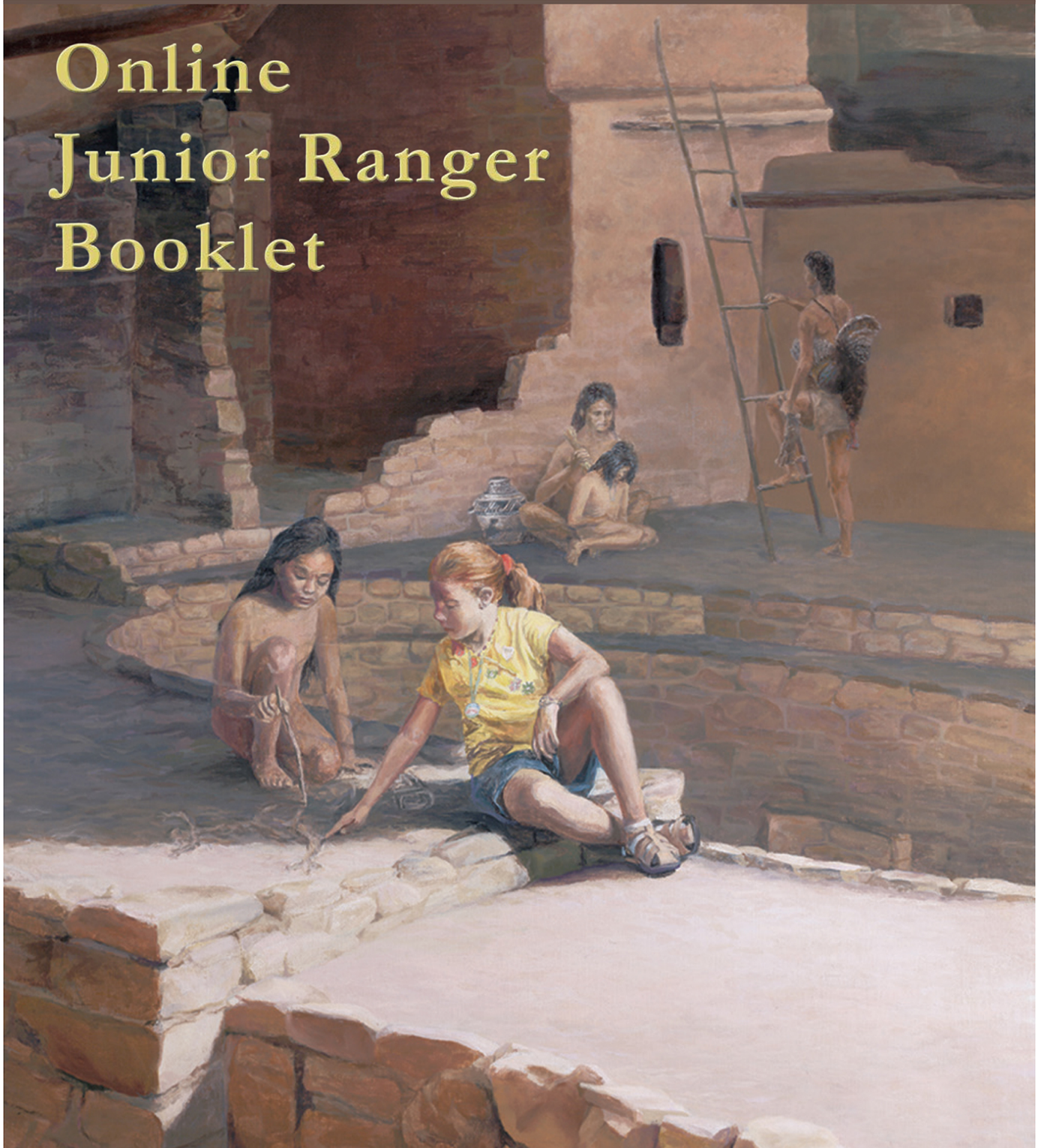


Mesa Verde National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Online Junior Ranger Booklet



Become a Virtual Junior Ranger at Mesa Verde National Park



The National Park Service and its park rangers care for special places like Mesa Verde for today's and future generations to enjoy. That means YOU, as well as your children and grandchildren!

