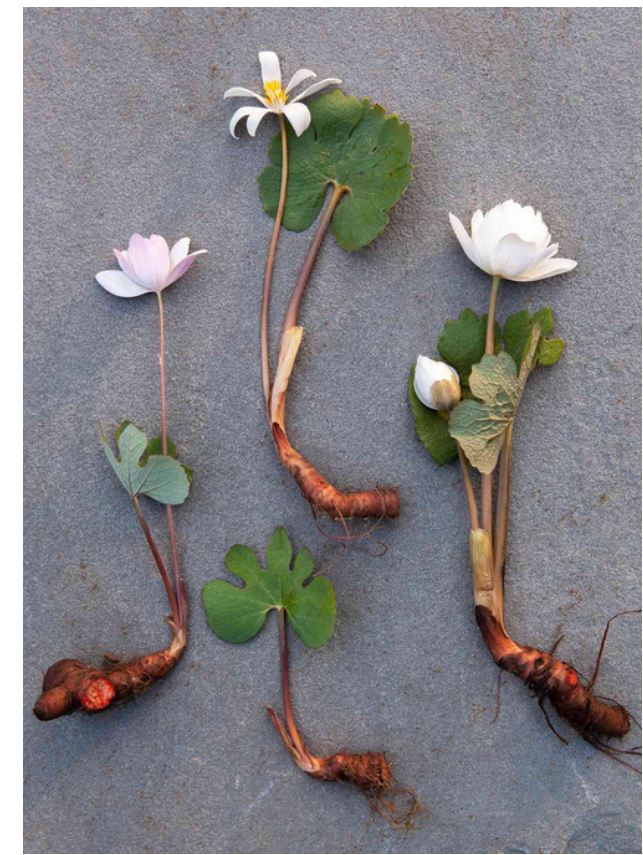
- There is a lot of **biodiversity**, especially in the flowering plants and trees of the Smokies. - - >create a colorful spring, summer and autumn.



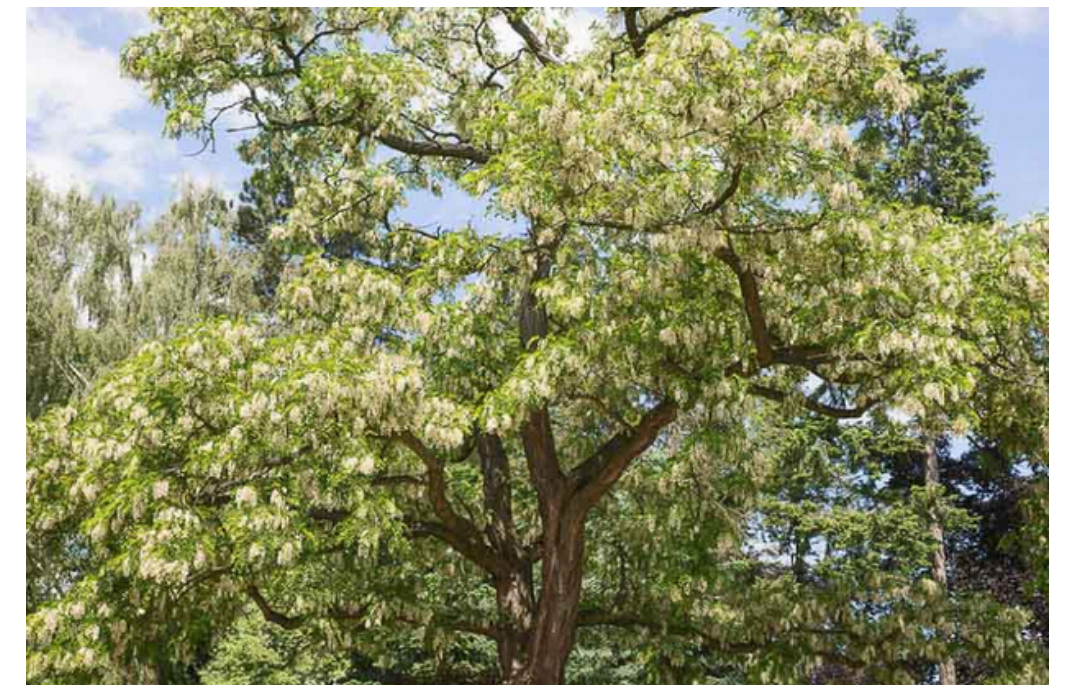
- The **Bluet** (*Houstonia caerulea*)



