



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Amistad National Recreation Area

Amistad



This book belongs to _____

Junior Ranger Activity Book

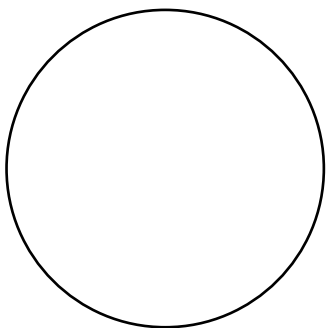
Amistad National Recreation Area Junior Ranger

having completed all requirements is hereby
awarded a certificate of excellence.

Ranger signature _____

The Junior Ranger Pledge

I am proud to be a National Park Service Junior Ranger.
I promise to appreciate, respect, and protect all national
park places. I also promise to continue learning about the
landscape, plants, animals and history of these special places.
I will share what I learn with my friends and family.



Become a Junior Ranger!

Are you ready to become an Amistad National Recreation Area Junior Ranger? To earn your patch, follow these easy steps:

1. There are a certain number of pages in the Amistad Junior Ranger Booklet for you to complete depending on your age.
 - 6-7: complete 3 pages and 1 activity
 - 8-10: complete 5 pages and 1 activity
 - 11 and up: complete 7 pages and 1 activity

Activities:

- Attend at least one ranger program and have a park ranger sign below.
Title: _____ Date: _____
Park Ranger: _____
What did you learn? _____
- If no program is available, watch the Amistad movie in the Visitor Center.
- Interview a park ranger during your visit. See page 15 for activity.

2. Share your book with the Park Ranger at the Visitor Center. The ranger will check it and you will recite the Junior Ranger pledge and earn your official Junior Ranger patch and badge!



If you did not get a chance to finish or turn in your Junior Ranger Booklet, mail it to us and we will check it and mail your Junior Ranger Badge and Patch.

Amistad National Recreation Area
Attn: Visitor Center
4121 Veterans Blvd
Del Rio, TX 78840

Wrapping It Up

You are almost done with your Junior Ranger Book! Check off the list below to make sure you have not missed any of the required activities or pages from the book.

- ___ Completed one activity.
- ___ Completed the required pages according to your age.
- ___ Had lots of fun learning about Amistad National Recreation Area.

Become a Web Ranger



Do you want to keep learning about your National Parks? Check out our WebRanger site online! There you can continue learning about other National Park Sites or about other cool topics that might interest you.

Ask an adult to help you get on to the website and set up your very own account.

www.nps.gov/webrangers

Stay Connected with Us!



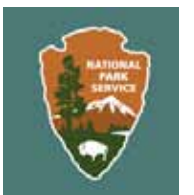
@AmistadNPS



@AmistadNPS



@AmistadNPS



www.nps.gov/amis

Don't Move A Mussel!

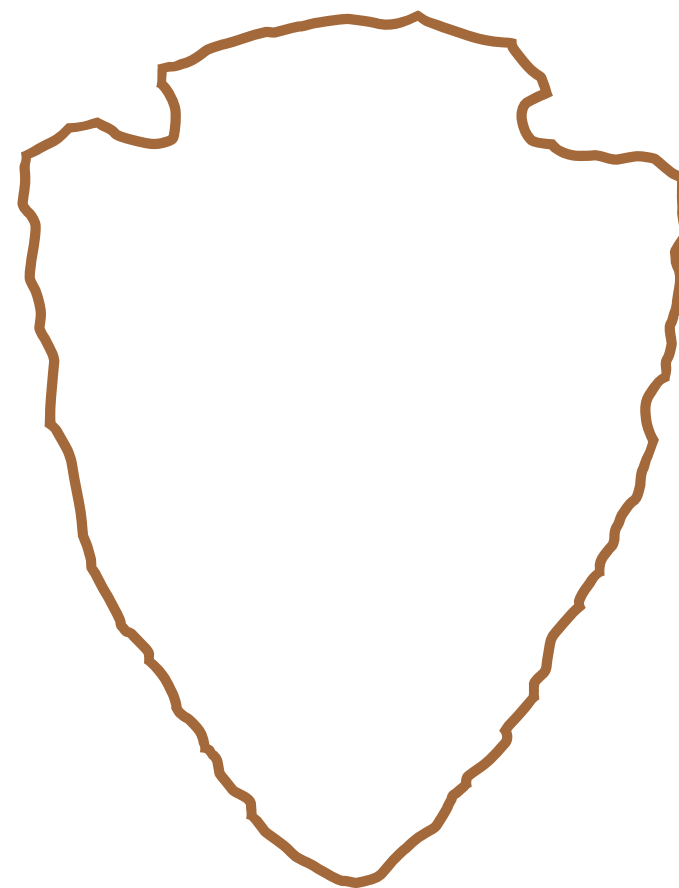
Learn about the non-native invasive Quagga and Zebra mussels.

