



National Park Service

# Capulin Volcano National Monument



Junior Ranger Activity Book

# Become a Junior Ranger

As a Junior Ranger, you'll learn about Capulin Volcano National Monument and how you can help protect the park. You can also share what you learn and discover with your family and friends. Capulin Volcano National Monument is one of over 375 National Park sites in the United States. Park Rangers take care of parks and protect park visitors. Junior Rangers help Rangers do their jobs.

To earn your Junior Ranger badge, watch the park video or a ranger program, and complete four (4) activities in this booklet, including "Join the Ranger Team" on page 12. There's a word list on page 14 to help you with the definitions of some of the words.

Each activity is marked with an age group symbol in the upper corner. Find your age group:



Ages 6 - 8



Ages 9 - 12

Please mark what program you watched:

Ranger Talk

Park Video

When you are finished, bring this booklet to the Visitor Center to receive your official Junior Ranger badge.

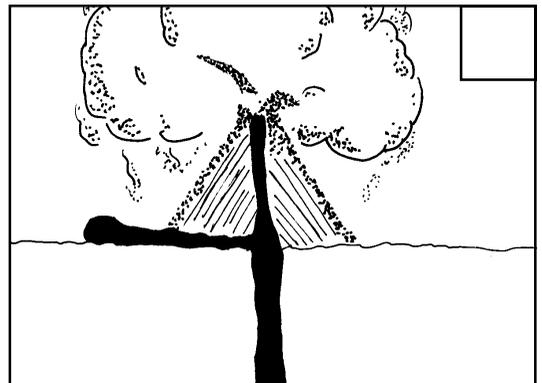
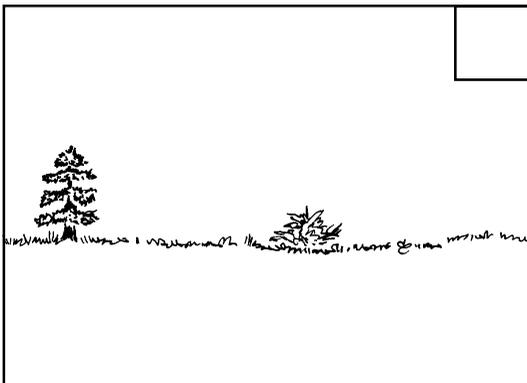
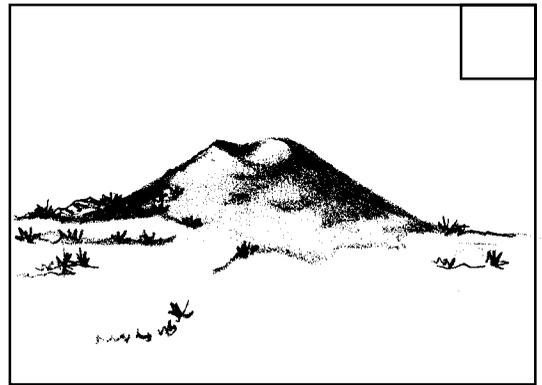
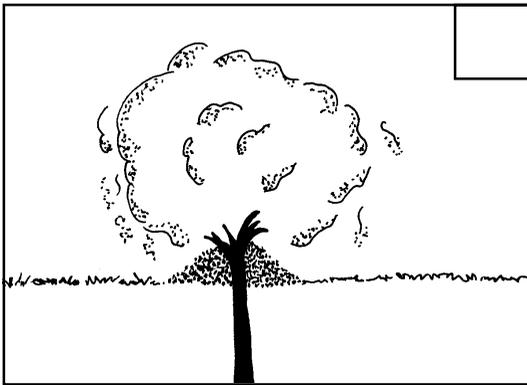


# Before And After: Volcano Snapshots



Cinder cone volcanoes, like Capulin Volcano, are built by single eruptions. These eruptions can last a few years. Can you imagine what Capulin's eruption was like? If you had a magic camera, what would your photographs look like before, during, and after the eruption of Capulin Volcano?

Number the pictures below in order from first (1) to last (4) showing the way you think Capulin Volcano erupted.





## The Way a Volcano Works

You have to look inside a volcano to see how it works. Melted rock is called magma until it erupts. Then it is called lava, cinders, or ash. Ash and cinders make ash clouds in violent eruptions. Cinders pile up in a cone around the vent, or opening. Lava erupts at the base of the cone.

