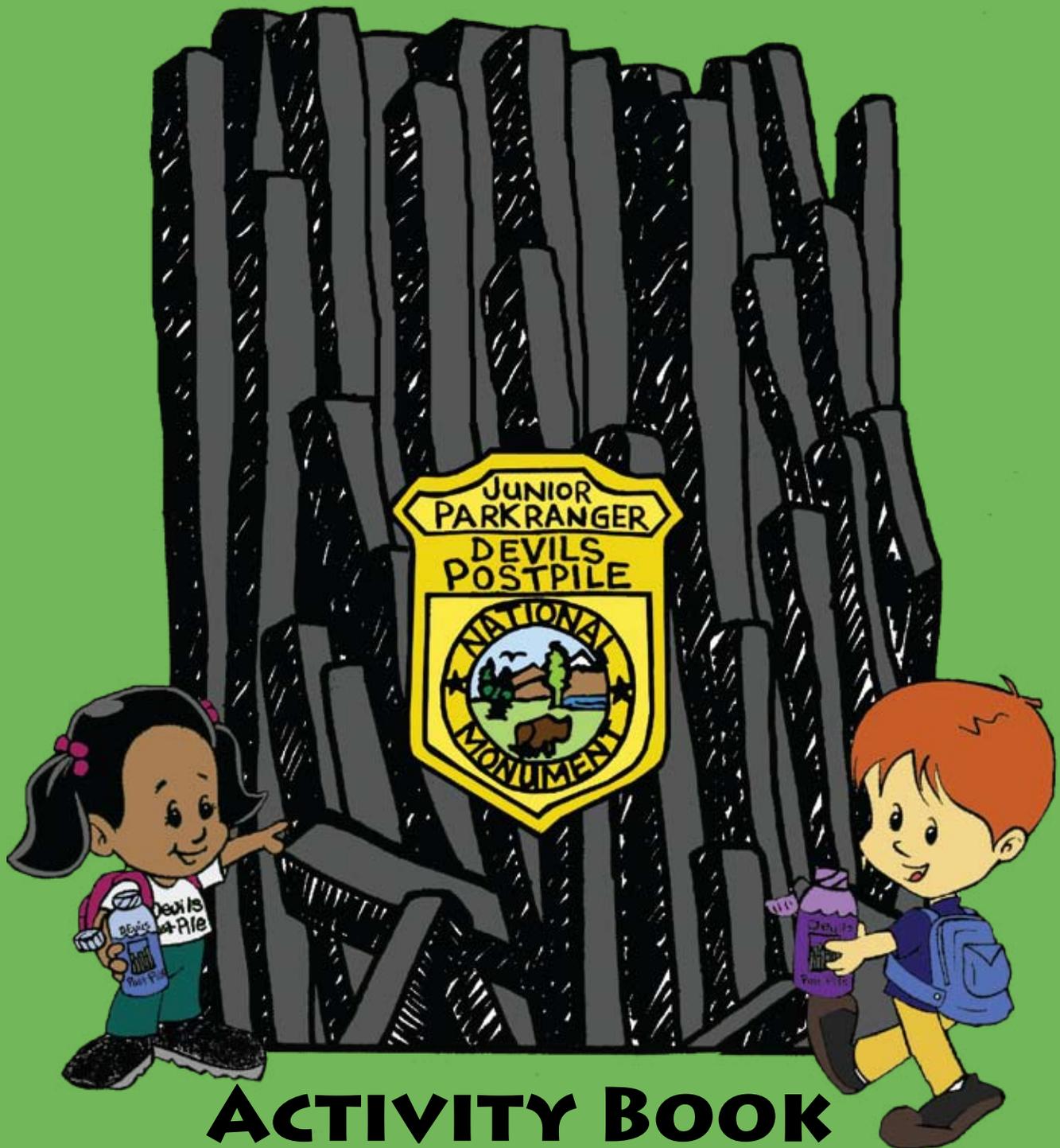


# Devils Postpile

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## JUNIOR RANGER



## ACTIVITY BOOK

# WELCOME JUNIOR RANGERS!



The job of Junior Rangers is to **EXPLORE** their surroundings and **LEARN** about the natural world in our parks and in their own communities. Through exploration and learning, Junior Rangers can then help us to **PROTECT** the National Parks, which are here for everyone to enjoy.

## TO BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER:

- 1. Complete at least the same number of activities as your age. If you are over 10, complete 10 activities (including all challenging level activities.)
- 2. Remember: You can always ask a friend, a parent, or a ranger for help with the activities.
- 3. Bring your completed Junior Ranger book to the Ranger Station. Have a ranger look it over for you, then take the oath and receive your badge.

