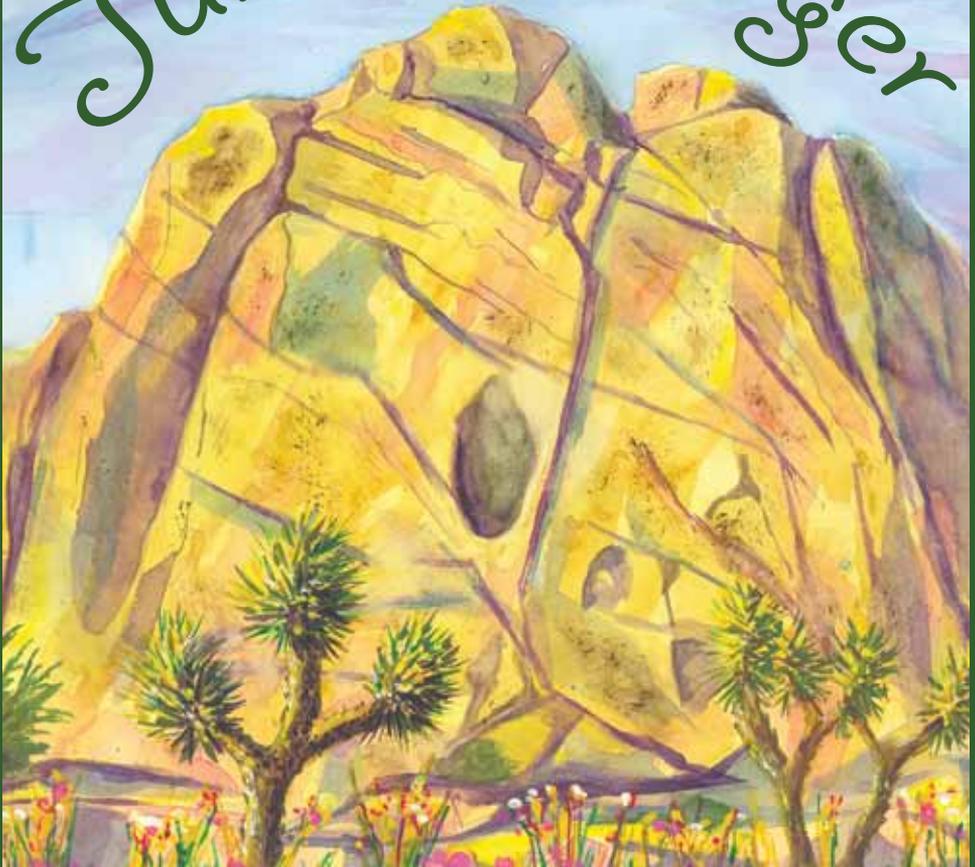


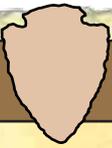
# JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK



# Junior Ranger



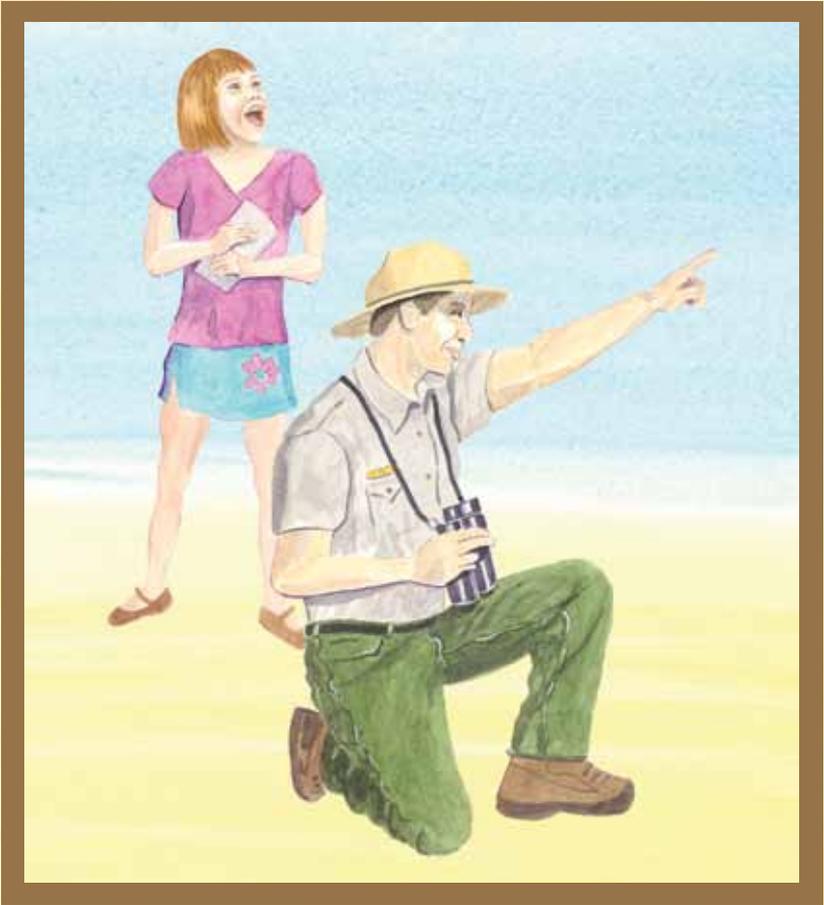
Official Program and Activity Booklet



## Amazing Places Need...



**J**oshua Tree National Park is an amazing place that needs to be cared for by amazing people like you. National parks belong to everyone in the United States. We have set them aside forever, for as far as we can see into the future, as outstanding national treasures. Each park is unique and teaches us something important about what it means to be an American, whether the site is related to people who lived there long ago, to historic events that took place there, or to the different natural environments in this vast nation.