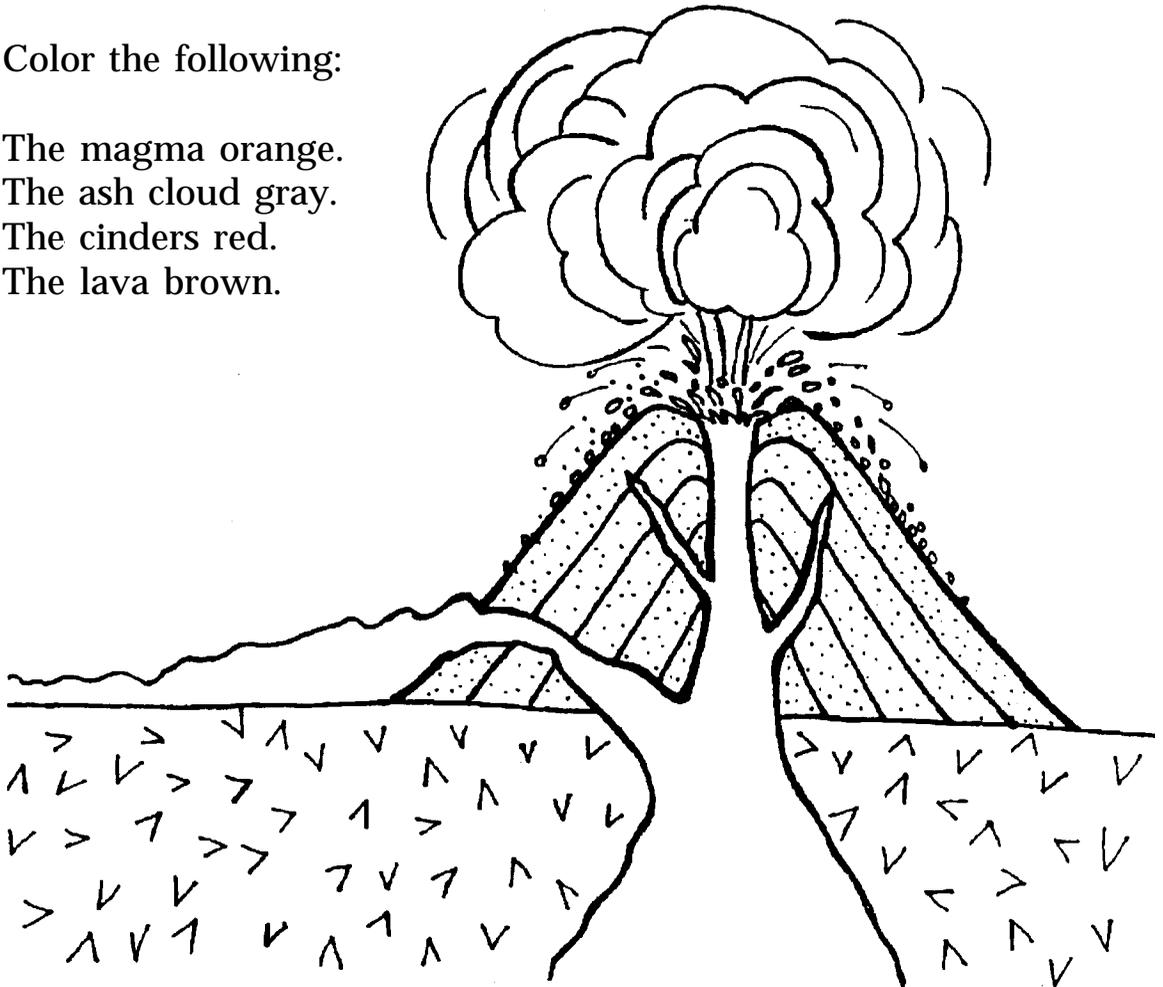
Color the following:

The magma orange.

The ash cloud gray.

The cinders red.

The lava brown.



# Tic Tac Habitat



Animals and plants live on Capulin Volcano because it is a good place to live. In other words, it is good habitat. Draw what you see. When you have three in a row, you have Tic Tac Habitat.

Ladybug	Mule Deer	Wildflower
Lichen	Capulin Volcano	Pinyon Pine
Chokecherry	Blue Bird	Oak Brush



## Rock Record



Geologists are scientists who study the earth. Like geologists, Park Rangers describe rocks in their field books so they can learn about the park. This is your field book. Find a Capulin Volcano rock and answer the following questions:

What color is your rock?

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Does your rock have crystals in it?

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Does your rock have any holes in it?

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Draw a picture of your rock.

Please leave your rock exactly where you found it. Everything in National Parks must be left where it belongs. Taking rocks and other things from parks prevents other visitors from enjoying them.

What do you think would happen if every visitor to Capulin Volcano took a rock home?

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Why is it important to not collect rocks in National Parks?