- The **black cherry** (*Prunus serotina*)
- **Black locusts** (*Robinia pseudo acacia*): forked and irregular trunks



- The **bloodroot plant** --> name from the stalk - - >Native Americans made red dye.



Smoky mountains- Bloodroot



Ecology.

Bloodroot is one of many plants whose seeds are spread by ants, a process called **myrmecochory**:

1. organ called an elaiosome - - > **attracts**
2. seeds to their **nest**
3. seeds **protected** until they germinate.

The flowers produce pollen, but **no nectar**. Various **bees** and flies - - > **most effective pollinators**.

Toxicity:

Bloodroot **produces** the **toxin sanguinarine**.

Sanguinarine kills animal cells by blocking **Na⁺/K⁺-ATPase** transmembrane **proteins**.

As a result, applying bloodroot to the skin may **destroy tissue**.

Properties:

Traditional medicine

Bloodroot --> Native Americans to cure

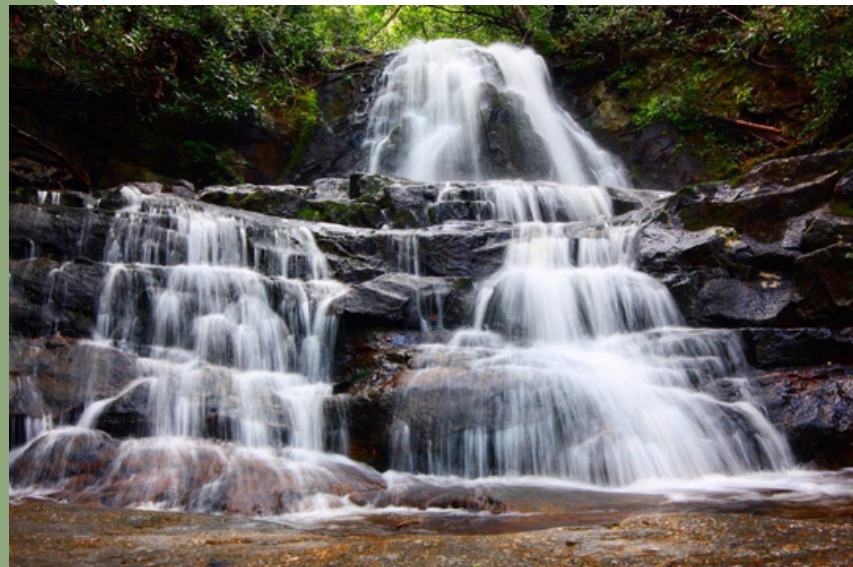
Extracts promoted by some dietary treatment / cure for cancer

Smoky mountains- Adventures

Inside the park you can do many activities - - >trekking.
capture the beauty of this place.

- The most suggestive route is the Appalachian Trail, between the **mountains** and the **valleys**, touching some of the attractions:

--> Charlies Bunion peak, with a rock that offers a beautiful view.



There are also **waterfalls**: the two best routes are to Laurel Falls or Rainbow Falls;
In addition to hiking, other activities - - > bike rides.

Smoky mountain- curiosity

Some of the Oldest Mountains in the World:

- Rocks - - > **Proterozoic Era**, 800-545 million years ago.
- **Fossils** - - > **450 million years old.**
- The **mountains** - - > 200 to 300 million years old.



Most Visited National Park in the United States:

12,547,743 visitors in 2019,

More than 90 Structures Preserved by the Park:

- one of the best collections of log buildings of USA
- >preserved or rehabilitated in the park.



Animals!!!