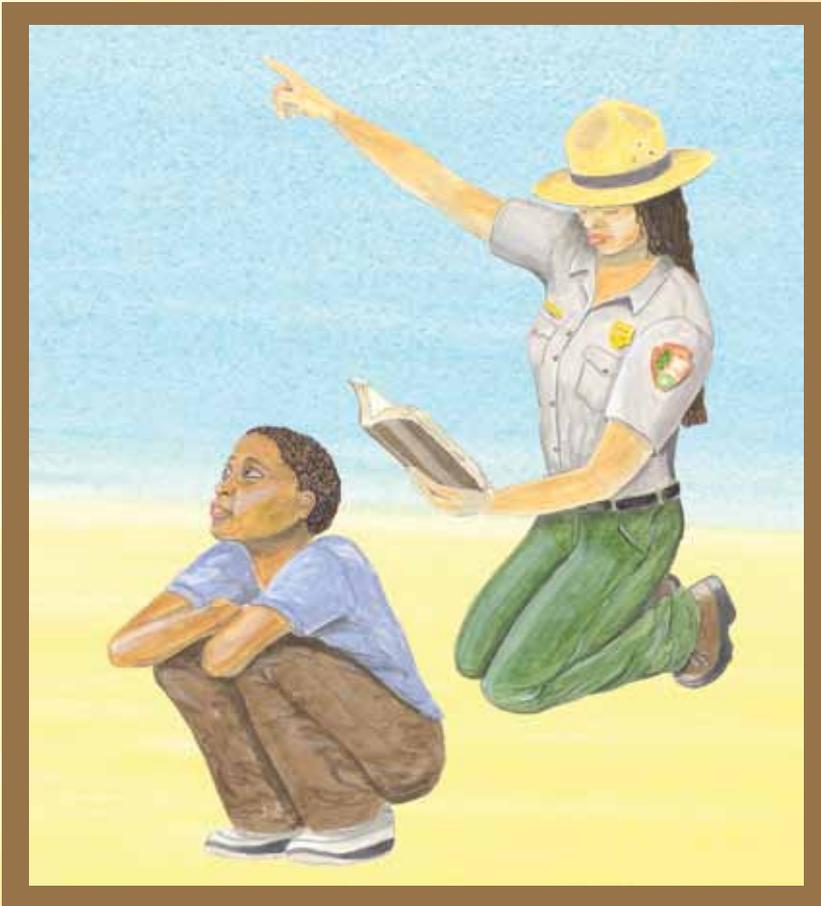




## ...Amazing People!



**J**oshua Tree was established as a national monument in 1936 when President Franklin Roosevelt signed a proclamation protecting this part of the desert. In 1994, under the California Desert Protection Act, the monument became a national park. Today, Joshua Tree National Park contains about 800,000 acres of unspoiled desert. Two deserts, in fact-the Mojave, or high desert, and the Colorado, or low desert- meet here. Because different kinds of plants and animals live within each desert area, the park has a wide variety of living things.

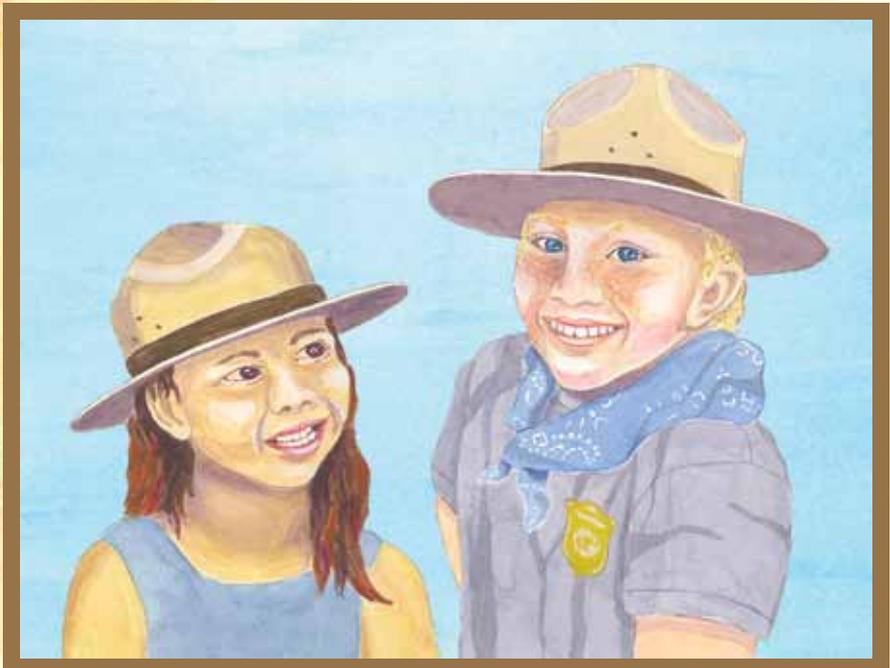


## Have You Noticed?

Have you noticed those incredible rock formations? Scientists come to Joshua Tree National Park to learn more about geology, and visitors come from all over the world to photograph, sketch, or climb the rocks. Human history is also an important part of the Joshua Tree National Park story. There is evidence that humans have lived in this area for about 10,000 years, including American Indians, cattlemen, miners, and homesteaders. It's no wonder Joshua Tree National Park is a special place, worthy of protection. You can help preserve Joshua Tree and other national parks for future generations by becoming a junior ranger.

