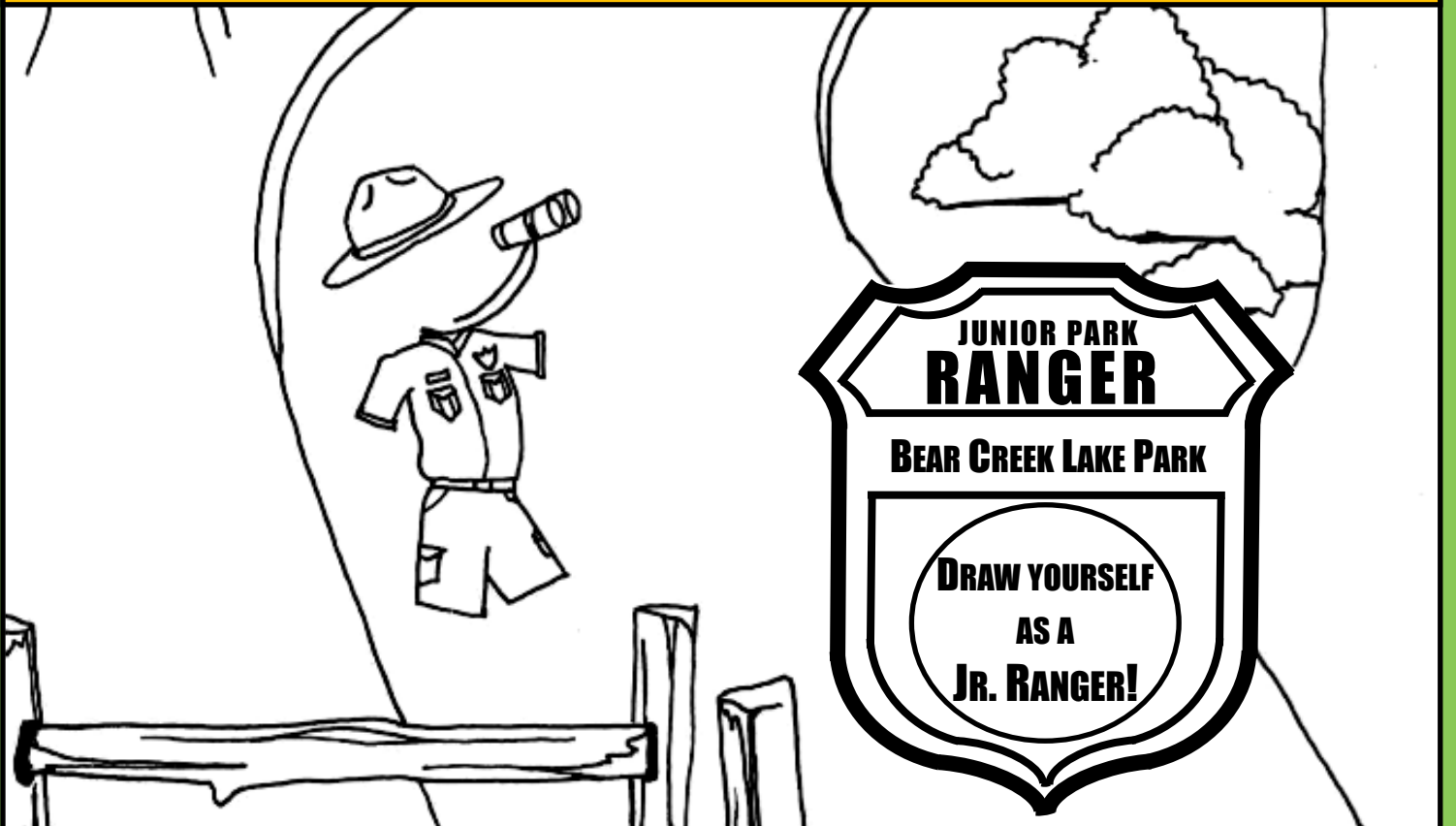




JR. RANGER

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:



TO EARN YOUR JR. RANGER BADGE:

- **4-7 years old must complete 4 pages**
- **8-10 years old must complete 7 pages**
- **11+ years old must complete 10 pages**

When you are all done, bring this book to the Visitor Center to be sworn in and to receive your badge!



HERE ARE SOME JR. RANGER RULES FROM RANGER URSA TO FOLLOW ON YOUR ADVENTURES!

- Plan ahead – bring water, sunscreen, and snacks!
- Make sure that you leave nature better than you found it! Take only photos and memories, leave the flowers, rocks, and nature behind for other users to see and enjoy.
- Be respectful of wildlife, do not chase or try to feed them and remember to keep a safe distance.
- **HAVE FUN!!**

Leave-no-Trace Word Search

Leave-no-Trace(LNT) is a set of rules that everyone should follow when they are out in nature.

This makes sure that nature, and you, stay safe and healthy! The seven principles (rules) are written below. Once you read them, find the certain words that relate to LNT in the word search.

Words appear in all directions!

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Camp and travel on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of others.