## ACTIVITY GUIDES:



**EASY**



**MEDIUM**



**CHALLENGING**

**THIS BELONGS TO:** \_\_\_\_\_

# #1: THE PREPARED HIKER



When hiking, it's important to be prepared. Having the right gear will help to avoid trouble. The hike to Devils Postpile is short, so you won't need a lot. Sunscreen, bug spray and water are a good start.

If you are hiking to Rainbow Falls, you will be on the trail longer and will need to bring some things with you. Circle the pictures of the things you should have when hiking to Rainbow Falls:



Which two of these items do you think are the most important?

---

What else might you need if the weather is bad?

---

## #2: COMPLETE EITHER PART A OR PART B.



### Part A: **ATTEND A PROGRAM**

Name of Program:

What Did You Learn?:

Ranger Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Part B: **INTERVIEW A RANGER**

Ask a Ranger if you can talk with them about their job. Either pick two questions from the list below, or you can come up with your own. Pick your questions before you start.

- How long have you worked here?
- What do you do in the winter?
- Have you worked at any other parks?
- What do you like about your job?
- Where's your favorite place here?
- What's your favorite hiking trail?
- What animals have you seen while working here?

Name of Ranger:

Question #1:

Answer:

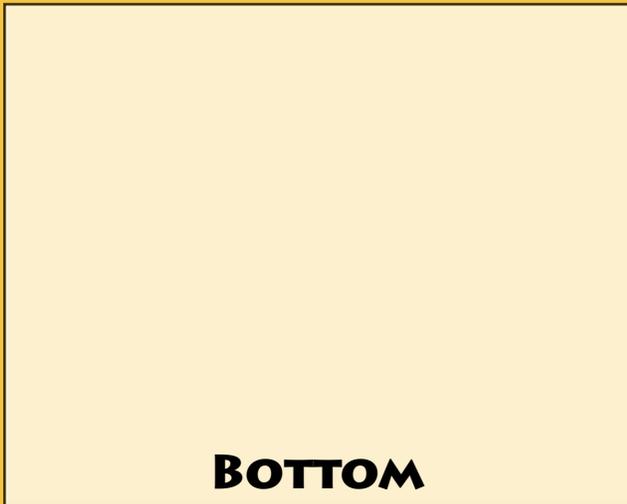
Question #2:

Answer:

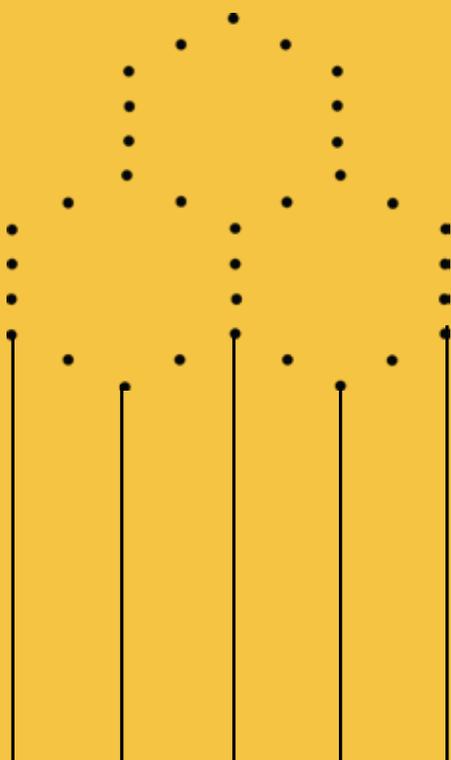
# #3: GEOLOGY ROCKS



Scientists who learn about and study rocks are called geologists. Geologists often sketch or describe the rock formations they study. You can be a geologist too. In the space below, draw or describe the Postpile as it looks from the bottom:



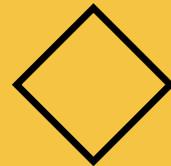
Now, take the trail to the top of the Postpile. Draw what it looks like on the top.



This picture shows the shape of the Postpile columns. Trace the dotted lines to complete the shape. Then circle the shape below that matches.



**OCTAGON**



**DIAMOND**



**STAR**



**HEXAGON**



# #4: RESPECTING NATURE: DO'S AND DON'TS



In the picture on the left, circle the people not following park rules. Below are some sentences describing how to respect nature and enjoy a safe visit. For each sentence, choose the **HIGHLIGHTED** word that best completes the sentence.