Keep in mind while you visit:

- \* Leave only footprints, take only pictures and memories.
- \* Let animals find their own food; do not feed them.
- \* Help litter find its way to trash cans & recycling bins.
- \* Do not pick the plants; they provide food for animals.





# Becoming A Junior Ranger



1. Write your name here: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Dates of your visit: \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Complete the activities on pages 6 to 9 and page 30.
  4. Open to the page for your age level and complete two activities.
- How many days were you in Joshua Tree National Park? \_\_\_\_\_

Find the page for your age level:

- a. Ages 4 to 7: go to page 12 ~ **Lizards** 
  - b. Ages 8 to 10: go to page 18 ~ **Roadrunners** 
  - c. Ages 11 to 14: go to page 24 ~ **Coyotes** 
5. Attend a ranger program or visit an exhibit in a visitor center. Have a ranger initial here: \_\_\_\_\_
  6. List three ways you can help to protect and preserve Joshua Tree National Park:
    - a. \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  7. Check off the places you visited on the map on page 10.
  8. Take your completed workbook to any visitor center, entrance station, or ranger program and receive your junior ranger badge! The Junior Ranger booklet counts towards the scout badge for national parks. It is worth three hours towards the badge.



## Wildlife Watch



Check off the animals you have seen.



Butterfly



Bat

Lizard



Bighorn Sheep



Kangaroo Rat



Gambel's Quail



Darkling Beetle



Scorpion



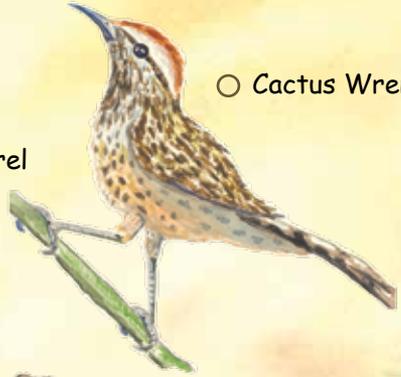
# Wildlife Watch



Check off the animals you have seen.



Ground Squirrel



Cactus Wren

Jackrabbit



Desert Tortoise



Roadrunner



Tarantula



Gopher Snake

Coyote





# Plant Checklist



Check off the plants you have seen.



Scrub Oak



Beavertail Cactus



Chia



Joshua Tree



Brittlebush



Cholla Cactus



# Plant Checklist



Check off the plants you have seen.



Sacred Datura



Mojave Yucca



Creosote Bush



California Fan Palm



Juniper



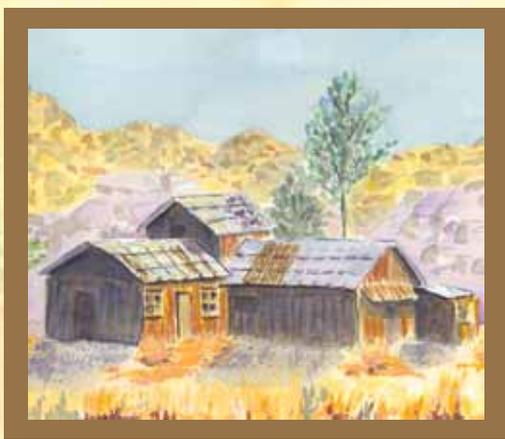
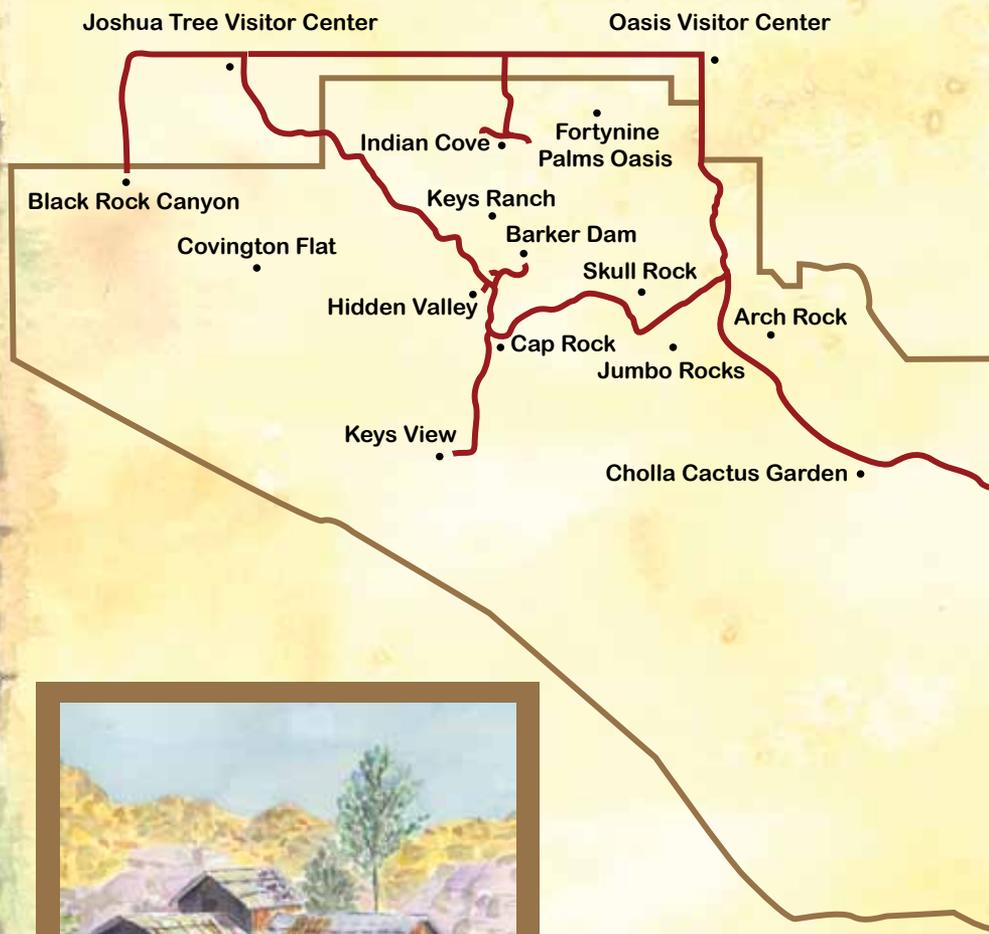
Barrel Cactus