How to become a Virtual Mesa Verde Junior Ranger

Hi! My name is Kathy and this is my friend, Gentle Rain. She and her family used to live in a Mesa Verde cliff dwelling 750 years ago. She helped me to become a Junior Ranger, and now both of us want to help you.



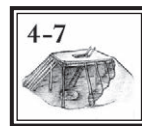
Becoming an online Junior Ranger is fun! As you explore the park online and complete activities in this booklet, you will learn about Gentle Rain's culture, look for items her family and friends might have used, and visit their homes. Just follow our directions and you'll earn a Mesa Verde Junior Ranger virtual badge in no time!

BOOKLET ACTIVITIES	
Being a Good Steward	3
Ancestral Puebloan Life	4
Times Have Changed	6
Generations (Virtual Mesa Top Loop Drive)...	8
Cliff Dwelling Bingo	10
A-Mazing Migration	11

To earn your virtual Mesa Verde Junior Ranger badge, just complete the following steps:

1. Complete the activity called "Being A Good Steward."
2. Then, complete at least 3 more activities. You will find helpful website links throughout the booklet.

Once you choose the activities you want to do, use these special symbols to know which questions to answer for your age group:



3. Once you have finished steps 1 and 2 above, follow the link on page 12 to print your virtual Mesa Verde Junior Ranger badge.

Being A Good Steward

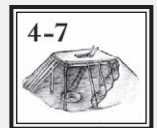
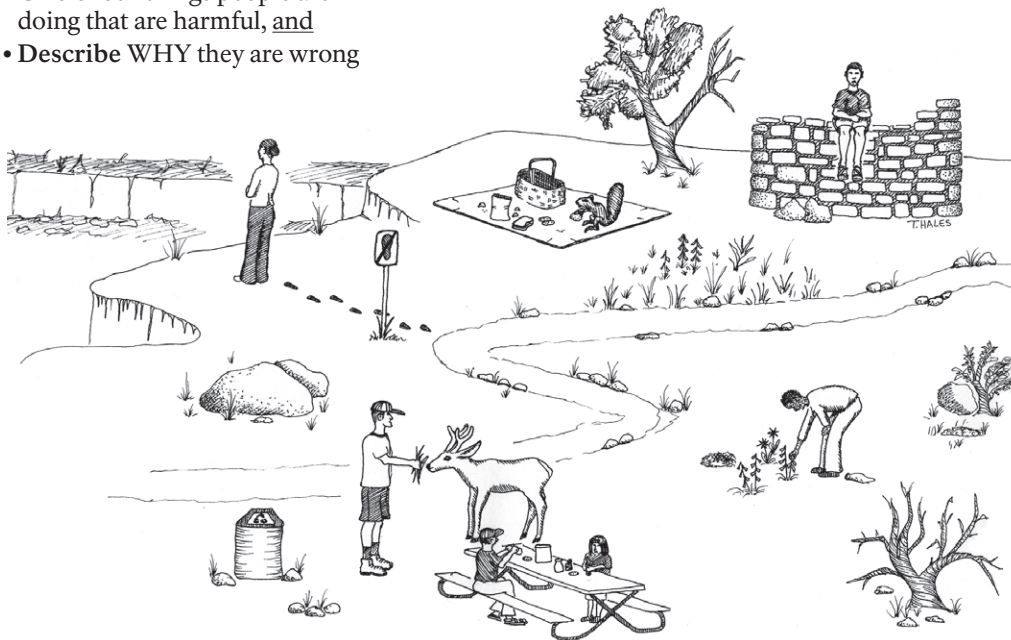
Activity can be done online



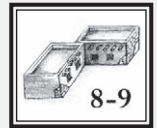
Kathy: To become a Junior Ranger we need to be good stewards. A steward is someone who helps take care of something that belongs to everyone. Since we share our national parks with thousands, even millions of other people, a Junior Ranger should know how to be a good steward while visiting these special places. It's easy. All you have to do is learn and follow the rules of the park. Learning the rules lets us know how to stay safe and take care of the park. You can learn to be a good steward at Mesa Verde by visiting <https://go.nps.gov/mvetiquette>.