CAMERA

CLEANUP

COURTEOUS

DURABLE SURFACES

HAPPY

HEALTHY

LEAVE NATURE

LEAVE NO TRACKS

LNT

NO TRASH

PACK IT OUT

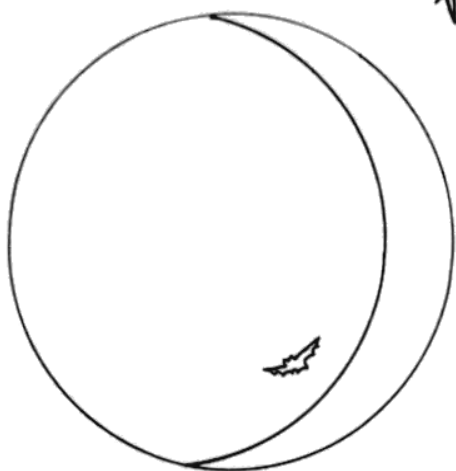
PREPARE

PUT OUT FIRE

RESPECT WILDLIFE

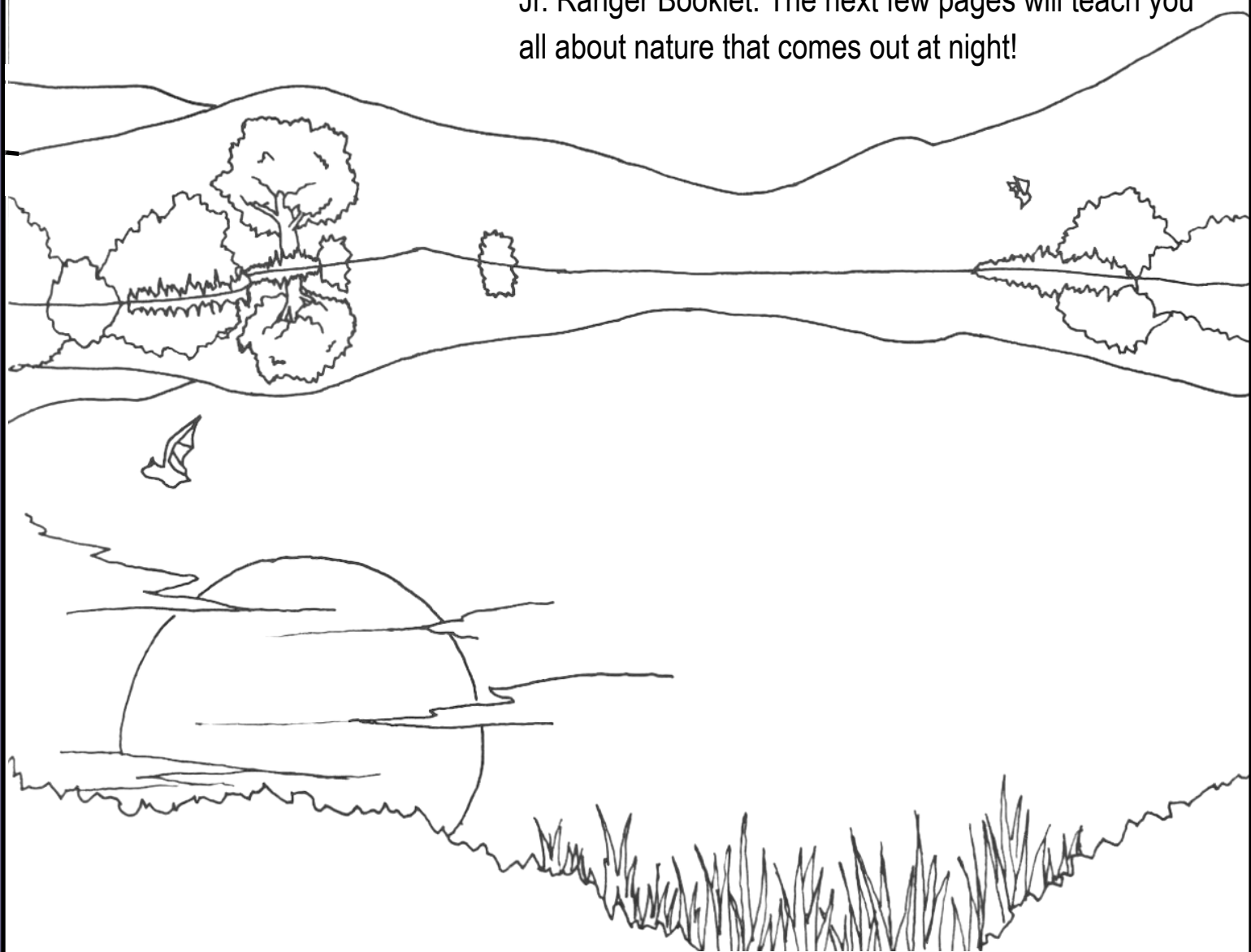
STAY ON TRAIL

C	A	S	L	P	U	T	O	U	T	F	I	R	E	Q	D	L	C
O	L	Y	K	N	B	I	V	U	A	P	S	B	V	J	X	N	A
E	H	E	A	L	T	H	Y	C	A	U	G	I	L	N	O	O	M
K	V	W	I	C	O	U	R	T	E	O	U	S	V	H	A	T	E
P	A	C	K	I	T	O	U	T	F	K	P	G	W	T	H	R	R
R	E	S	P	E	C	T	W	I	L	D	L	I	F	E	A	A	A
M	C	N	R	L	S	T	A	Y	O	N	T	R	A	I	L	S	H
I	X	L	E	A	V	E	N	A	T	U	R	E	L	H	M	H	A
O	U	V	E	X	U	P	P	R	E	P	A	R	E	O	Z	R	P
X	B	V	C	L	E	A	N	U	P	I	Z	R	B	B	L	G	P
J	L	D	U	R	A	B	L	E	S	U	R	F	A	C	E	S	Y
W	M	X	D	L	E	A	V	E	N	O	T	R	A	C	K	S	N