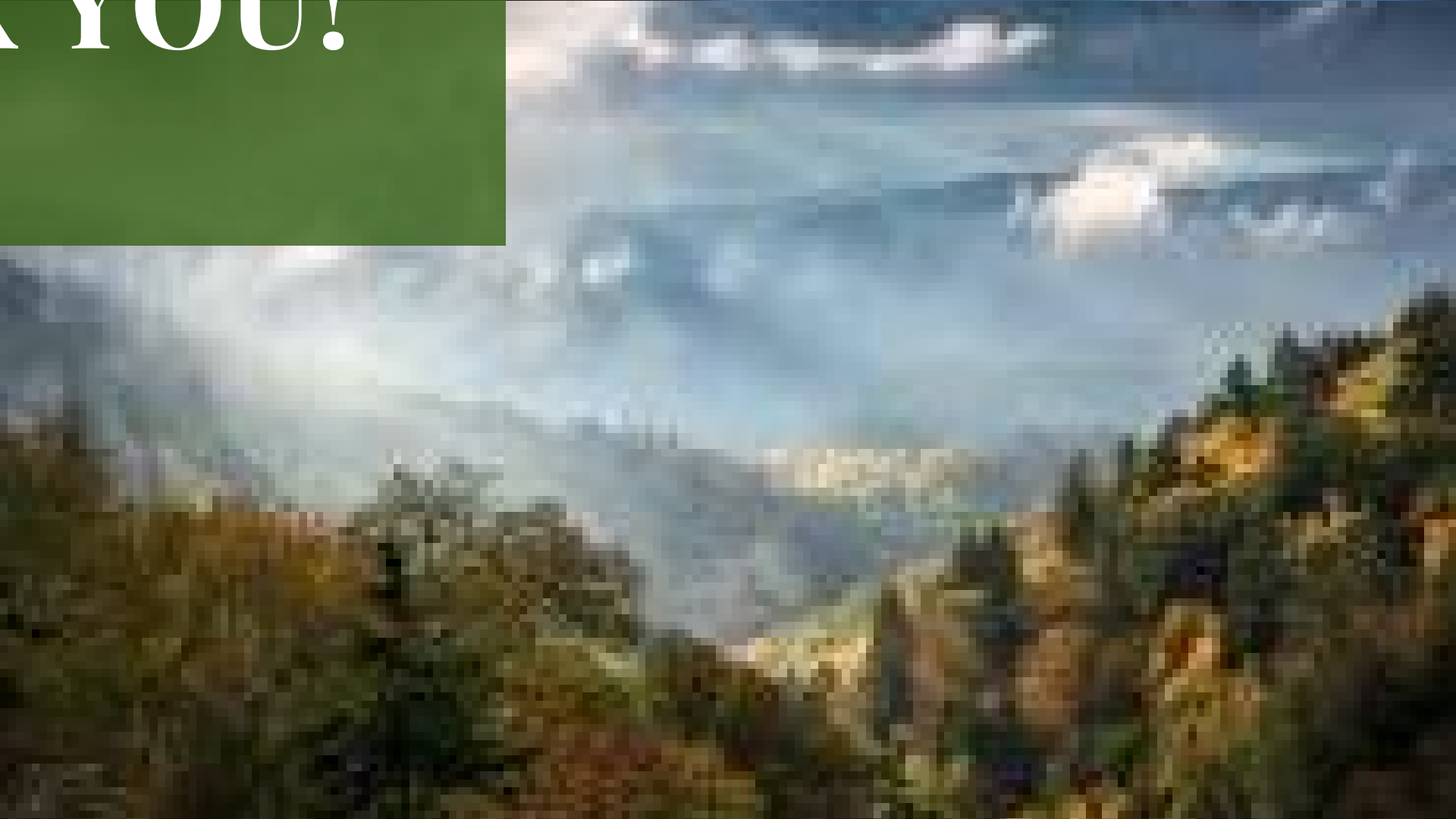
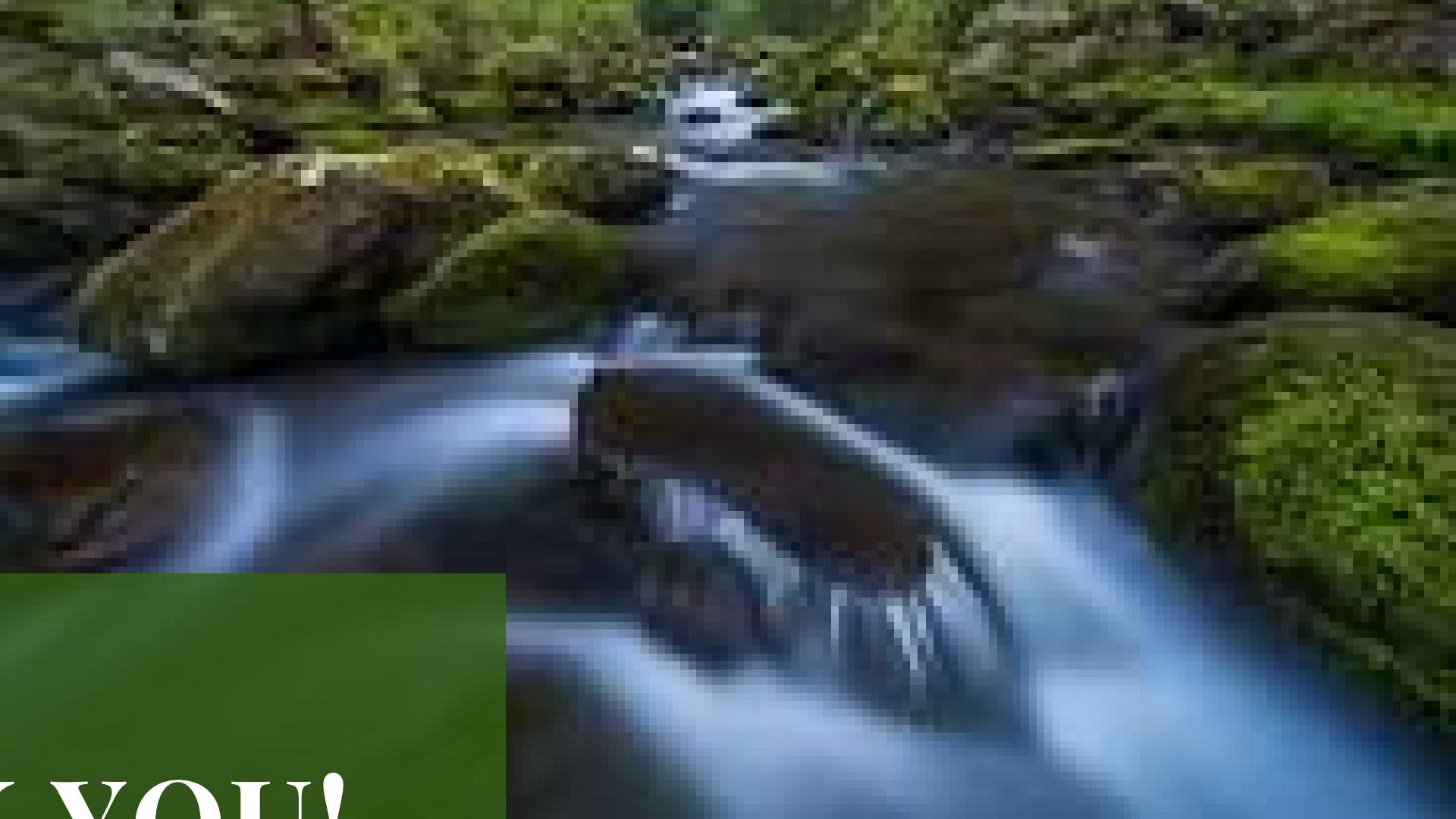
- Black bear
- Over 200 species of birds 🦉
- Climate? → Flying squirrels and high elevations, omnivores



Animals!!!

- 700 miles of streams → Brook trout and Smoky Madtom endemic and native
- hunting, trapping, changing land uses, and deforestation.
- Endangered park animals Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Natural fragmentation





THANK YOU!