At the northern edge of the continent, close to the Arctic Circle, stands the highest mountain in North America. A mantle sustaining the form of civilization, Mount McKinley is home to myriad wildlife that lives there year-round. The park covers an area of roughly 6 million acres (24,000 km²), making it one of the nation's largest national parks. In 1902 it was established to protect the wilderness values of the park, separating the most ancient rocks in Alaska from the high peaks of the Alaska Range. Mount McKinley was placed on the map.

Men and Mount McKinley

President James Garfield was shot and killed in 1881, beginning a trend of assassinations that included President McKinley himself in 1901. In 1914, the United States purchased Alaska from Russia for $7.2 million, and in 1923, the Alaska National Forest. Then in 1938, the United States created the Mount McKinley National Park.

Animals: The Challenge of Life in the North

The park is home to a variety of wildlife, including grizzly bears, wolves, caribou, and the endangered Dall sheep. Wolves are the park's top predator, with a population of around 70 individuals. Grizzly bears are also present, with around 200 individuals. Caribou are a common sight, with populations ranging from 1,000 to 5,000. Dall sheep are found in the park's high alpine areas. The park also supports a variety of birds, including bald eagles, golden eagles, and peregrine falcons. The park is home to the largest population of grizzly bears in the lower 48 states. The park is also home to a variety of mammals, including moose, elk, and wolverines. The park is a popular destination for bird watchers, with over 240 species of birds recorded in the park. The park is also home to a variety of plants, including many species of coniferous trees and deciduous trees. The park is also home to a variety of insects, including mosquitoes, which can be a nuisance for visitors.