# Where Have You Been?

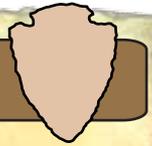


Where have you been in Joshua Tree National Park during your visit? Circle on the map the places you have visited. If you went someplace that is not on the map, write it in.





# Where Have You Been?



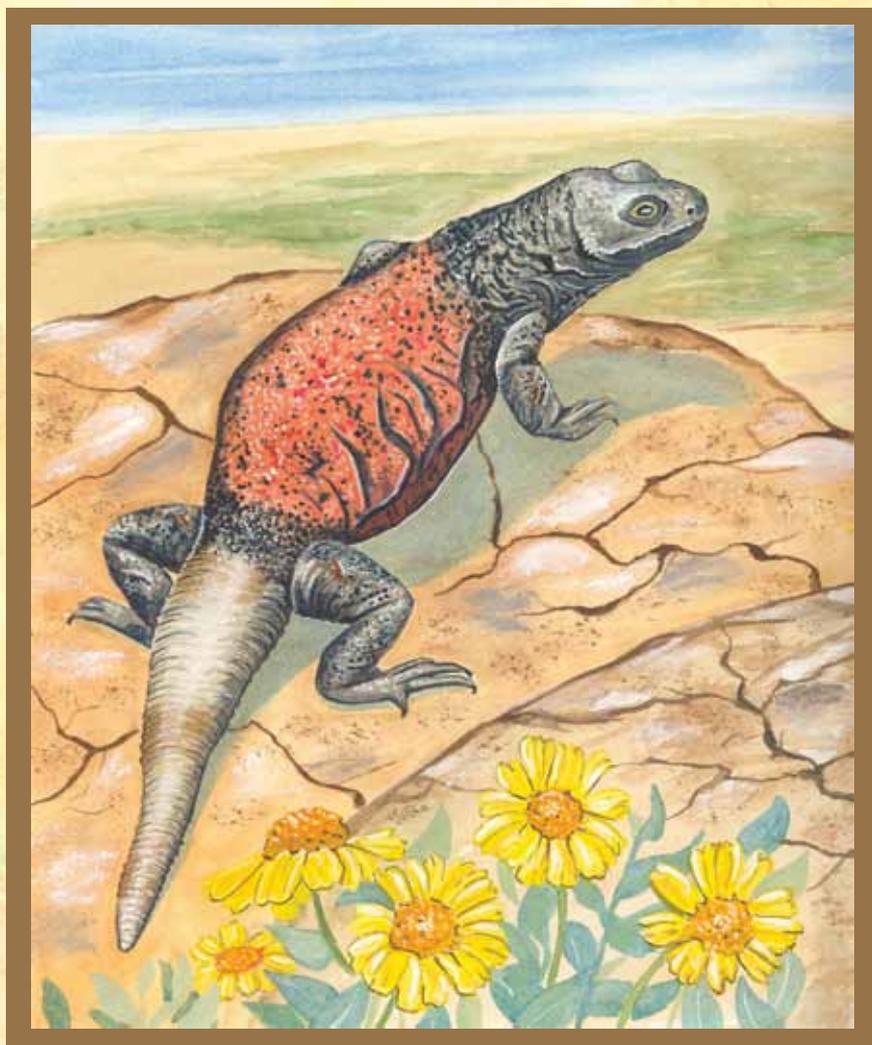
- Cottonwood Visitor Center
- Cottonwood Spring
- Lost Palms Oasis



## Lizards



Lizards are reptiles, cold-blooded animals that have to bask in the sun in order to warm their bodies. That is why you will often see them sitting on a rock, allowing the sun to heat them from above, and the rock to warm them from below. The largest lizard in Joshua Tree is the plant eating chuckwalla.





**Ages 4,5,6 & 7**



**D**uring winter, most lizards including the chuckwallas, brumate, saving their energy for spring when it warms up again. Then they can spend their days hunting for insects or nibbling wildflowers. Chuckwallas get all the water they need from the food they eat. Watch for lizards on top of boulders and along the side of the road.





# Hunting For Habitat



The place where animals live is called a habitat. A good habitat will provide an animal with food, water, shelter and space. While you are in the park, look for good habitat for desert animals. In the spaces below, draw pictures of two kinds of food for desert animals, two places where an animal has made a home, and two different animals you have seen.