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



The **Quagga** and **Zebra** mussels are two **species** that are bad news for lakes in North America. They were accidentally brought from Russia in the late 1980's. The Quagga and Zebra mussels are **non-native** and very **invasive**. This means that they are harmful to the **ecosystem** and once introduced into a new ecosystem they can quickly over-run it. Quagga and zebra mussels are **filter** feeders, meaning that they get their food by filtering it out of the **water** around them. To make sure that Quagga and Zebra **mussels** are not introduced to **Amistad**, boaters must make sure their **boats** are **clean**, air **dried**, and all visible **plants** are removed from the boat and trailer. Another helpful tip is to not reuse bait that was used in a **contaminated** lake.

The National Park Service Arrowhead



The arrowhead is the emblem of the National Park Service. You will see it in every National Park you visit. It is found at the entrance to the park and at Visitor Centers and other buildings.

To the left is the outline of the N.P.S. arrowhead, but it is incomplete.

Find a National Park Service arrowhead and complete the drawing.

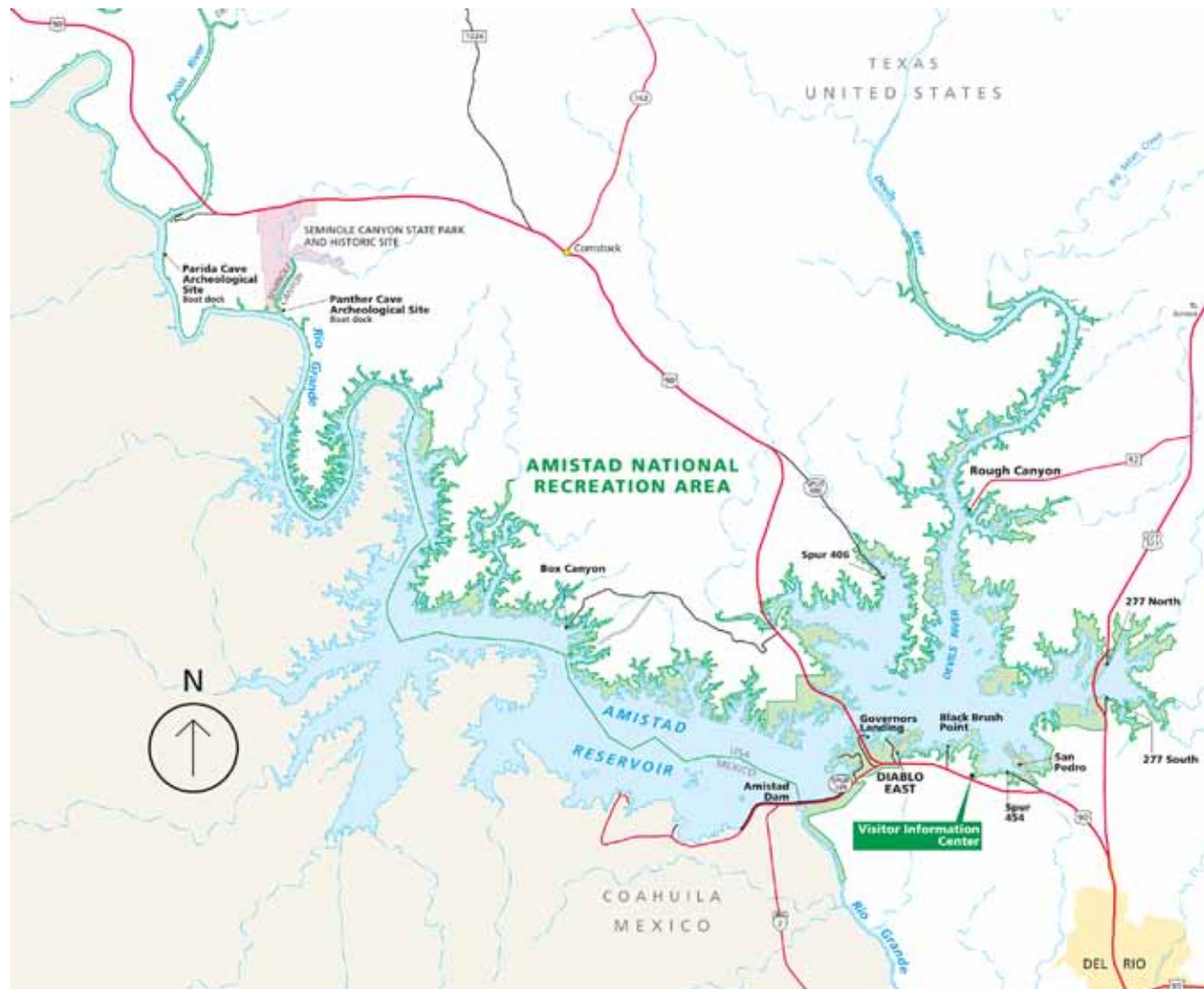
Fill in the Blanks!