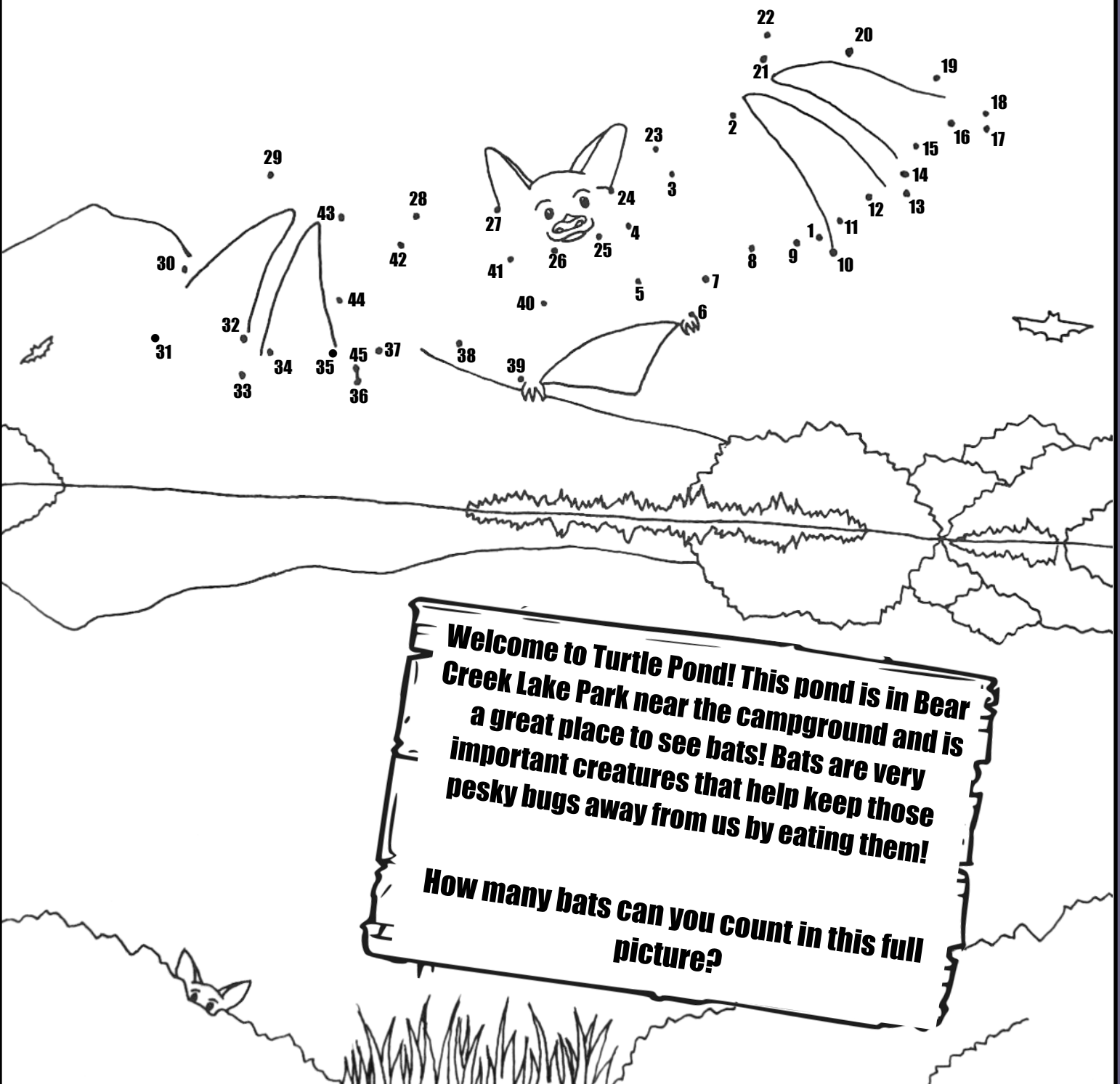


Nocturnal Nature!

Welcome to the Nocturnal Nature portion of your Jr. Ranger Booklet. The next few pages will teach you all about nature that comes out at night!



**Connect the dots from #1 to #45 to
discover a very important animal!**





WHY COME OUT AT NIGHT?

Most animals are active in the time between sunrise and sunset, but some animals sleep during the day and come out at night instead—we call those animals nocturnal! There are many reasons animals are nocturnal: there is less competition for food, it's safer from predators, the temperature is cooler, and it is easier to hide at night.

CIRCLE THE THINGS THAT WOULD HELP A NOCTURNAL ANIMAL!

Big eyes	Long whiskers	Antlers
Good sense of smell	Good sense of hearing	No ears
Bright colors	Dark colors	Move quietly

Give one reason you think nocturnal animals might have dark colors?

Try Out the Nocturnal Life!

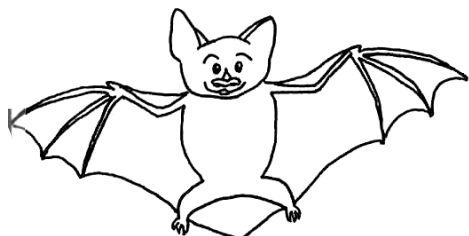
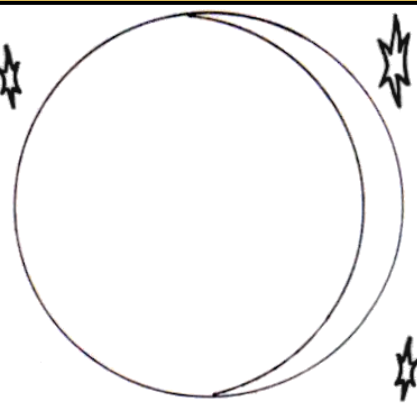
With an adult, go outside at night and try being nocturnal for a while. Pay attention to all of your senses:

- Does the air feel different at night?
- Can you smell different things at night?
- Are you able to tell what color things are?
- Try closing your eyes and listening. What do you hear?



MATCH THE FACT TO THE ANIMAL!

Draw a line from the animal to its match fact!



BAT

My amazing sense of touch in my feet helps me find tasty snacks! They get even better when I put them underwater!



OWL

Most animals like to hide but I love to stand out and my fur color proves it! I have no fear from most predators because I have an interesting way to defend myself.



RACCOON

I can eat up to 1,000 insects in one hour! That's like you eating 20 pizzas in one night!