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# Using Your Senses



Visiting Capulin Volcano National Monument is a special experience. You are surrounded by things to see, touch, smell, and hear. Use your senses to describe the following. Check all that apply.

A volcanic rock feels...

- rough     smooth  
 light     heavy

The wind sounds...

- loud     like a train  
 quiet     like whistling

A pinyon pine smells...

- sweet     strong  
 bitter     like a forest

The sky looks...

- blue     cloudy  
 stormy     foggy

The lichen on the rocks looks...

- orange     green  
 rough     smooth

The air feels...

- cold     wet  
 dry     hot

Sometimes seeing, touching, and smelling so many things can make you feel a certain way, like happy or excited.

What feelings do you have while at Capulin Volcano?

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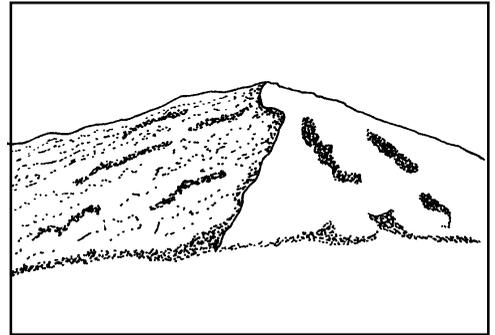
# Volcanoes Large and Small

Volcanoes are places where molten rock (lava) is erupted onto the Earth's surface. Most volcanoes make mountains. There are many different types of volcanic mountains in the world. Some are big, some are small, and some may not even look like mountains.

Most volcanoes are one of three main types: cinder cones, shield volcanoes, or composite volcanoes. Learn about these types of volcanoes. Then identify the volcano type for Capulin Volcano and Sierra Grande.

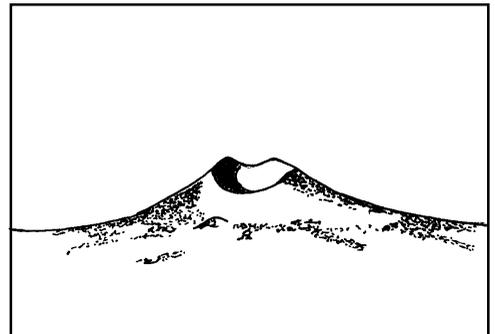
Shield volcanoes are...

- big (thousands of feet tall)
- shaped like overturned shields
- have gentle slopes
- made up of lava flows



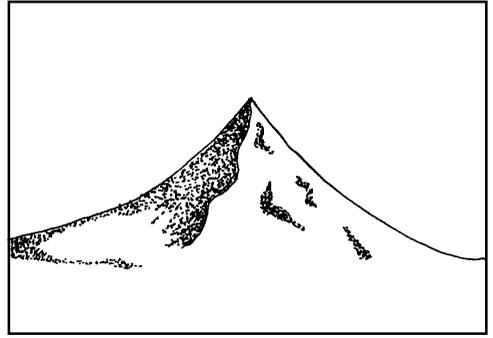
Cinder cone volcanoes are...

- small (hundreds of feet tall)
- shaped like anthills and have a crater at the top
- have steep slopes
- made up of layers of cinders and ash



Composite volcanoes are...

- medium sized (a few thousand feet tall)
- steeper near the top
- may have pointy tops
- made up of lava and ash



Capulin Volcano is a \_\_\_\_\_ volcano.

How can you tell? (List two ways.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Sierra Grande is like a \_\_\_\_\_ volcano.

How can you tell? (List two ways.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Bonus Question:**

What type of volcano is Baby Capulin?

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## Park Puzzle

Today Capulin Volcano is covered with trees and shrubs. Oak brush, mountain mahogany, and chokecherry are the most common shrubs. Capulin is the Spanish name for one of these plants. Solve the Park Puzzle to find out where Capulin Volcano got its name.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Volcano is a landmark. Landmarks have always been important to people traveling in the plains of northeastern New Mexico.
2. Squirrels and \_\_\_\_\_ eat acorns and other seeds.
3. Ancient bison bones and spear points were found at the \_\_\_\_\_ Archeological Site. It is 9 miles from Capulin Volcano.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ brush grows in the crater. Its leaves and acorns are food for wildlife including squirrels, chipmunks, mule deer, and black bears.
5. Capulin Volcano \_\_\_\_\_ about 60,000 years ago.
6. Prickly pear is a type of \_\_\_\_\_. The spines are special leaves.
7. Capulin Volcano is made up of layers of cinders and \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Mule \_\_\_\_\_ travel on Capulin's slopes eating the leaves of shrubs.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ snakes are poisonous and should be left alone when seen.
10. A branch of the Santa Fe \_\_\_\_\_ passed right by the base of Capulin Volcano. It was used to haul military supplies to Fort Union.
11. Swarms of \_\_\_\_\_ may be seen along the rim trail during the summer.