Each item in the National Park Service arrowhead represents a feature protected within all National Park sites. Look at the design of the arrowhead and find the items that fit in the blanks below:

1. The _____ represents all vegetation.
2. The _____ represents all wildlife.
3. The _____ represents all land forms, scenery, and recreational opportunities.
4. The _____ represents all waters.
5. The _____ shape of the outline represents historical and cultural treasures.

Orienteering Park Map

When visiting a new place, it is important to look at a map to become familiar with where you are. Answer the questions below to become familiar with Amistad National Recreation area.



1. What direction is Del Rio from Amistad? _____
- 2 Circle the Amistad Dam. The Amistad Dam and the Rio Grande serve as the border between which two countries? _____
3. Look at the map, which 3 rivers flow into the Amistad Reservoir?

4. If you were at the Visitor Center and wanted to see the Pecos River, which highway and direction would you have to travel to reach it? _____
5. Along the Rio Grande River there are two important archeological sites where beautiful rock art is present that was drawn by people thousands of years ago. What are the names of the two sites? _____

3.

Bird Watching

Did you know that Amistad is in the path of a major migration route? This means that no matter what time of the year it is there are always birds that can be seen in the park.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Name Scramble

Information

Did you see it?



13	15	3	11	9	14	7
2	9	18	4			

This bird defends its breeding territories from mid-February to late September. The males can be heard singing loudly day or night in the spring and summer.



9	14	3	1		4	15	22	5

Even though this small dove is usually attracted to towns and cities it can be spotted usually with its partner in the Amistad area throughout the year.



2	12	1	3	11			
22	21	12	20	21	18	5	

All black with the exception of white patches at the tips of their wings. Usually seen flying in flocks with Turkey Vultures and other predators. This scavenger can be seen in the Amistad area year round.



15	19	16	18	5	25	

This raptor catches fish by diving into the water and grabbing them with its powerful talons. Usually seen in the Amistad area when they are migrating between their winter and summer grounds.

Meet a Park Ranger

Rock Art and You

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

What do you do as a park ranger? _____

How long have you worked at Amistad National Recreation Area? _____

How long have you worked for the National Park Service? _____

Why did you become a park ranger? _____

What is your favorite part of your job? _____

.....
After you become a Junior Ranger, you promise to appreciate, respect, and protect all national park places.

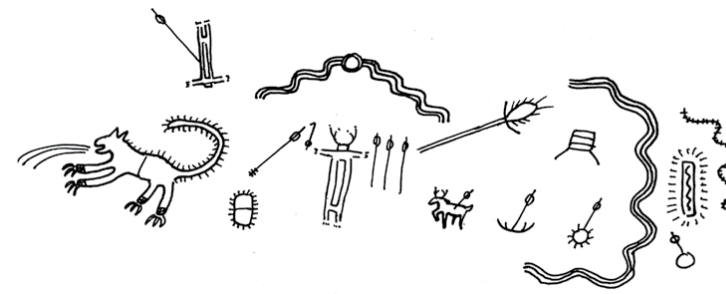
Try and solve these park problems.