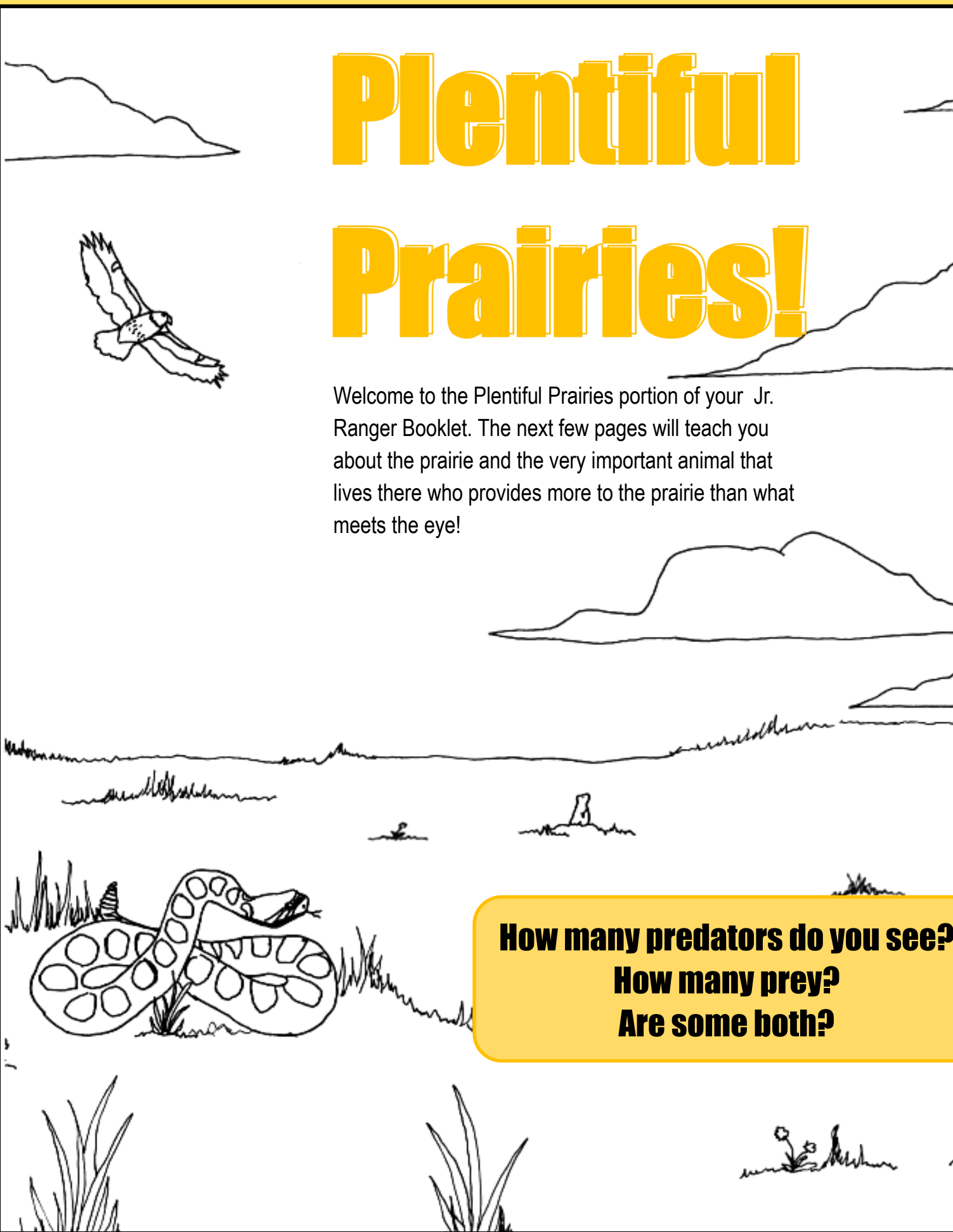


SKUNK

Most people think my eyesight is the best adaptation I have but it's actually my hearing! I can hear not only in front of me but also above, below and all around me!

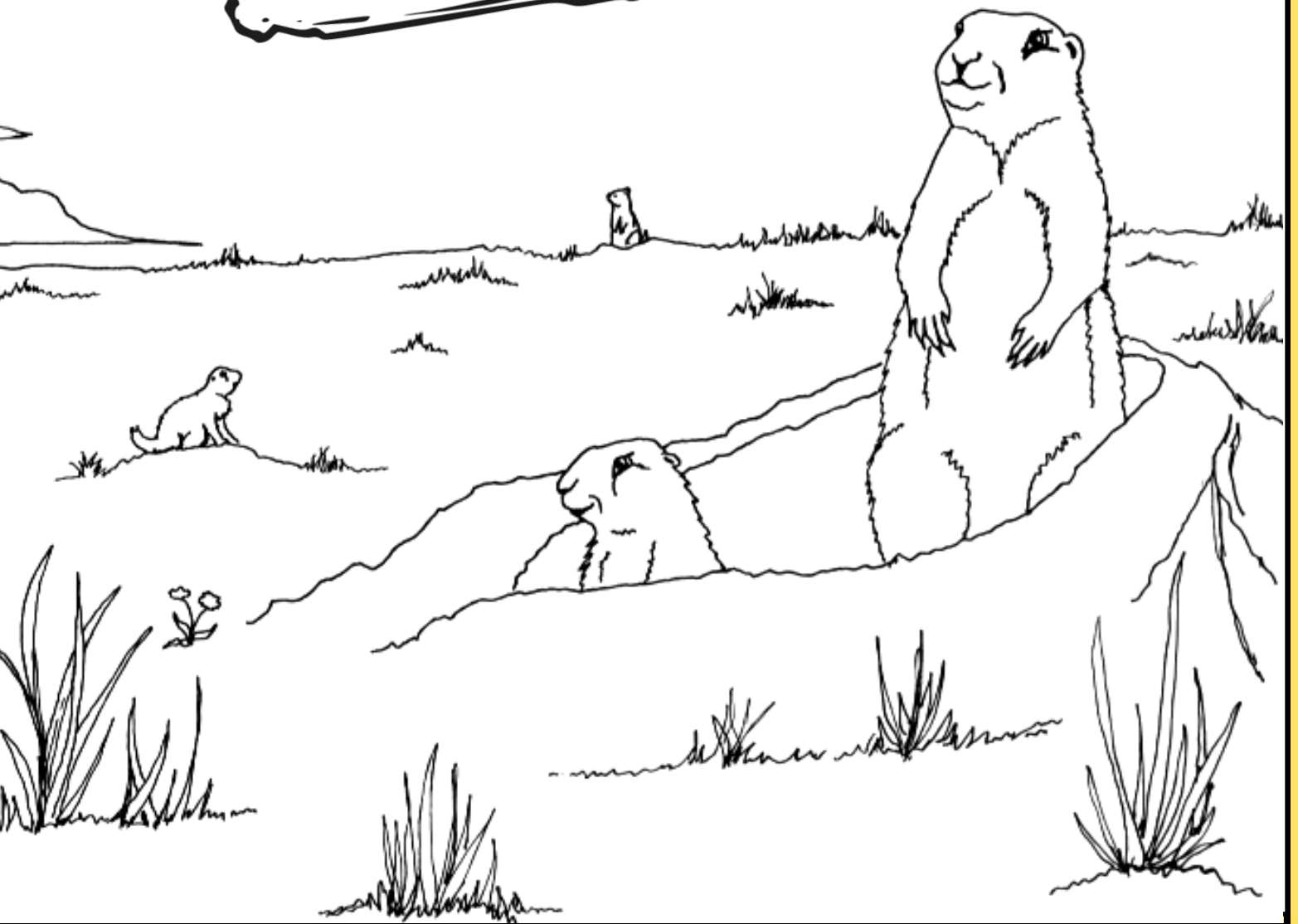
Plentiful Prairies!

Welcome to the Plentiful Prairies portion of your Jr. Ranger Booklet. The next few pages will teach you about the prairie and the very important animal that lives there who provides more to the prairie than what meets the eye!



**How many predators do you see?
How many prey?
Are some both?**

In the prairie animals do not have consistent water available from ponds, streams, or lakes. So how do prairie animals get their water? Through their food! All animals that live on the prairie have adapted to get enough water just from eating what is around!