Look at the picture below.

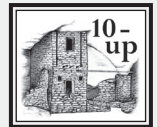
- Circle four things people are doing that are harmful, and
- Describe WHY they are wrong



Circle 4
Describe 1



Circle 4
Describe 2



Circle 4
Describe 4

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

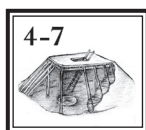
Ancestral Puebloan Life

Activity can be done online



Gentle Rain: Mesa Verde National Park protects over 700 years of history about my people, the Ancestral Pueblo people. Throughout the museum, you will discover how we learned to adapt to our environment in order to meet our basic needs of food, water, and shelter.

Have fun as you explore the park online to find the answers to the museum activity questions.



Explore a village scene in [this online diorama \(go.nps.gov/diorama-cd\)](https://www.nps.gov/diorama-cd).

Then check or circle the right answer to the questions below.

FOOD

Look carefully around the online diorama. What did the Ancestral Pueblo people NOT eat?

- Corn Squash Brownies

WATER

Women carried water from the nearest seep spring to their homes in the village. What did they carry it in?

- Plastic jug Pottery jar Metal thermos

SHELTER

How did they get into their second or third story rooms?

- Ropes Elevators Ladders

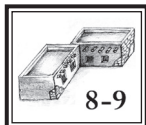
DECORATE THE WATER JAR

Mesa Verde pottery is known for its beautiful designs. Draw your own design on the jar below.



Activity continued on next page →

Ancestral Puebloan Life (continued)



Explore the [online artifact gallery \(go.nps.gov/mv-artifacts\)](http://go.nps.gov/mv-artifacts) to find the answers to the questions below.

FOOD

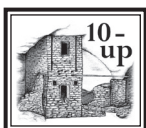
Find a tool they used to plant corn. What is it?

WATER

Find an item that women used to carry the water from the springs to their homes. What is it called?

SHELTER

What is a kiva? How was it used?



FOOD, WATER, SHELTER

Explore the [online artifact gallery \(go.nps.gov/mv-artifacts\)](http://go.nps.gov/mv-artifacts) to answer the clues below and complete the crossword puzzle.

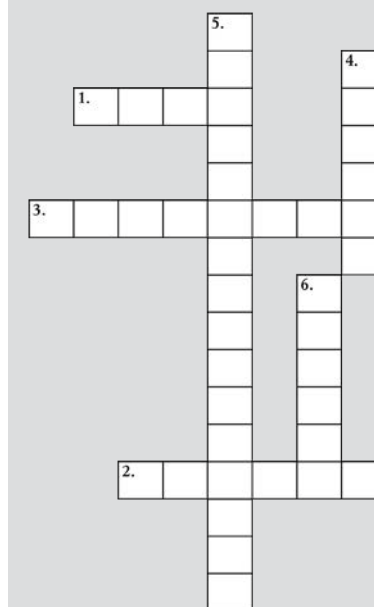
Across:

1. This crop was very important to the Ancestral Pueblo people's way of life. A part of this plant has been found in almost every room, kiva, and work area in Mesa Verde.
2. Before the bow and arrow, this spear-throwing device was used to hunt large game.
3. This was the first type of house built in Mesa Verde.

Down:

4. These small bowls with long handles were used for dipping and pouring liquids.
5. Scientists study wood beams used in the construction of a dwelling to learn when the structure was built. What is this science called?
6. The Ancestral Pueblo people were good at conserving water in this dry climate. Today, you can save water at home by turning this off while brushing your teeth. (If you need a hint, take a peek at page 6.)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



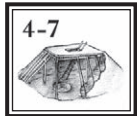
Times Have Changed

Activity can be done anywhere



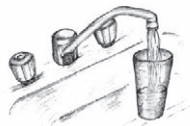
Gentle Rain: My family learned how to adapt and survive at Mesa Verde by using what nature provided. Because of this, my life at Mesa Verde was very different from your everyday life. At a young age, children helped with daily chores. We didn't go to school, but we learned valuable life lessons everyday. We learned how to grow crops, hunt, make pottery, and build houses with mud and stone. We gathered materials from our surroundings to make what we needed. We also learned about our history through stories told by our grandparents.