While walking through the park you see someone trying to feed a wild animal. Why is this unsafe?



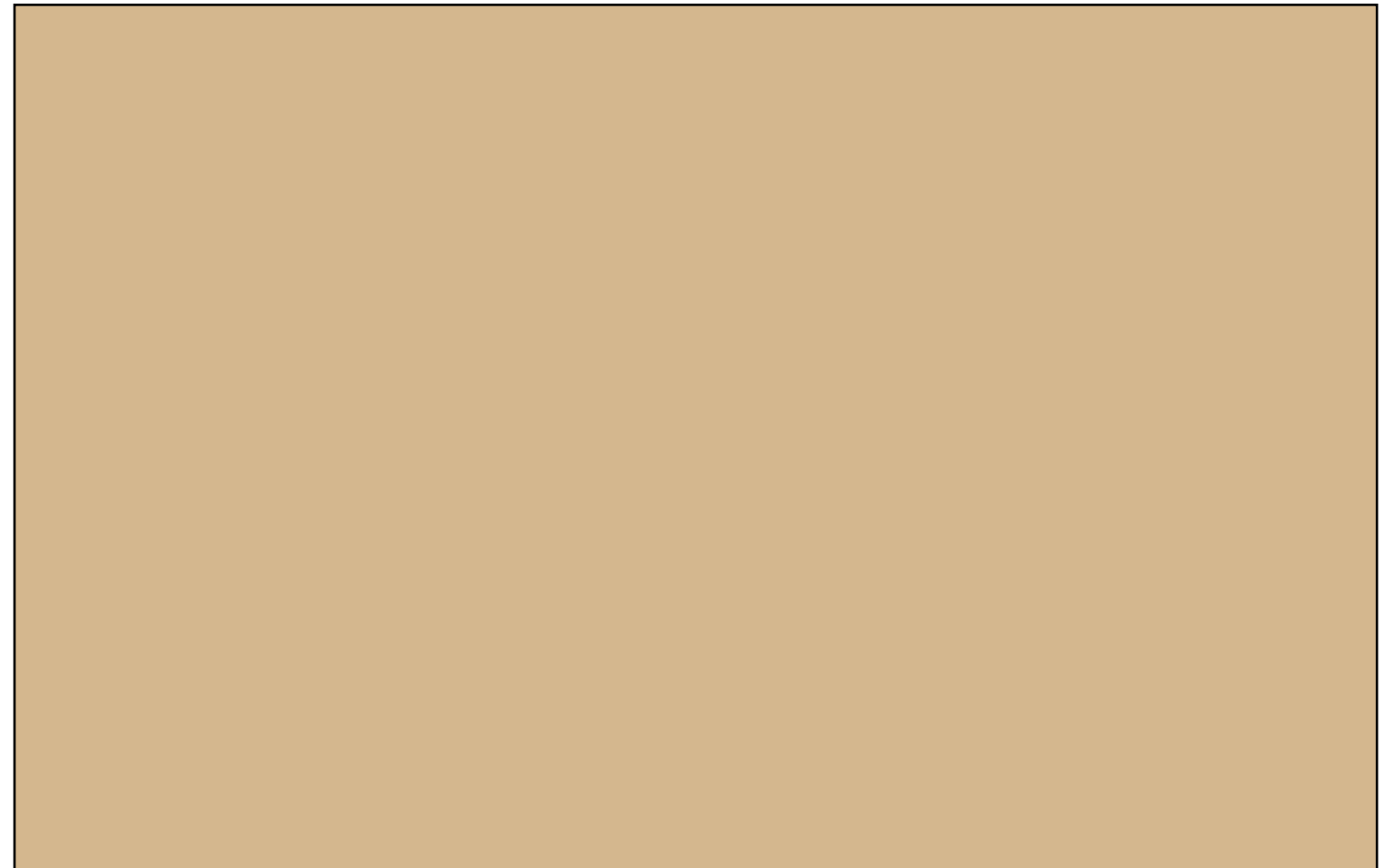
You see someone picking up a rock that turns out to be an arrowhead. They are excited to take it home. Why is this against the rules?