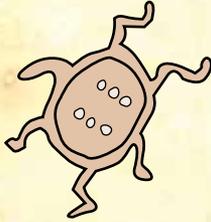
# Scavenger Hunt Bingo



Go on a scavenger hunt in the park. Look for, but don't collect, the items in the boxes below. Remember to leave the plants and rocks where you find them. Place an "X" on the items that you find. Find four in a row down, across or diagonally in order to complete this activity. Can you find them all?



Insect



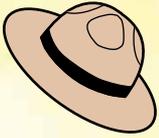
Rock Art



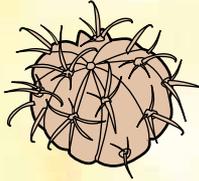
Palm Tree



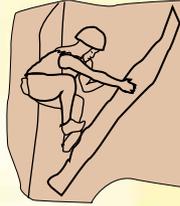
Trail Sign



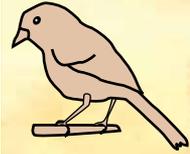
Ranger Hat



Cactus



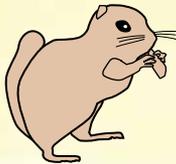
Rock Climber



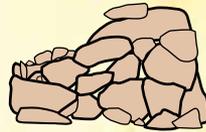
Bird



Joshua Tree



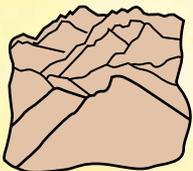
Ground Squirrel



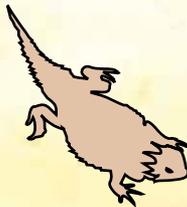
Boulder Pile



Wildflower



Mountains



Lizard



Old Buildings



Tent



# Lazy Lizard Eye



Have you ever seen a lizard sitting on a rock, soaking up the sun? Sit quietly, and pretend that you are a lizard!

What do you see around you?

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How many sounds do you hear and what might they be?

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Use your sense of touch. What do you feel?

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---





## Be A Rock Star



**F**ind a spot in the park with many large rocks. Do you see any that have unique or unusual shapes? Find your favorite boulder and draw a picture of it. If you want to, include yourself in the picture! List some of your discoveries below.



Two things I saw:

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Two things I heard:

---

---



Two things I smelled:

---

---



Two things I touched:

---

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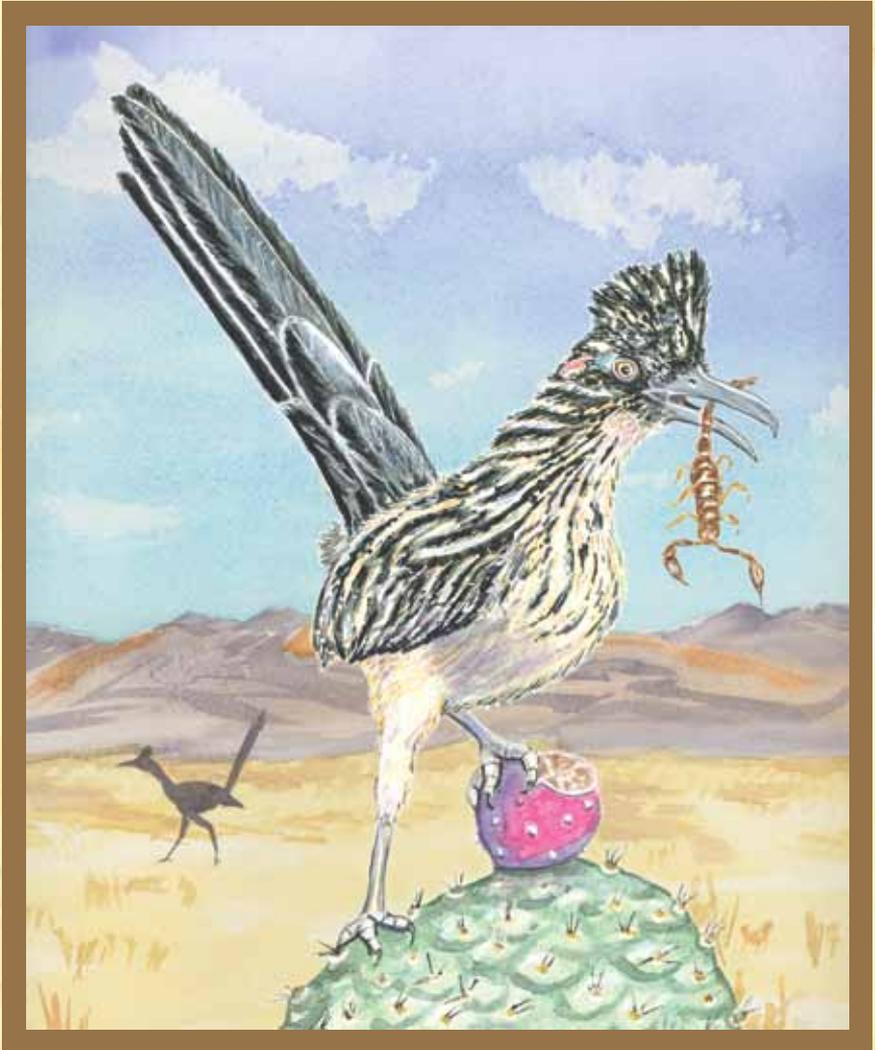




## Roadrunners



Roadrunners are well-known for their long beaks, their ability to run fast, the odd clacking noises they make, and their interesting diet. They can use their long, sharp beak like a spear, allowing them to catch lizards and snakes. Although they are able to fly, they prefer to stay close to the ground.