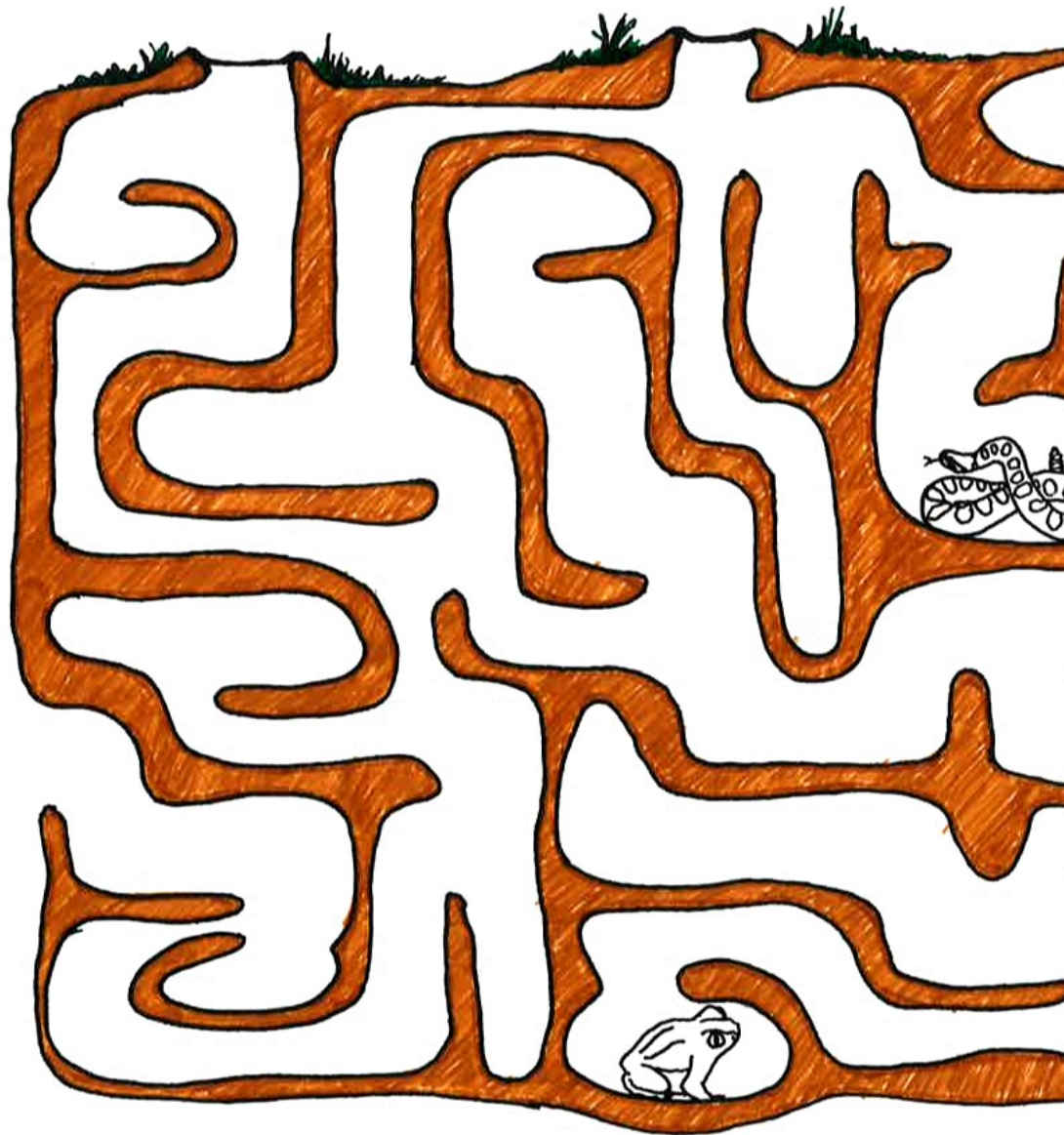


PRAIRIE DOGS PROVIDE A WHOLE WORLD UNDER THE GROUND!

Prairies can have over 80 species of animals, 300 types of birds and hundreds of plants living in them! How can that be? Prairies look like big areas with nothing except grasses, but if you look deeper you can find a whole world that provides for the entire prairie! That world is the underground burrows of the prairie dogs.

These “barking dogs” — a name given to them because of their yip yip sounds that they make to each other — and provide food and their burrows provide shelter to many different animals. Can you find all the different animals that depend on the prairie dog?

This prairie dog needs to get to its friends on the other side of this maze of burrows! Help it find its way through, but watch out, there are more than just prairie dogs in these burrows!



ANIMAL WORD SCRAMBLE!

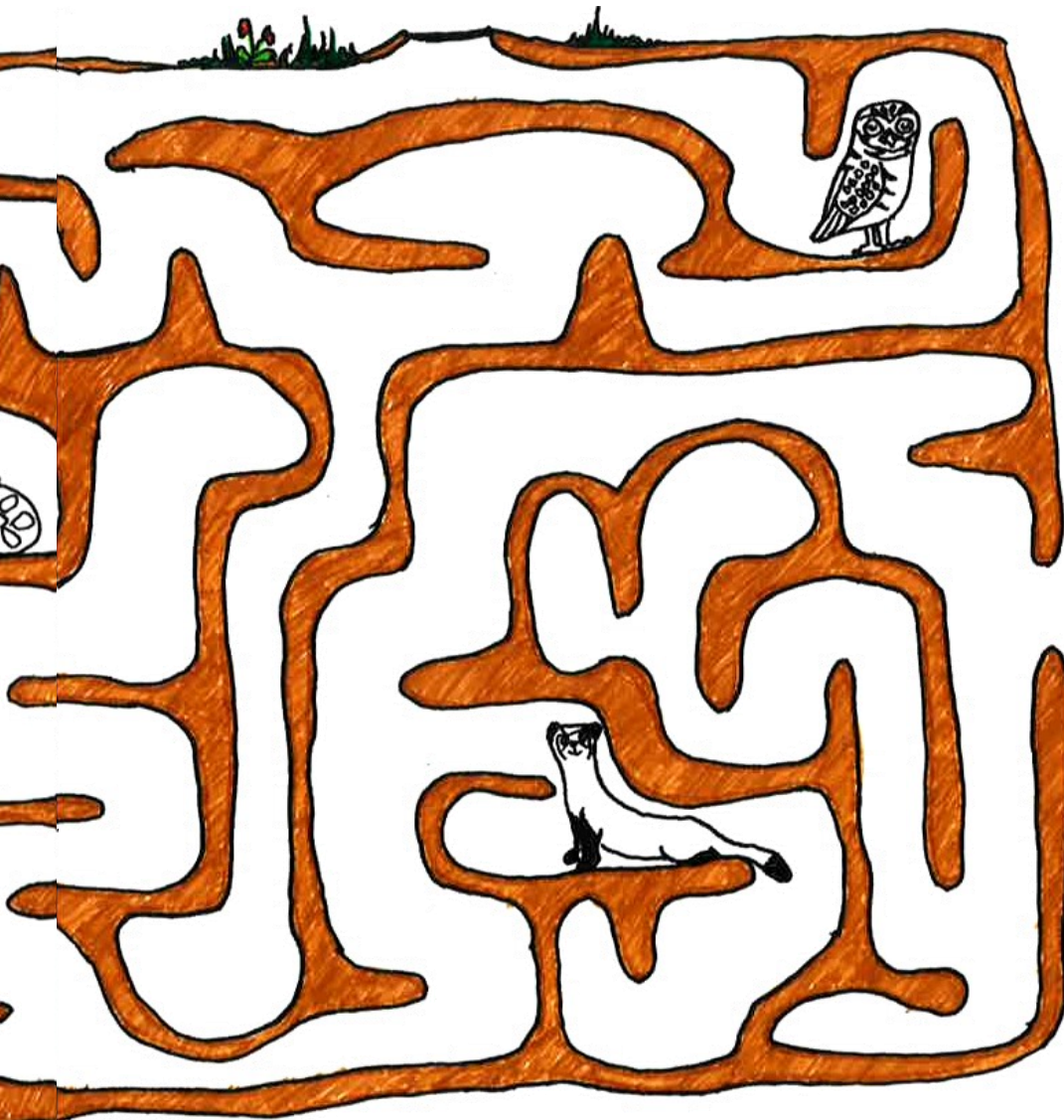
UNSCRAMBLE THE LETTERS TO FIND OUT THE ANIMAL'S NAME!