If you see a snake on the trail, you should **PICK IT UP/WALK AROUND IT/ THROW A ROCK AT IT.**

After eating lunch, you should **THROW AWAY/ MAKE A HAT FROM/LEAVE** your trash.

It is **SOMETIMES/NEVER/ALWAYS** okay to feed wild animals your food.

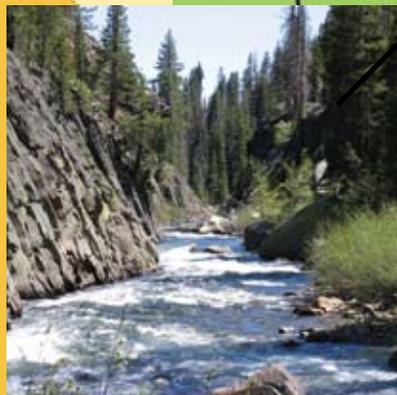
Climbing on the rocks at Devils Postpile is **FUN/ NOT ALLOWED/DIFFICULT.**

When you find a neat rock, you should **THROW IT/TAKE IT HOME/LEAVE IT WHERE IT IS.**

A good Junior Ranger **AVOIDS/ EATS/RESPECTS** nature.



# #5 - Part A: TRACE YOUR TRAIL

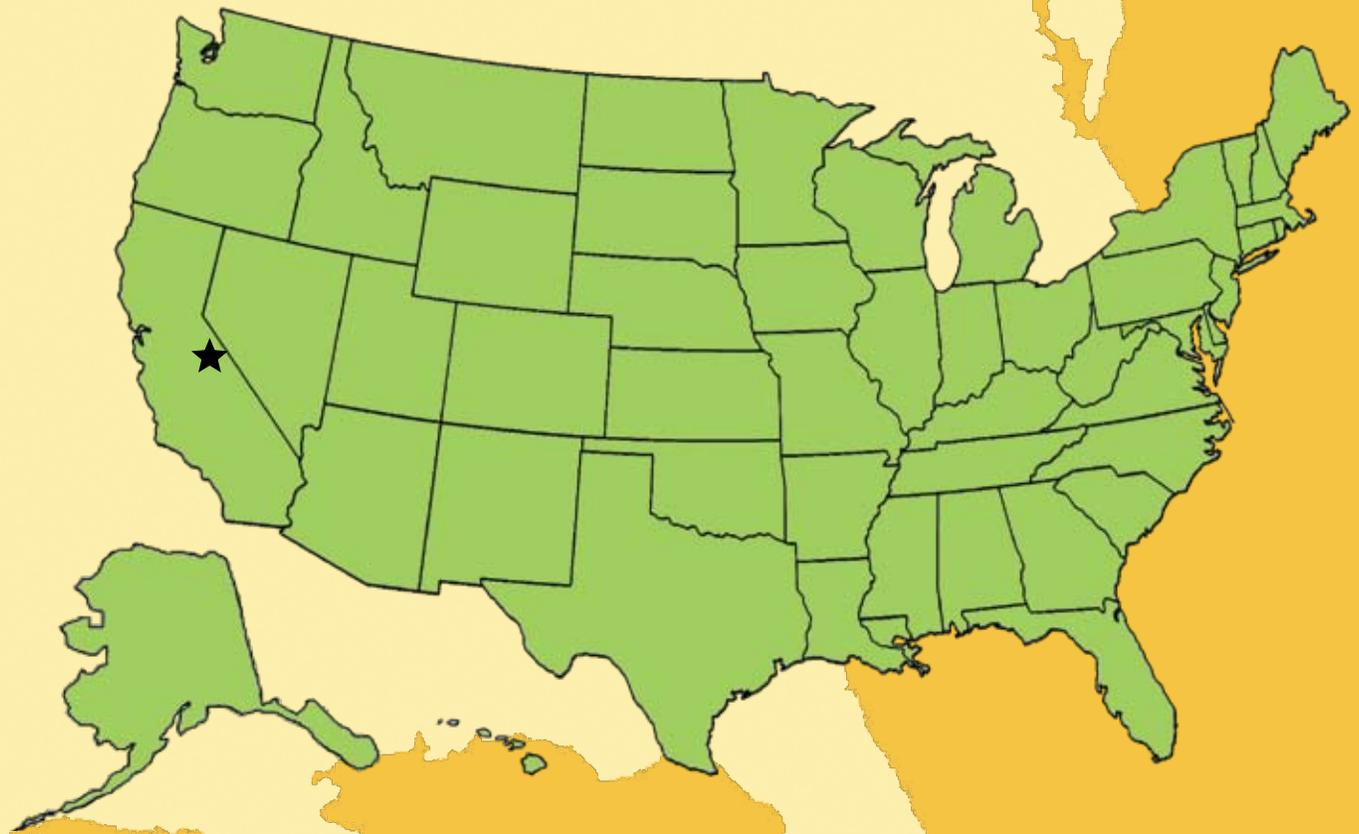


--- TRAILS

The map to the left shows Devils Postpile National Monument. On the map, find where you are and mark it with an **X**. When you're done hiking, trace the path that you followed today.

## #5 - Part B: **NATIONAL PARKS ARE EVERYWHERE**

Look at the map below. Devils Postpile is labeled with a ★. Put an **X** to show where you live, then draw a line to show the route you took to get here. If you are from another country, write it on the line below the picture. Ask a parent or friend for help if you need it.



**COUNTRY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BONUS:** Have you been to other National Park sites? If you have, mark them with ● on the map.

## #6: USING YOUR SENSES



**LOOK:** While you're walking on the trail today, look for things that are new to you. Are there plants or animals you've never seen before? In the box, draw something neat you saw while hiking.



**LISTEN:** Write down at least one thing you hear while on the trail. Try to imitate the sound.

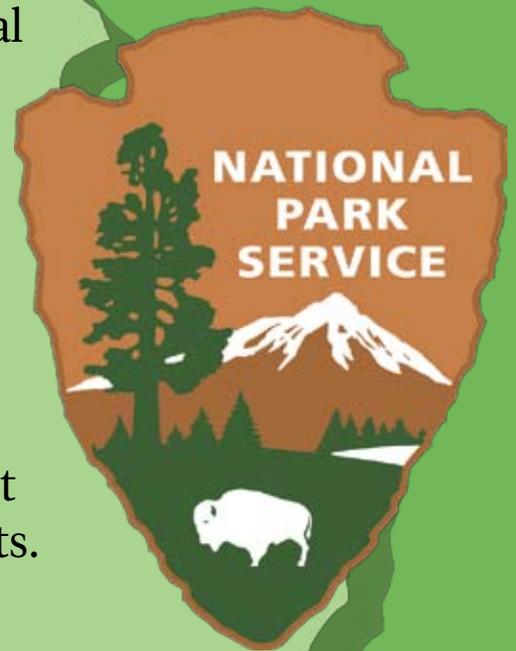