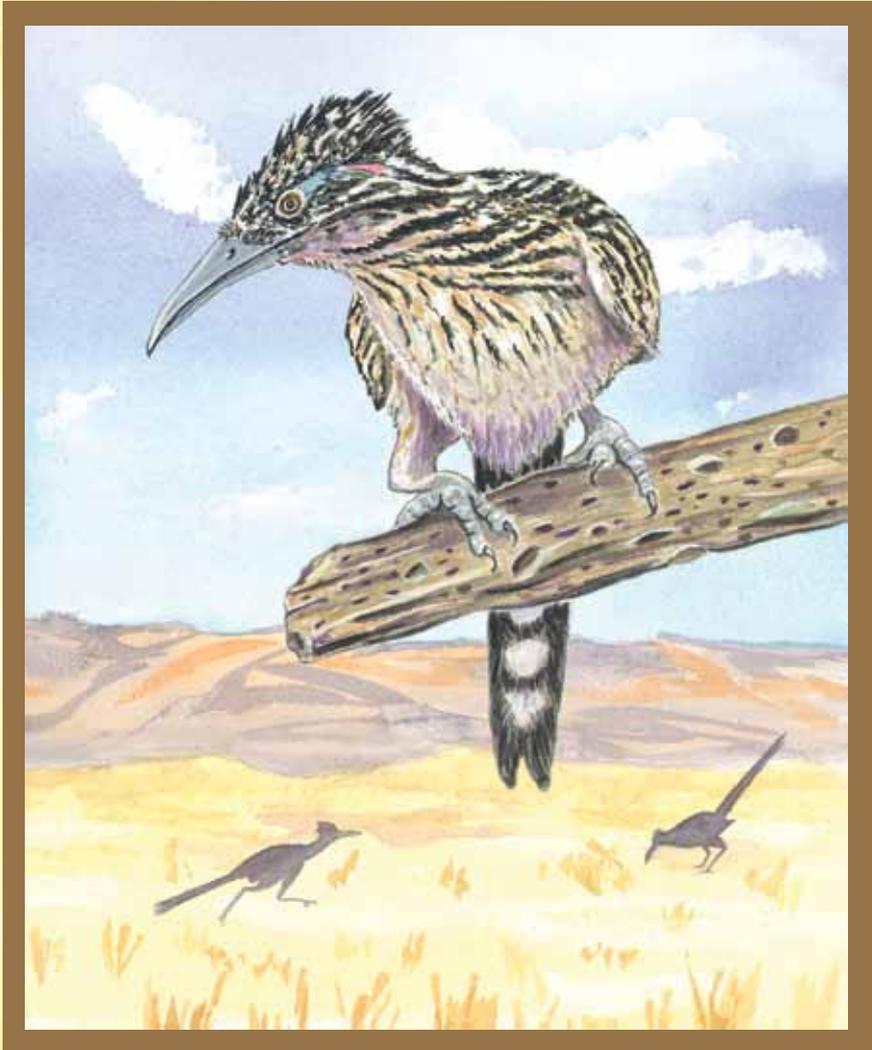




## Ages 8,9 & 10



They use their huge, x-shaped feet to run across the desert. By snapping their jaws open and shut, they produce an assortment of sounds, allowing them to communicate with other roadrunners. Watch for them crossing the road, and whizzing across open spaces.