About 4000 years ago, the people who lived in the Amistad area were artists. They painted beautiful and interesting pictographs on cave walls. Panther Cave and Parida Cave are only 2 of many sites in the area where this artwork can be seen. Since the ancient people are not here to tell us exactly what the message was in the pictographs, we are left to try to imagine what they wanted to teach us.

Looking at the Ancient Rock Art exhibit from Panther Cave in the Visitor Center, draw your favorite figure below and write what you think the ancient people were trying to teach us.



If you are lucky to visit a rock art site or see some archeology first hand, please remember it is very important that you take nothing with you. Leaving artifacts where they are helps archeologists piece together the puzzle of what these historical sites meant or were used for.

Scavenger Hunt

Check as you find these	Follow-up Questions	Observations (location, appearance, weather)
	Trees need water. Where does this tree get its water?	
	Can you tell what this animal ate? Was it a Carnivore or Herbivore or Omnivore?	
	Limestone is a sedimentary rock, it covers 1/2 of Texas. Texas was covered by a shallow sea thousands of years ago. What do you think limestone is made of?	
	This was once a staple part of the diets of the people who lived here long ago. What is something you eat every day?	
	Draw the track that you find. Which animal do you think it belongs to?	
	What do you think this insect is doing?	

You and your community

While visiting Amistad we hope that you have learned many things about taking care of your environment and the plants and animals around you. How can you take this new knowledge back home to help better your community?

Write down one environmental problem that you know of that exists in your community. _____

Think of a possible solution to this problem.

Some quick tips for helping the environment:

1. Recycle: cans, paper, cardboard, glass, plastic
2. Turn off lights in your home when you are not using them.
3. Turn off the water faucet in bathroom while you are brushing your teeth; and then back on to rinse.
4. If possible, ride a bike or walk to your destination. This is good for your health too!



The Monarch Butterfly



Every year millions of Monarch butterflies migrate across North America. They are one of the only butterflies that travel seasonally from all over the United States to Mexico.

It's a mystery how Monarchs can find their way to their winter roosting site every year but they do! Even though they have never been to these winter sites themselves, they seem to know where to go. When traveling south in the autumn, Monarchs fly through Texas on their way to their winter roosting sites in the Oyamel forest of Mexico.

If you come to visit Amistad in October, you might be lucky to see many Monarch butterflies stopping here before they complete their flight to Mexico. During the second week in March, Monarchs leave their winter roosts to fly back north. While traveling, females lay their eggs on milkweed plants along the way. The milkweed is the only plant monarch caterpillars eat before they turn into a chrysalis.

1. Look at the map of North America. Put a star on the state where you live.
2. Do monarch butterflies from your home pass over Amistad in the autumn?

3. Do monarch butterflies fly by your home during their Spring migration north?

4. Would planting milkweed in your yard or community help the monarch butterfly?
How? _____

5. What would happen if someone cut down trees that the Monarch butterflies roost in during the winter? _____

Naturalist Corner

Naturalists use their senses to learn about the world around them. Practice your observation skills. Find an outside spot in the park to sit for a few minutes. Write or draw what you discovered in the boxes below.

I saw...

I heard...

I smelled...

I felt...

Junior Ranger Storytelling Page

Everyone has a good story. Here at Amistad sometimes those stories revolve around the big fish that got away. In the past, stories were a way for people to remember important events or important information. Today we still tell stories. Sometimes these stories are just for fun and some still tell of events that have happened.



How the Devils River got its Name

Originally the Devils River was known as the San Pedro River (Saint Peter's River), named by Spanish explorers who had traveled the region in the late 1600's and early 1700's. However, the story on how the Devils River got its name starts much later than that.