Discover how we lived in Mesa Verde by completing the following activities.

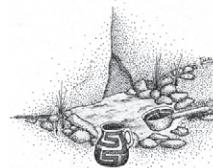


Draw a line from each item in the left column (things we use or do today) with an item in the right column (things the Ancestral Pueblo people used or did then.)

Now

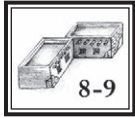


Then



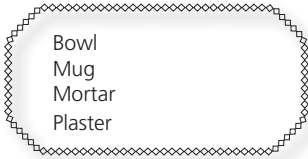
Activity continued on next page →

Times Have Changed (continued)

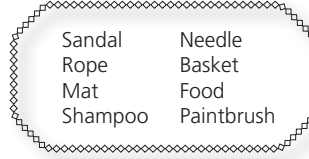


Learn about some of the natural resources used by Ancestral Pueblo people at <https://go.nps.gov/nr-essentials>, then complete the activity below.

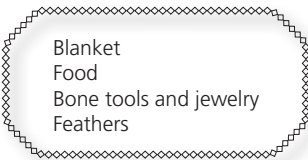
Each box contains a list of items made from natural resources found in Mesa Verde. Use the blanks beside each box to write the name of the natural resource used to make everything in the list. (If you still need a hint, use the word list at the bottom of the page.)



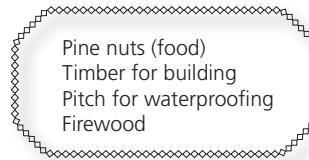
C _ _ _ _



_ _ _ _ _



_ _ _ _ _



_ _ _ _ _



To learn more about Gentle Rain's life in Mesa Verde, fill in the blanks to read the following story. If you have little brothers or sisters, they might like to hear the story when you are done.

Explore these sites online to help you complete the story.

- <https://go.nps.gov/mv-artifacts>
- <https://go.nps.gov/nr-essentials>

(If you still need a hint, use the word list at the bottom of the page.)

- clay
- corn
- hand
- kivas
- metates
- pinyon
- pottery
- rabbits
- seep
- turkey
- yucca

My family and I live in a stone room of a cliff dwelling. The people of my village wake up very early and start cooking fires in the rooms and courtyards. Every morning, my mother goes to collect water from the nearest _____ spring while I feed the turkeys.

As soon as the morning meal is eaten, the men and boys climb up the cliff face using _____ and toe holds to reach the fields. Spring days are spent clearing the fields and planting _____, beans, and squash. Corn is our most important crop. The women use manos and _____ to grind the corn into meal. But for now, my mother is teaching my younger sister how to make _____ from _____. We use it for cooking, and storing food and water.

Throughout the year, the men hunt mule deer and _____, while children help the women gather wild plants, such as nuts from the _____ pine trees, grains from ricegrass, and pads from the prickly pear cactus. Much of this food is stored for the winter. We also collect _____ leaves to pound into fibers to make rope, sandals, and baskets. My father weaves _____ feathers with yucca fibers to make blankets for the winter.

When the _____ are not used for ceremonies, we spend time in these warm, underground rooms listening to the stories of our people, or working on crafts such as weaving, basketry, and making tools.

No matter the time of the year, my people are busy with the daily tasks needed to survive in Mesa Verde.

Generations

Activity can be done online

Explore the [Virtual Mesa Top Loop Drive](http://go.nps.gov/onlinemt/) (go.nps.gov/onlinemt/) to complete the activities for your age group.



Gentle Rain: My people did not always live in cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde. For the first 600 years they lived on the mesa top. As you drive the Mesa Top Loop you will see changes in our housing styles from pithouse, to pueblo, and finally to cliff dwelling.