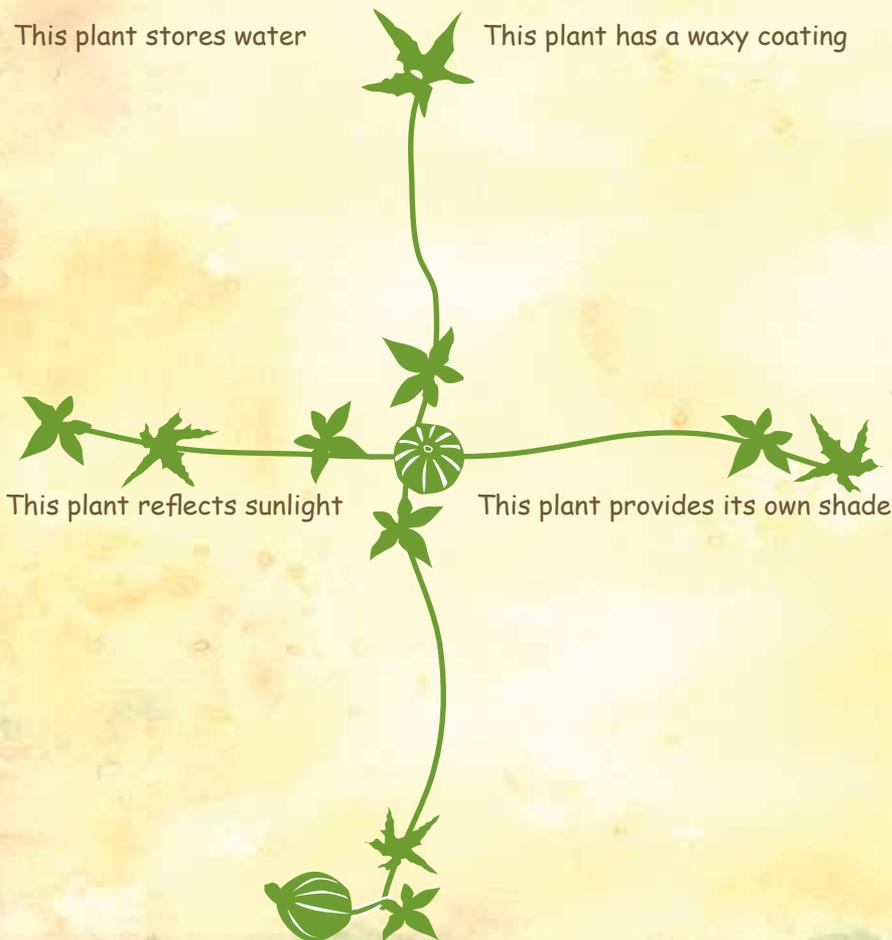
## Plant Sketch



**D**esert plants have many different adaptations to survive the summer heat. Some plants store water. Some have little white hairs on their leaves or white spines to reflect heat from the sun's rays. Other plants have hairs, spines, or leaves that provide shade for their stems. Still others have a waxy coating on their stems and leaves to prevent water loss. Draw plants that you find with these adaptations. You can use a plant guide or ask a ranger to help identify what you drew so you can label your sketches. Remember not to pick any plants inside the park!

This plant stores water

This plant has a waxy coating





## Desert Shopping



Walk through a natural area that has native plants. Imagine that you are an American Indian child living in this desert area and your parents are teaching you to be a skilled hunter and gatherer. They give you the list below of items that your family needs. Look closely at the things around you. Draw pictures in the boxes below of what you would bring back.

Something to grind seeds with

Plant with fibers for basket-making



A sharp point for a sewing needle

Straight sticks for arrow-making



Dinner (dessert too!)

Something for a child to play with





## Rock Ramble



**J**oshua Tree National Park is full of boulders and rock piles that have taken millions of years to form. Magma, or molten rock, from deep inside the earth rose towards the surface then cooled and hardened while still underground. These massive granite rock formations are constantly being reshaped by the sun, wind, water, and ice. As you walk through the park, check off the following kinds of rocks you see:

- a round rock
- a flat rock
- a tall rock
- a striped rock
- a rough rock
- a jagged rock
- a rock bigger than you
- a rock with a crack in it
- a rock found in a boulder pile
- a rock that sparkles
- a rock smaller than your hand
- a rock that looks like an animal

Draw a picture of your favorite rock in the park.

Please leave all rocks where you find them for other visitors to enjoy.





## Desert Poem Acrostic



For many people, writing poems about the desert helps them to express how they experience the desert. Write a poem using the letters of the word "desert" to begin each line.

Darkening skies:  
Evening arrives.  
Sunset enters  
Every crevice-  
Rocks shadowy,  
Trees blanketed.

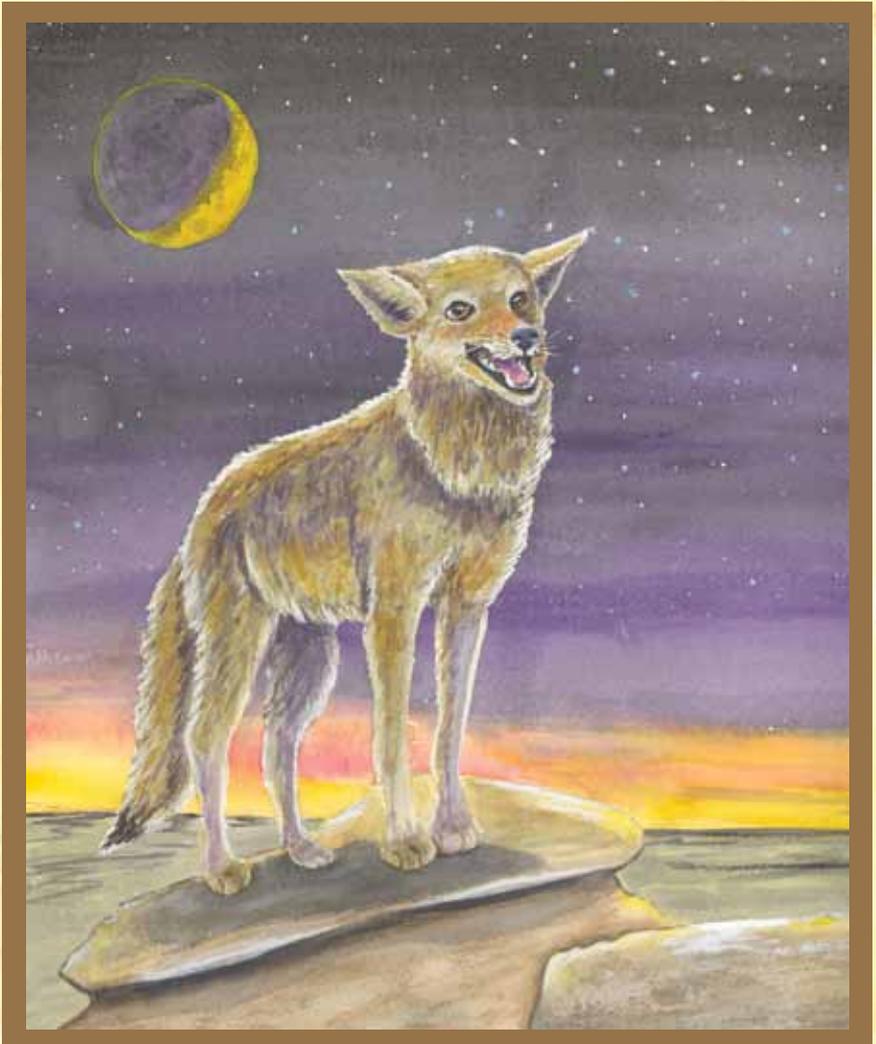




## Coyotes



Maybe you've seen them around the Hidden Valley picnic area or alongside the road. Coyotes are the largest wild dogs that live in Joshua Tree National Park, and they may also be the smartest. They have learned that humans will sometimes throw them tidbits of food, although that is against park rules. Coyotes are omnivores by nature: they eat both plants and animals.