In 1848, just after the Mexican-American War was over and after gold had been discovered in California, retired Texas Ranger Jack Hays was hired to scout out a wagon-road route from San Antonio, Texas to El Paso, Texas. He set out with his group of more than 70 men to explore a possible Southern route that would go through present day Del Rio and cross the then named San Pedro River. After many weeks looking for a route and running low on food rations and morale, Hays famously said, "Saint Peter, heck. This is the Devil's River" in frustration. After 4 months on the expedition, Hays and his group returned to San Antonio, regrouped, and set out on a different path which present day Interstate 10 follows.

Your Amistad Story

Coloring Page

Everyone knows this funny looking bird from Roadrunner cartoons. Poor coyote! He never wins, no matter what he does.

In real life though, coyotes and roadrunners don't pay much attention to each other. Roadrunners really run along the road. They can fly if they have to, but rarely do. They eat everything from insects to snakes.

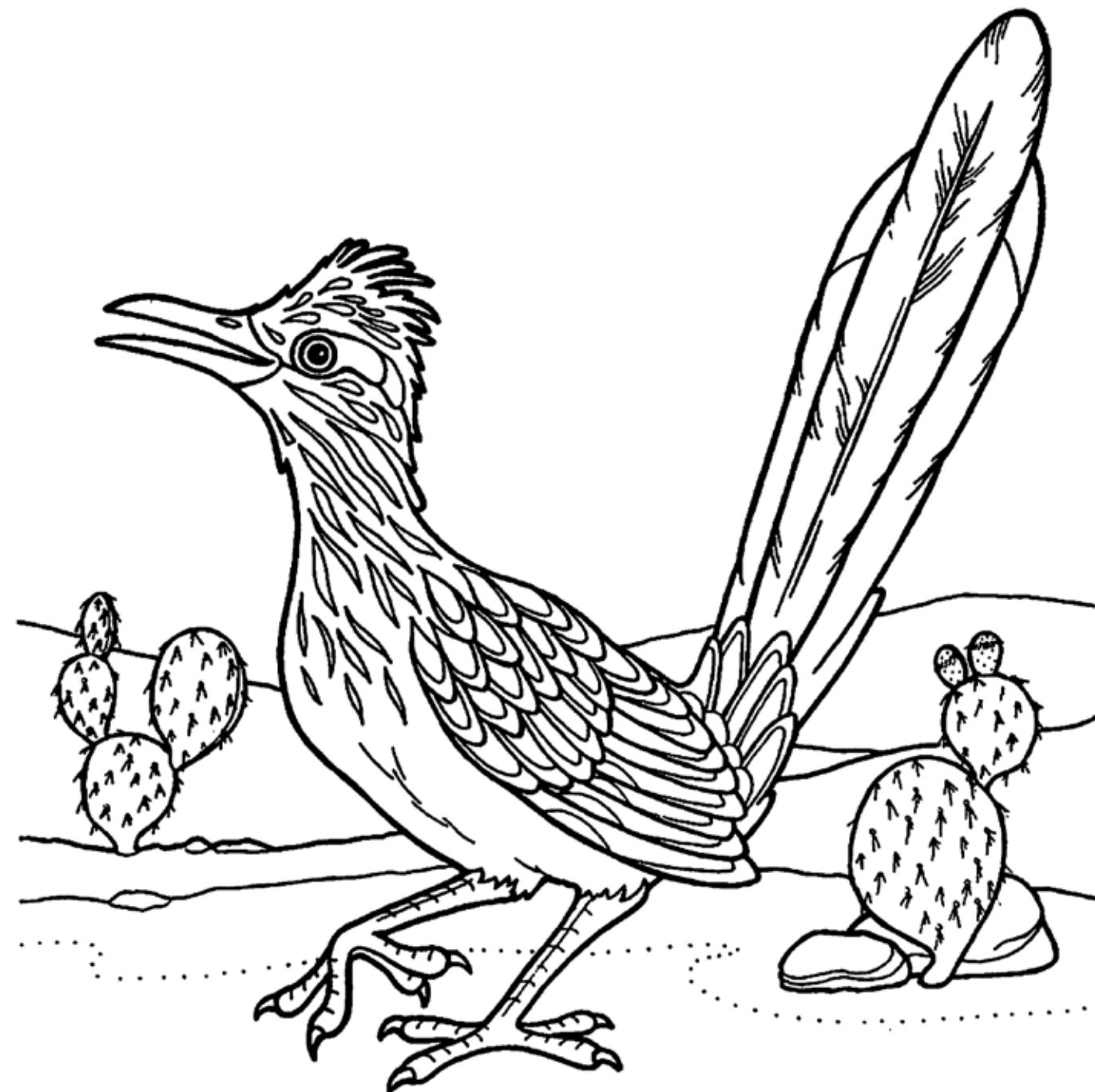


Image from: The Living Desert

Plants and their Uses

To complete this activity use the "Plants and their Uses" icon on the touch screen table in the Visitor Center.