**SMELL:** At the top of the Postpile, there is a big tree with reddish-brown bark, which stands alone. This is a jeffrey pine. Smell in between the cracks on the bark. What does it smell like? Write your answer below.

**FEEL:** While you are on top of the Postpile, feel one of the rocks you're standing on. Describe how it feels below.

# #7: THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



This arrowhead is the logo of the National Park Service. It contains five symbols: a **BISON**, a **MOUNTAIN**, a **TREE**, a **LAKE**, and an **ARROWHEAD**. Each of these symbols represents a different resource protected by the National Park Service.



Match the bold words above to the sentences below, describing what each part of the National Park Service logo represents.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Represents the wildlife found in our national parks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Represents the history of our nation, protected by the National Park Service.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Represents the beautiful landscapes contained within our national parks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Represents the plants protected within national parks.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Represents natural resources (like water or air) and recreation opportunities in our parks.

Where have you seen the arrowhead at Devils Postpile?

\_\_\_\_\_

# #8: SCAVENGER HUNT



Can you find the following things at Devils Postpile? Try to find at least three of the five and draw or describe them in the boxes below. Remember not to take any of these things with you.

an animal	a flower or plant	your favorite rock
a pine cone	a Park Ranger  Name:	

Then find something...

- older than you
- younger than you
- bigger than you
- smaller than you
- you've never seen before
- made by people

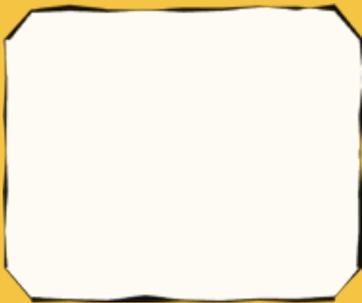


Pick your favorite thing from the list above. Draw it in the blank box above.