## Ages 11,12,13 & 14



A typical diet in the wild consists of rabbits, other small game, berries, grass, and seeds. Being dependent on human food is likely to make them ill, and they should never be fed. Coyotes are often heard yipping and calling to one another in the early evening. Watch for them in the rocks and trotting through our desert washes.





## Amazing Animals



Lots of animals live in Joshua Tree National Park, although visitors don't always see them. If you look closely, you may find clues to what animals have been doing. What animal signs do you see? Maybe you see a footprint or track, scat or animal droppings, nibblings on a plant, a feather on the ground, or possibly the animal itself. In the space below, list five signs that you observe. Be sure to include which animal you think each sign belongs to and what you think the animal was doing. Look closely! You might be surprised by what you observe.

1. Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

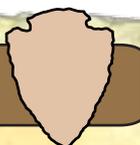
5. Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_





## Who Am I?



**M**any people throughout the centuries have made their home in the lands now occupied by Joshua Tree National Park. Can you match the following sentence clues to the scrambled words below?

**T**he government said the land was free so I loaded the wagon, hitched the team, and headed west.

I am the \_\_\_\_\_

**I**dammed the water so the doggies could drink. The grass grew waist high then. There was plenty of food for my cattle.

I am the \_\_\_\_\_

**W**here there's quartz there's gold, they say. So I came with my pickax to make my fortune. It was hard work breaking that rock!

I am the \_\_\_\_\_

**L**ong ago I hunted for my food and made my clothes from plants and animal hides. I left petroglyphs and pictographs on the rocks.

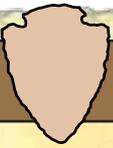
I am the \_\_\_\_\_

**I**work to protect the park's resources and the visitors who come to enjoy them.

I am the \_\_\_\_\_

Scrambled words to choose from for filling in the blanks above:

ncaamtelt, akrp rregna, naamceri ianind, rheodmaeest, dglo rmein



## Landscape Drawing



**J**oshua Tree National Park, like many other National Park Service sites in the United States, is known for its spectacular scenery, majestic views, and wilderness areas. As you drive or hike through the park, look closely at the natural scenery. Find a spot in which to sit and sketch an impressive landscape you see.





## Earth Friendly Checklist



You have probably heard a lot about the many threats the Earth's environment is facing: climate change, air and water pollution, loss of critical habitat, etc. Sometimes it may seem that you are unable to do anything to help our environment. But, there are simple things you can do. Look at the suggestions below and check off the things you already do. Then circle the things you want to try, and write a few sentences about what you would do.

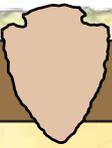
- Turn off lights, computers, and stereo systems when not using them.
- Walk, ride a bike or skateboard, or take a bus instead of asking for a ride in a personal vehicle. 60% of all air pollution comes from cars.
- Reuse paper and plastic bags and other household items.
- Reuse and recycle everything you can!
- Plant native plants like cacti and other low water users in your yard instead of grass lawns. Create a native backyard habitat.
- Water plants either in the early morning or the late evening.
- Create a compost pile to mulch your yard.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs.
- Replace old household appliances with energy-efficient ones.
- For cooling systems, set the thermostat between 75 and 80 degrees.
- For heating systems, set the thermostat between 65 and 70 degrees.
- Use energy-efficient fans to circulate air.
- If you are cold, put on a sweater or add another layer of clothing.
- On warm days, hang your clothes outside instead of using a dryer.
- Reuse grocery bags or use cloth bags when grocery shopping.
- Buy recycled products when possible.
- Buy long-lasting, durable items rather than disposable ones.
- Use rechargeable batteries instead of disposable ones.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.

Earth-friendly things I want to try....

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## Nature Sketchbook



You can be a naturalist! A naturalist is someone who observes things in nature. He or she studies plants, animals, rocks, soil, or stars to understand them and help protect them. Pretend that you're a naturalist at Joshua Tree National Park. Find a quiet spot in which to observe the plants and animals around you. In the space below, draw or write about what you see. Label your drawings if you know the names of what you are observing.



# Certificate of Achievement

## Congratulations, Junior Ranger!

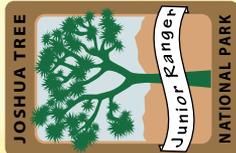
You are an important part of this park and other national parks.  
Thank you for your hard work! Great job!

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ has met  
the requirements of a Joshua Tree National Park Junior Ranger.

## Junior Ranger Pledge

I, \_\_\_\_\_ promise to do my best to be a  
friend to nature and to respect the places and objects used by people long  
ago. I realize my actions will be an example to other people. I promise to  
share with others what I have learned and to help them enjoy nature safely.

Ranger \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





Written by the Education Staff of Joshua Tree National Park

Graphic design and illustration by Christine Elder



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