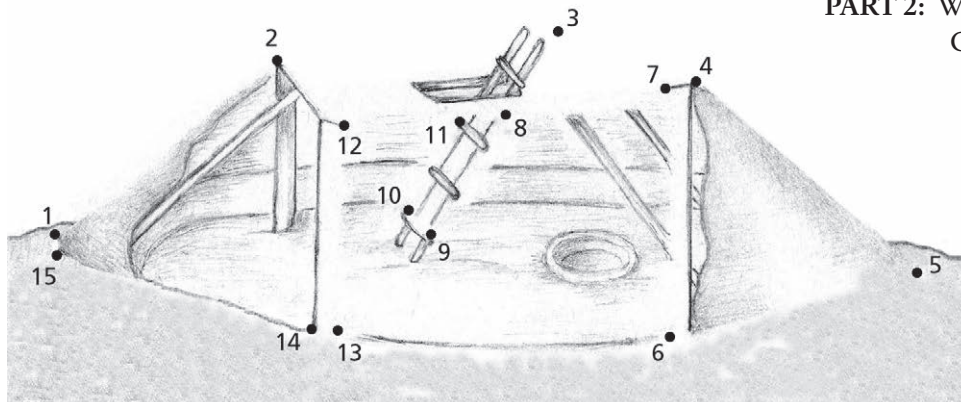
Directions – Find the answers for your age group for Part 1 in this activity by taking a [virtual drive along the Mesa Top Loop](#) and visiting Stops 1, 2, and 3.



4-7

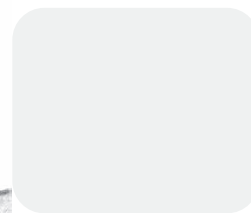
PART 1 - Connect the Dots:

Connect the dots to see one of the Ancestral Puebloan homes you visited. Check the [virtual Mesa Top Loop Drive](#) to find out what kind of home you have drawn.

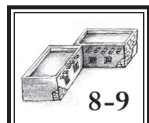


PART 2: Which type of home is it?

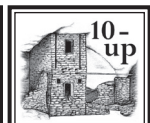
Circle the answer below.



Go to PART 3 on the next page to draw your favorite type of home.



8-9



10-up

PART 1 - Scavenger Hunt:

Take the [virtual Mesa Top Loop Drive](#) read the signs at each of the three stops listed below. Use the signs to find the missing word in each sentence. Fill in the blanks for each sentence, and write the words in the word list (Part 2) on the next page. (*Don't forget to ask your parents for help if you need it.*)

1. Pithouse (600 CE)

A. The Ancestral Pueblo people were starting to build _____ homes, and becoming farmers.

2. Pithouses & Early Pueblo Villages (700 - 950 CE)

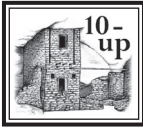
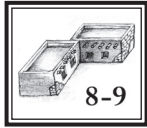
B. The Ancestral Pueblo people used _____ construction (rough stones loosely cemented with clay) when they began building above ground villages.

3. Sun Point View (1200 - 1300 CE)

C. The Ancestral Pueblo people built their cliff dwellings inside cliff _____.

Parts 2 and 3 of the activity continued on next page →

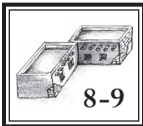
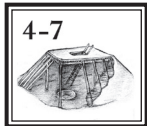
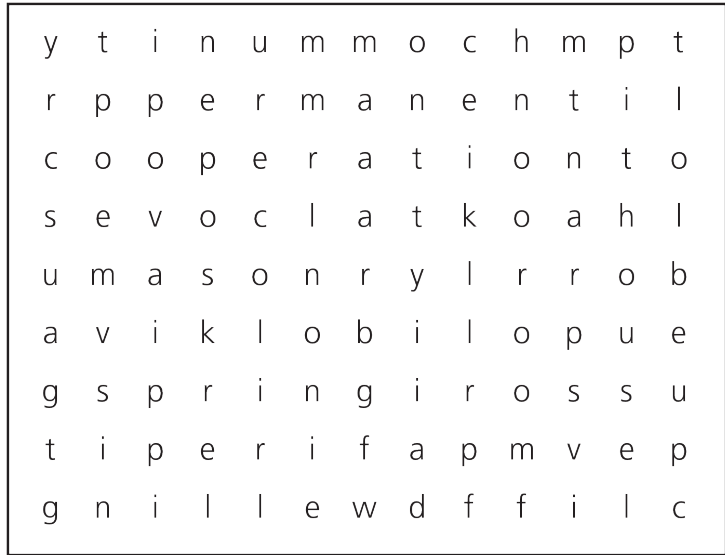
Generations (continued)