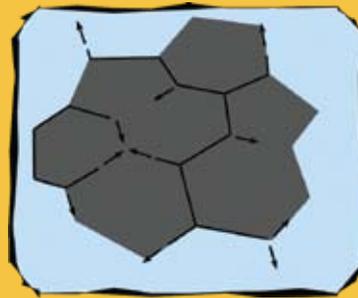
# #9: DEVILS POSTPILE: FIRE & ICE



Devils Postpile formed less than 100,000 years ago. Read the description of how the Postpile formed, then draw pictures in the blank spaces to match the descriptions.



**1.** About 100,000 years ago, lava erupted and filled this valley to a depth of nearly 400 feet.



**2.** As the lava cooled, it began to shrink and cracks formed on the surface.



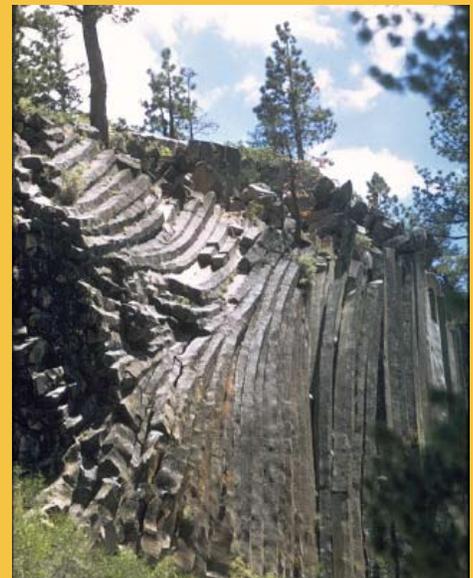
**3.** The surface cracks deepened to form long post-like columns that were shaped like hexagons.



**4.** Around 20,000 years ago, a glacier moved through the valley exposing and polishing the tops of the columns.

At the top of the Postpile, look at the column shapes. The columns can have three to eight sides, with over half having six sides. Pick a group of ten columns, and count the number of sides on each column. Record how many of each in the categories below:

<b>TRIANGLE (3 SIDES)</b>	
<b>SQUARE (4 SIDES)</b>	
<b>PENTAGON (5 SIDES)</b>	
<b>HEXAGON (6 SIDES)</b>	
<b>SEPTAGON (7 SIDES)</b>	
<b>OCTAGON (8 SIDES)</b>	



# #10: THE SCENIC SAN JOAQUIN



Read the following facts about the San Joaquin River. Fill in the blanks for each sentence. (The first letter and total number of letters for each space is listed.) Some answers are two words. The first blank has been done for you. When you're done, find the words from the blanks in the word search below. **Remember:** You can always ask for help.

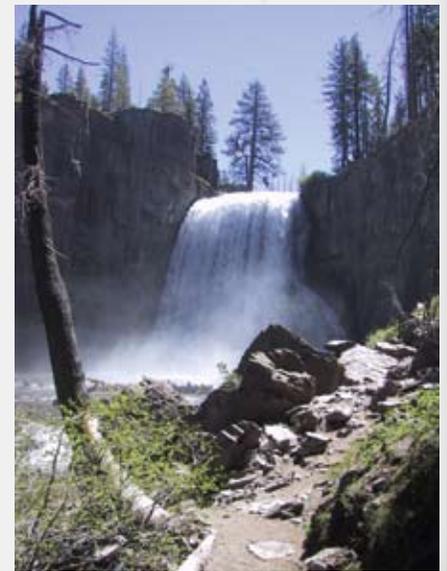
The **SAN JOAQUIN (10)** is the second **L** \_\_\_\_\_ **(7)** river and the second largest watershed in the state of **C** \_\_\_\_\_ **(10)**.

**R** \_\_\_\_\_ **(12)** is the name of the San Joaquin waterfall located in the monument.

Eighty percent of the water from the San Joaquin is used for **A** \_\_\_\_\_ **(11)** and industry.

Only **T** \_\_\_\_\_ **(3)** percent of the river's water flows all the way to the **P** \_\_\_\_\_ **(7)** Ocean.

There are four types of **T** \_\_\_\_\_ **(5)** found in the San Joaquin within the monument: Rainbow, Brook, Brown and **G** \_\_\_\_\_ **(6)**.



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

# #11: THE RAINBOW FIRE



In August of 1992, lightning ignited a fire in the Inyo National Forest, just outside Devils Postpile. The **RAINBOW FIRE** burned 8,765 acres, 690 of which were in the Monument. When you walk to Rainbow Falls, you can see the burn area. Several charred trees still stand, but you can also see new growth in this area.