By viewing the presentation, you will learn about some native plants and how people use them in the present and how they were used in the past.



Prickly Pear Cactus

Wax



Sotol (the stem)

Cordage



Candelilla

Flavor and Color to a Drink



Mesquite (Seed Pods)

Food



Ocotillo (flowers)

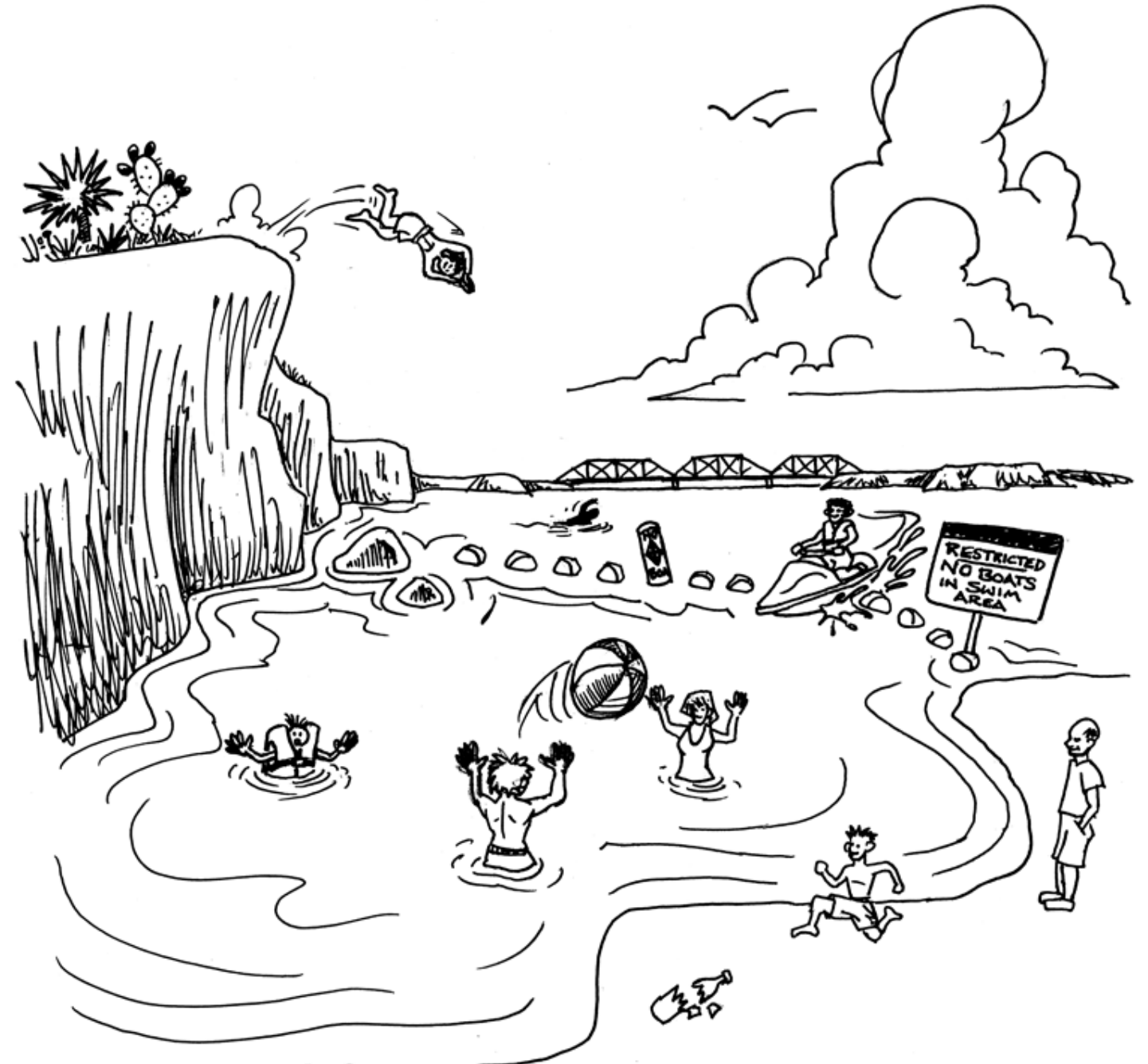
Flour

Playing it Safe at Amistad

To have the most fun, follow the safety rules so everyone stays healthy and safe!

1. Always swim with an adult watching you.
2. Always use a personal flotation device or a life jacket when you are on a boat, in or near an open body of water or when participating in water sports.
3. Never dive into lakes, oceans, or rivers because you never know how deep the water is or what might be hidden under the surface of the water.
4. When under legal driving age, never drive a personal watercraft (such as a jet ski).

Look at the picture below. Circle all the children that are following the safety rules. Put an X on all the children that are NOT following these safety rules.



Adding up your Stuff

Imagine it is the early 1900's and you and your family are moving to the area around the present day Amistad Reservoir. You will be taking a train to your new home. You will help your family pack for your new life in West Texas.

Your family is only allowed to bring 900 lbs on the boxcar. Circle the things your family will need at your new home.