PART 2 - Word Search:

Locate all twelve words in the word search puzzle below. Circle or draw a line through each word in the puzzle to complete it. (Remember to include the three missing words by completing "PART 1 - Scavenger Hunt" on the previous page.)

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. _____ | 7. fire pit |
| 2. _____ | 8. kiva |
| 3. _____ | 9. pithouse |
| 4. cliff dwelling | 10. pueblo |
| 5. community | 11. room |
| 6. cooperation | 12. spring |



PART 3: Draw the type of house you would most like to live in.

Cliff Dwelling Bingo

Activity can be done online

Explore some of these sites to get a bingo:


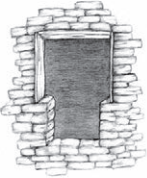


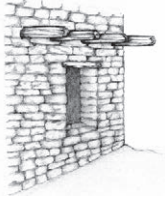






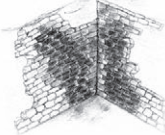

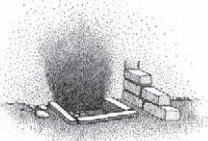




- <https://go.nps.gov/digital>
(hint: Look for Long House, Balcony House, and Cliff Palace tours)
- <https://go.nps.gov/mvphotos>
- <https://go.nps.gov/mv-artifacts>



Gentle Rain: Visit a cliff dwelling, such as Spruce Tree House, to see many of the same things I did when I lived here. Remember to be a good steward by not touching, climbing, or leaning on the walls.

Look for the items below and place an “X” over the ones you find. Find four in a row across or diagonally.

 Ladder	 T-shaped Door	 Juniper Berries	 Mano and Metate
 Viga (roof beam)	 Yucca	 Kiva	 Seep Spring
 Prickly Pear Cactus	 Ranger Hat	 Two-story Building	 Soot-blackened Wall
 Lizard	 Fire Pit	 Pinyon Pine	 Bird

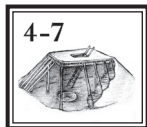
A-mazing Migration

Activity can be done anywhere

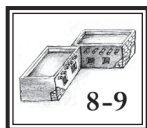


Kathy: For some time, it was thought that Gentle Rain's family and the rest of the Ancestral Pueblo people simply vanished from Mesa Verde. We now know that they migrated south over 700 years ago. Their descendants include the Rio Grande Pueblos in New Mexico, the Hopi in Arizona, and the Ysleta del Sur in Texas.

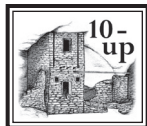
Follow the paths through the maze from Mesa Verde to find the present-day locations of the Ancestral Pueblo descendants. You must travel through and find at least one Ancestral Puebloan item along the way to each pueblo, and avoid any modern items.