**SUCCESSION** is the term used to describe the process of regrowth after a forest fire or other disturbance. When fires occur, different plant species slowly begin to regrow in affected areas. This process happens in stages. With each new stage, new plants and animals will move into the area.

Start at Stage 1 in the maze below and find your way through the stages of succession. For each stage, write an animal species you think would live in that ecosystem. Stage 1 has been completed for you. Be ready to explain your choices to a ranger. Don't worry if you are not 100% sure about your answers. Try to think about what animals would live with what types of plants. Do your best!

**START**  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Stage 1: Burned Forest

Stage 4: Saplings

Stage 3: Shrubs

Stage 5: Trees

**END**

Stage 2: Grasses

# #12: LEAVE NO TRACE



Leave No Trace is a set of guidelines for people interacting with nature. There are **SEVEN PRINCIPLES** in the Leave No Trace philosophy:

- 1) PLAN AHEAD & PREPARE**
- 2) TRAVEL & CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES**
- 3) DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY**
- 4) LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND**
- 5) MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS**
- 6) RESPECT WILDLIFE**
- 7) BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS**

Which activities in this booklet deal with these seven principles? Write the activity numbers here: \_\_\_\_\_

Leave No Trace encourages people to realize that they are part of the natural world. How are you like the things you find in nature? Fill in the chart below with four additional natural things you find at Devils Post-pile.

Things in Nature	Things We Have in Common	How It Helps Me
<b>SOIL</b>	Both have minerals; made of many different parts	Helps grow plants to eat

# Devils Postpile



## Junior Ranger Certificate



*I promise to preserve and protect the  
National Parks and my community  
by observing park rules and showing  
respect for the environment.*



---

Junior Ranger Signature

---

Park Ranger Signature

# JUNIOR RANGER FOOD FOR THOUGHT

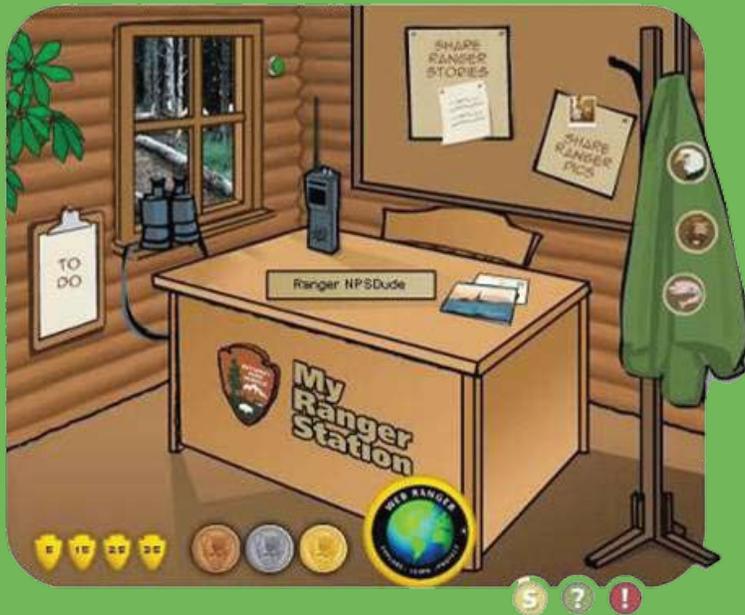
What was your favorite activity in this book?

What was the best thing you did or saw at Devils Postpile?

What other National Park sites have you been to?

If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why?

How can you help take care of nature in your community at home?



# WANT TO BECOME A WEB RANGER?

Did you like this Junior Ranger program?

Would you like to play games and solve puzzles while earning badges and learning about other parks?

Do you want to work your way up to earning a real WebRanger patch?

**THEN YOU'LL LOVE WEBRANGERS. GO ONLINE AND CHECK IT OUT TODAY. IT'S FREE, EASY TO USE AND LOTS OF FUN!**

**[WWW.NPS.GOV/WEBRANGERS](http://WWW.NPS.GOV/WEBRANGERS)**

WebRangers ID CARD

Enter Your Name:

is an official National Park Service WebRanger

WebRanger User Name: **S. Bowl**

*Mary A. Bomar*  
Mary A. Bomar, Director  
National Park Service

Be sure to have a parent's permission before you sign onto the WebRanger Web Site:



Devils Postpile National Monument  
P.O. Box 3999  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546-3999  
<http://www.nps.gov/DEPO>  
760-934-2289

Design by Megan Sharretts  
Artwork by Kirsten Watson-Flores and Megan Sharretts  
♻️ Made from at least 35% post-consumer content.