I am a top predator on the prairie! My coat matches the tall grasses and helps me hide! I am a ...

YOTOCE _____

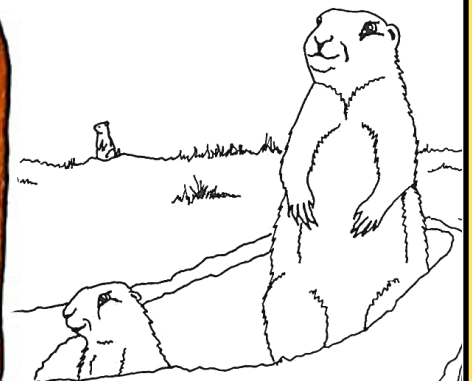
I cannot survive without prairie dogs! They feed me as well as give me shelter. I was thought to be extinct, TWICE! I am a ...

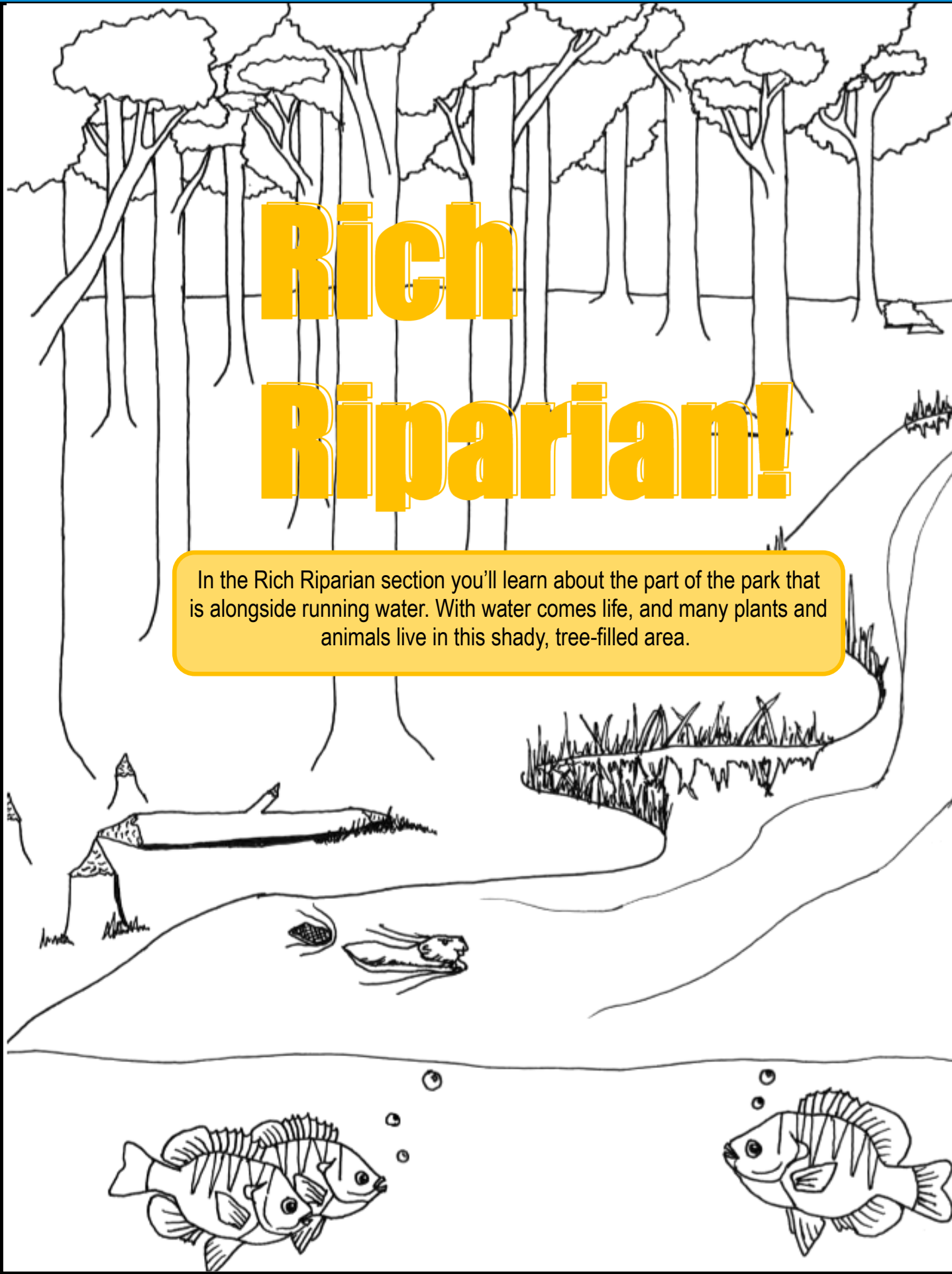
CLAKB-TOEDOF ERETRF _____



Did you find all the animals in the maze?

- Black-Footed Ferret
- Rattlesnake
- Toad
- Burrowing Owl





Rich Riparian!

In the Rich Riparian section you'll learn about the part of the park that is alongside running water. With water comes life, and many plants and animals live in this shady, tree-filled area.



Hike Activity

Go for a hike and circle any signs of animals you find:

Feather

Nest/Burrow

Tracks

Scat

Fur

Bite Marks

Did you know that riparian habitats are an important part of keeping our waters clean? They act as filters for the water flowing through them, getting rid of pollution and sediment.