Make sure that only the most important items are chosen. Once you reach your new home if you need to buy any items your family will have to travel a full day by horse back to Del Rio. Other items will be made by you and your family when you get to your new home.



Use the space below to add up the items you have picked.

Belongings Your Family Will Need

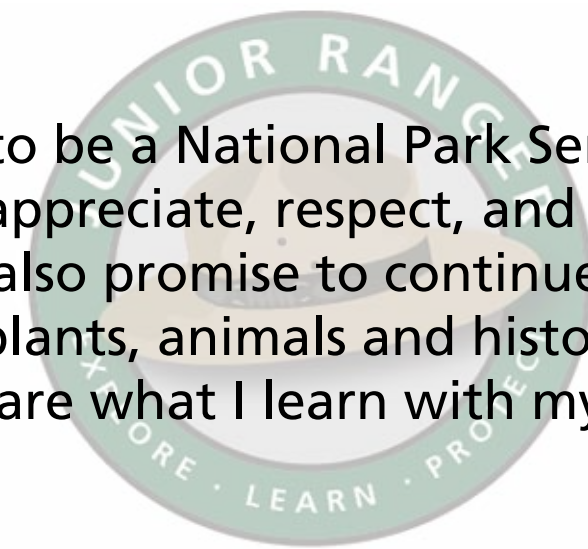
Fine China Set: 75 lbs	Candles: 26 lbs
Hand Tools: 120 lbs	Clothes: 45 lbs
Saddle and Tack: 80 lbs	Saw/Hammer/Nails: 29 lbs
Sewing supplies: 15 lbs	Axe: 5 lbs
Rifles: 26 lbs	Animal Traps: 5 lbs
Knives: 27 lbs	Lead for bullet molds: 26 lbs
Furniture: 500 lbs	Books: 15 lbs
Rope: 5 lbs	Gun Powder: 20 lbs
Cooking/Eating utensils: 75 lbs	Blankets/Bedding: 40 lbs
Dried Meat: 45 lbs	Barrel of Water: 85 lbs
Dried Fruit: 45 lbs	Seeds: 15 lbs
Beans: 40 lbs	Cornmeal: 40 lbs
Flour: 50 lbs	Sugar: 50 lbs

Grand Total: lbs

Your Own Junior Ranger Pledge

When you are done with this book, you will become a National Park Service Junior Ranger. Below is the Junior Ranger Pledge that we use here at Amistad.

“I am proud to be a National Park Service Junior Ranger. I promise to appreciate, respect, and protect all national park places. I also promise to continue learning about the landscape, plants, animals and history of these special places. I will share what I learn with my friends and family.”



Think about what it means to you to be a National Park Junior Ranger and write your own pledge on the lines below.