1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								
7.								
8.								
9.								
10.								
11.								



**Hint:** If you need help finding answers, read the displays in the park and look at the exhibits and video in the Visitor Center.

**Answer:** Capulin is the Spanish word for \_\_\_\_\_.

Capulin in Spanish is properly pronounced “CAH-poo-leen.”

Did you see any of these plants in the park?    Yes    No

Where did you see them? \_\_\_\_\_



## It's All Related

Ecology is the study of how plants and animals relate to their environment. Capulin Mountain, an extinct volcano, is the environment for everything living here. How do plants and animals living at Capulin Volcano relate to their environment?

Draw a line to match each living thing to its environment at Capulin Volcano.

Lichen	grow smaller than normal on the rim because of strong winds
Pinyon Pines	are usually orange or green and grow on bare rock surfaces
Juniper Trees	visit Capulin to hunt mule deer
Ladybugs	grow with pinyon pines and like rocky soils
Mule Deer	sun themselves on rocks and eat bugs
Mountain Lions	swarm at the base of trees at the highest point on Capulin's rim
Turkey Vultures	soar high above Capulin's slopes
Lizards	eat the leaves of shrubs and travel in small herds on Capulin's slopes



# Join the Ranger Team



Junior Rangers are an important part of the National Park Service team. The ranger team's goal is to help preserve and protect parks and to keep parks safe for people and wildlife.

What can you do as a Junior Ranger to help protect parks and keep people and animals safe? Check all that apply.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hike only on trails.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Wear your seatbelt.                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pick wildflowers.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pick up trash.                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learn about the park.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Throw rocks.                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use sunscreen.                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Chase or catch lizards.                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't feed wildlife.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Go to a ranger program.                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tell your friends about Capulin Volcano. | <input type="checkbox"/> Hike the rim trail during a lightning storm. |

Park Rangers feel that the park where they work is special and that their job is important.

Is Capulin Volcano special to you?    Yes    No

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is it important to you to be a Junior Ranger?    Yes    No

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Ranger Record



Rangers spend time exploring their park. They write and draw what they learned, saw and did to help protect the park. What did you discover while becoming a Junior Ranger at Capulin Volcano?

Describe one thing that you did today at Capulin Volcano.

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Write about one thing that you learned today at Capulin Volcano.

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Draw one thing that you saw today at Capulin Volcano.

# Word List

**Cinder** - A fist-sized chunk of volcanic rock. Cinders cool in the air during flight after erupting from a volcanic vent, or opening.

**Crystal** - A type of solid with a certain shape, color and composition.

**Ecology** - The study of the relationships between plants, animals and their environment.

**Eruption** - The outpouring of gas, lava, and ash from within the earth through a volcanic vent, or opening.

**Environment** - The total surroundings of a plant or animal.

**Extinct** - A word to describe a volcano that will not erupt again.

**Habitat** - The place where an animal or plant normally lives or grows.

**Lichen** - A simple plant made up of fungus and algae living together.

**Magma** - Molten rock. Magma may be erupted as lava, cinders, or ash.

**Volcano** - The vent where lava, cinders, ash, and gas are erupted from inside the earth. A volcano also is the mountain built around the vent.

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[www.spma.org](http://www.spma.org)

If you have comments about this program, please contact:

Superintendent  
Capulin Volcano National Monument  
PO Box 40  
Capulin NM 88414  
505-278-2201

# Junior Ranger Pledge



I promise to discover all I can about Capulin Volcano and to share my discoveries with others.

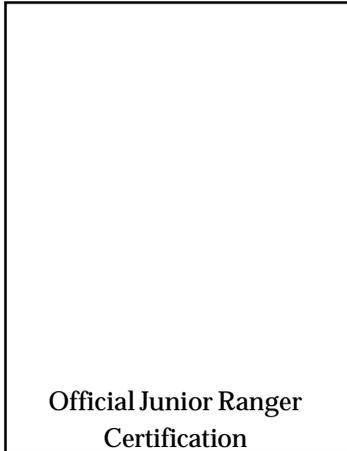
I pledge to guard and protect Capulin Volcano National Monument and to leave all National Park areas the way I found them.

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*Your Name*



## Junior Ranger Certificate



*This certifies that the girl or boy who signed the Junior Ranger Pledge above has completed all requirements of the*

**Junior Ranger Program at  
Capulin Volcano National Monument**

*and is hereby designated a Junior Ranger in good standing with the National Park Service.*