They are also rich in nutrients that provide food for trees and plants which then provide shade and oxygen for the many animals that live there!

FOOD WEB ACTIVITY

The water in riparian areas allows many plants and trees to grow, which provides good habitat for all kinds of animals to live. Some animals eat the plants, some eat other animals, and some eat both! Draw arrows to show what the different animals eat.

BAT



TREE



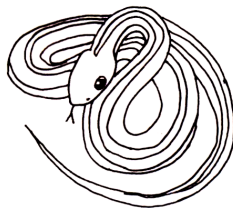
BERRIES



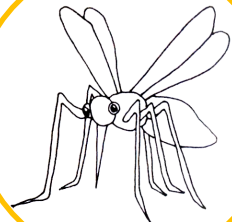
BEAVER



GARTER SNAKE



MOSQUITO



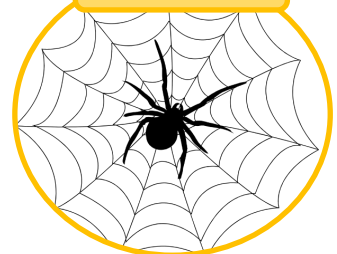
RACCOON



FISH



SPIDER



RICH RIPARIAN SECTION

RIPARIAN BINGO

As you explore along the creek, try to get a BINGO! By crossing out four boxes in a row, either vertically, horizontally, or diagonally.

Find a cottonwood tree.
Draw its leaf below.

Sit quietly for two
minutes. Can you hear
the creek?

Find two bird nests.



Touch the water. How
does it feel?

Count the birds you see.
How many did you see?

Find an insect. What kind
is it?

Look at the sky, is it:
Cloudy
Clear
Stormy
Sunny
Circle which one it is.

Find a dead tree. Look for
ways that animals are
using it.

How many different types
of trees can you find?

Spot a soaring bird.



Look at the creek. List
any animals you see in
the water.

Find an animal track.
Sketch it below.

Find grass. Is it green or
brown?

Find something you want
to remember. Sketch it
below.

Find a seed. Does it get
spread by wind, getting
attached to fur, or getting
eaten?

Find something colorful.
What is it?

VISITOR CENTER DETECTIVE

Come to the Visitor Center and use the guide to find the animals listed below and fill in the missing words in each sentence. Put the circled letters in the spaces below to answer the following question:



What is the name of the bird commonly seen hunting for fish at Bear Creek Reservoir?

— — — — —

Mountain Lion: Like all cats, the mountain lion is strictly a — — — — — — —.

Coyote: These — — — — — animals use calls and yips to communicate with each other.

Western Prairie Rattlesnake: This venomous snake is an important part of the — — — — — ecosystem.

Belted Kingfisher: This bird dives — — — — — — — to grab its prey from the water.

Eastern Screech-Owl: The short — — tufts and streaky chest help this tiny owl camouflage.

North American Beaver: Beavers are a — — — — — species because of the way their ponds create valuable habitat for other animals.

PARK HISTORY

Read the history of the park on the sign in the Visitor Center and use the word bank to fill in the blanks.

Over 100 years ago, Bear Creek Lake Park was the location of the town of _____. At the time, Mt. Carbon was mined for _____ and _____, which was sent by rail to Denver. Nearby, the area that is now called Soda Lakes was quarried for minerals including _____.

Bear Creek Dam was built as part of the Tri Lakes Project along with _____ and Cherry Creek after the flood of _____. Together, these three dams protect the Denver Metro area from _____. In 2013, after a major rainstorm, the water level in Bear Creek Reservoir rose _____ vertical feet above its normal level!

Word Bank Below!

- 55
- Baking Soda
- Coal
- Denver
- 1965
- Flowers
- Cowen
- Floods
- Bigfoot
- Chatfield
- Clay
- Marshmallows

INTERVIEW PARK STAFF

FIND SOMEONE WHO WORKS AT THE PARK AND FILL IN THE ANSWERS!

What is your name and what do you do?

What is your favorite part of your job?

Ask your own question!

JR. RANGER BOOK ANSWER KEY

.	.	.	L	P	U	T	O	U	T	F	I	R	E	.	.	.	C	
.	.	.	.	N	N	A
.	H	E	A	L	T	H	Y	O	M
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.	.	.	.	L	E	A	V	E	N	O	T	R	A	C	K	S	.	.

Nocturnal Section:

Seven bats can be found in the picture.

Things that help a nocturnal animal : Big eyes, Good sense of smell , Long whiskers , Good sense of hearing , Dark colors , Move quietly .

Match the Facts: Raccoon – Sense of Touch! / Skunk – Stands out! / Bat – Eats 1000 mosquitos! / Owl – Great hearing!

Prairie Section:

Front Page – 2 predators (Hawk & Snake), 2 prey (Prairie Dogs & Snake), 1 both (Prairie Rattlesnake!)

Word Scramble – Coyote, Black- Footed Ferret

Riparian Section:

Food Web Activity– Bat eats mosquitos/ Snake eats fish and spider/ Beaver eats tree/ Fish eats mosquito and spider/ Raccoon eats fish, snake, berries, Spider/ spider eats mosquito/ Mosquito eats raccoon, bat and beaver.

Visitor Center Detective Answers.

Mountain Lion: **CARNIVORE**

Coyote: **SOCIAL**

Western Rattlesnake: **PRAIRIE**

Belted Kingfisher: **HEADFIRST**

Eastern Screech-Owl: **EAR**

North American Beaver: **KEY-
STONE**

Final Question Answer: **OSPREY**

Visitor Center History Fill in the Blank:

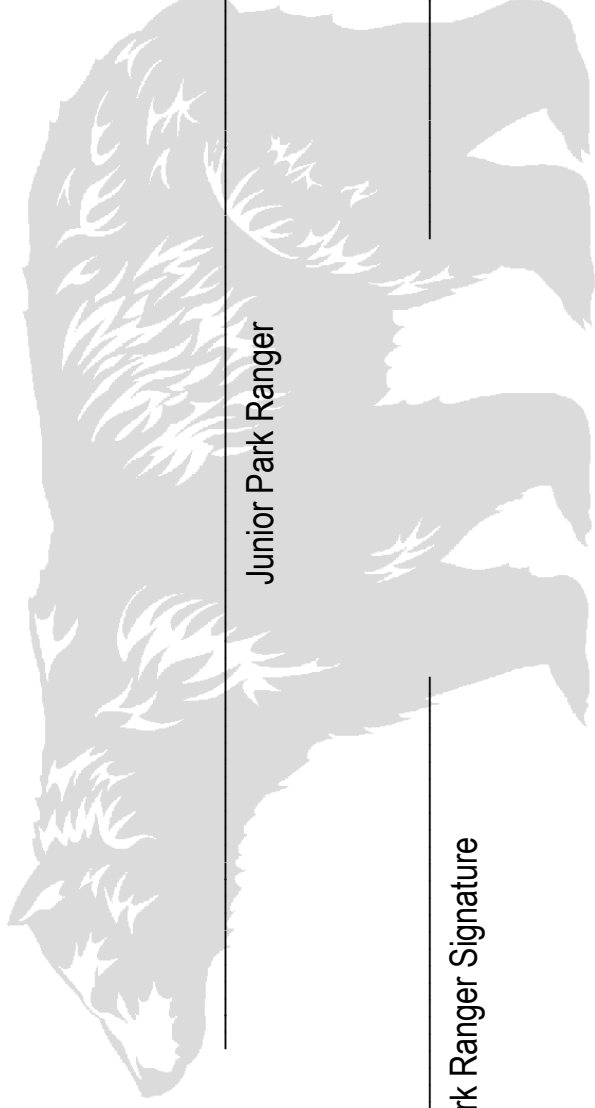
Over 100 years ago, Bear Creek Lake Park was the location of the town of **Cowen**. At the time, Mt. Carbon was mined for **Coal** and **Clay**, which was sent by rail to Denver. Nearby, the area that is now called Soda Lakes was quarried for minerals including **Baking Soda**.

Bear Creek Dam was built as part of the Tri Lakes Project along with **Chatfield** and Cherry Creek after the flood of **1965**. Together, these three dams protect the Denver Metro area from **Floods**. In 2013, after a major rainstorm, the water level in Bear Creek Reservoir rose **55** vertical feet above its normal level!

JUNIOR PARK RANGER CERTIFICATE

BEAR CREEK LAKE PARK
LAKEWOOD COLORADO

Junior Park Ranger Pledge: I, , promise to care for and protect nature as a Junior Park Ranger! I will watch over its wildlife, plants, water, historical artifacts and all that nature encompasses as I explore. I pledge to continue to learn and protect the natural world as well as teach others what I have learned.

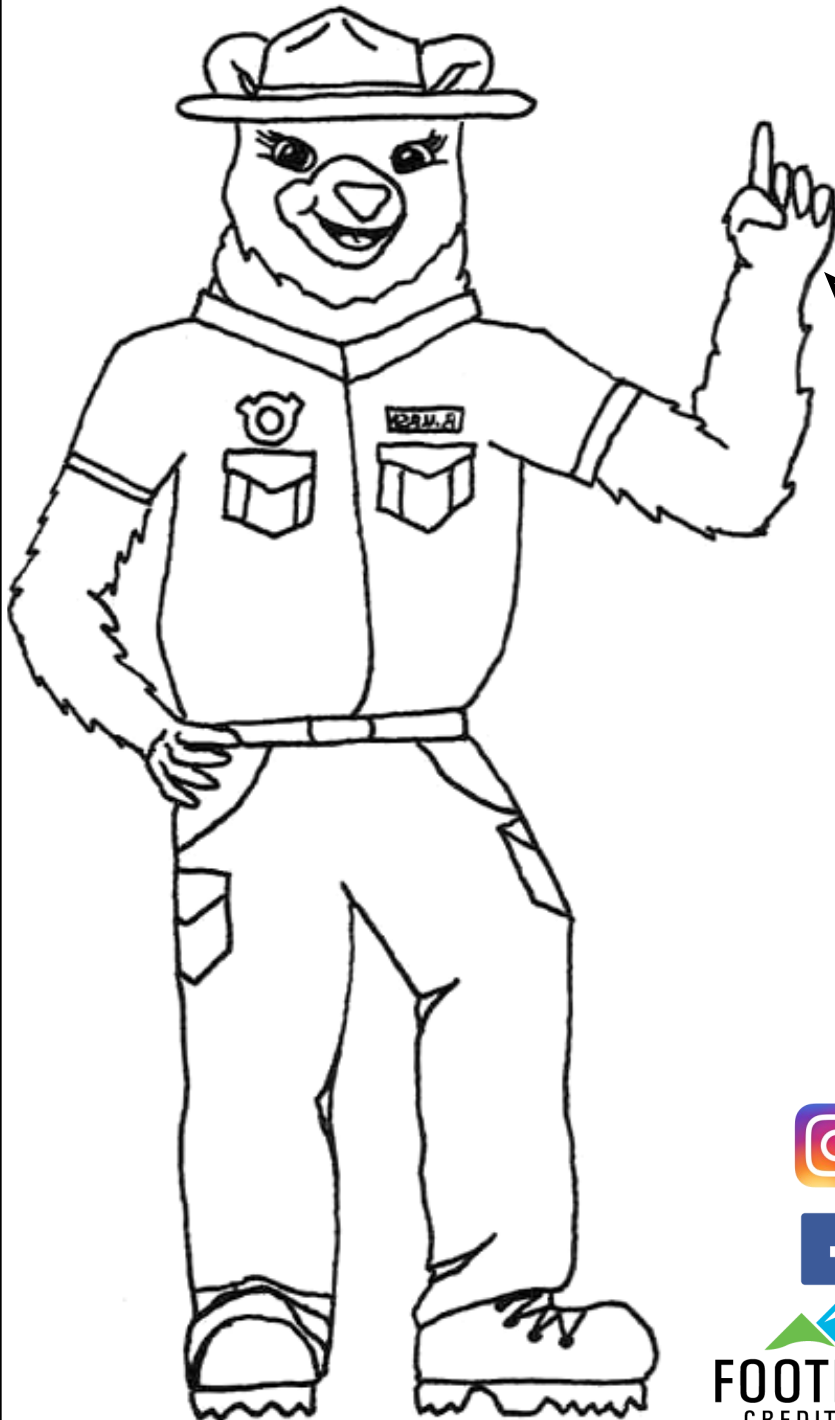


Junior Park Ranger

Park Ranger Signature

Date

The City of Lakewood Parks Division is committed to conserving the natural areas of the city while providing safe, enjoyable recreational experiences and quality environmental education for the community.



Share your park adventures and finished booklet! Tag us on social media and use the hashtag #LakewoodParks.



@Lakewoodparks



@bearcreeklakepark



Lakewood
Parks

Bear Creek Lake Park

15600 W. Morrison Rd.
Lakewood, CO, 80465