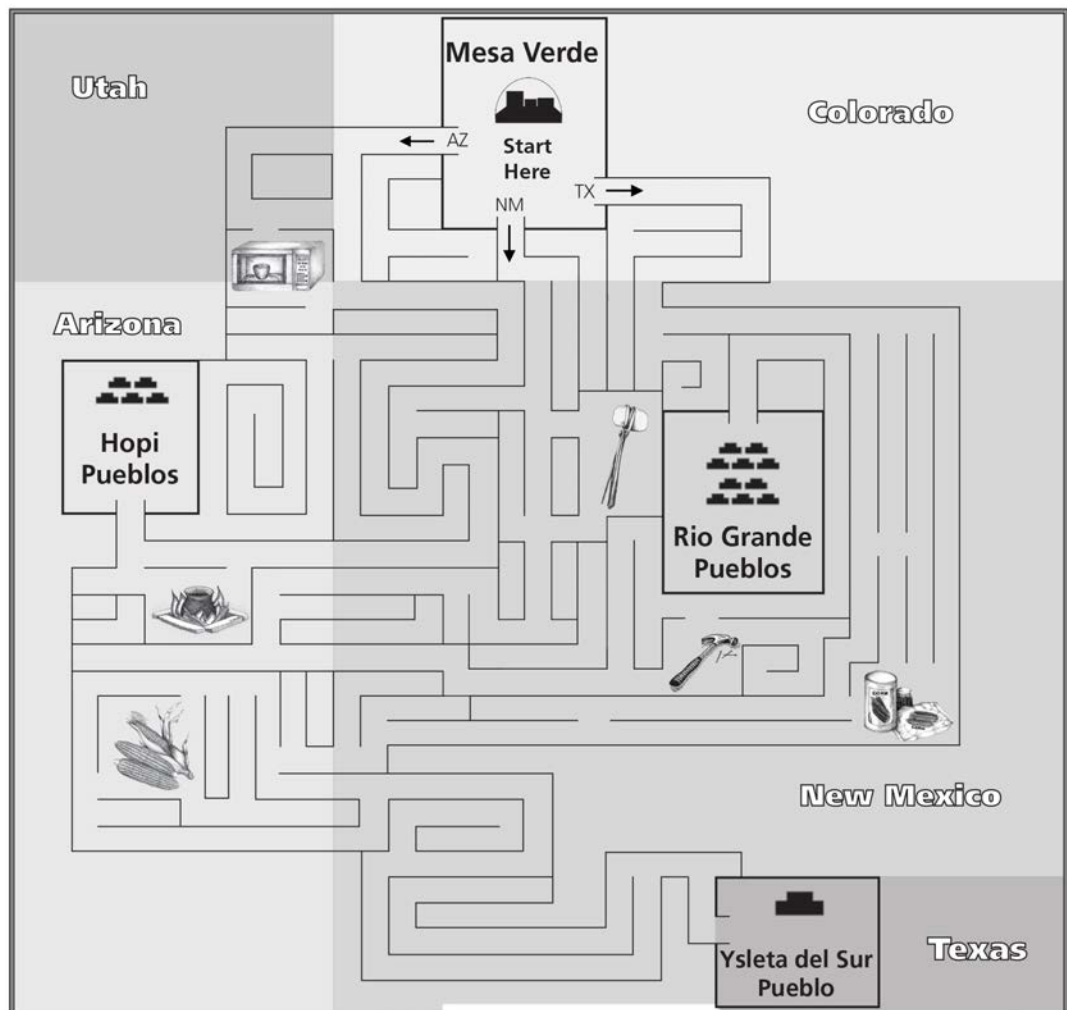
Find the Hopi Pueblos.



Find the Hopi and Rio Grande Pueblos.



Find the Hopi, Rio Grande, and Ysleta del Sur Pueblos.



Mesa Verde Junior Ranger Souvenir Page

What I experienced at
Mesa Verde National Park...

Place a check mark next to the
[cliff dwellings](#) you visited:

- Spruce Tree House Long House
- Balcony House Step House
- Cliff Palace

Place a check mark next to other
activities you did:

- Explored the [Artifact Gallery](#)
- Visited the [Virtual Mesa Top Loop](#)
- Saw a [pithouse](#)
- Had a picnic
- Saw [wildlife](#) from a safe distance

Be An Artist!

Draw a picture or write about what you liked BEST

This Certifies That

has completed the Junior Ranger Program at

Mesa Verde National Park

I am proud to be a Mesa Verde Junior Ranger. I promise to be a good steward of Mesa Verde National Park and all national parks. I will pick up litter, conserve water and energy, and recycle whenever I can. I also promise to be respectful of other cultures whose way of life may be different from my own.



Witnessed by: _____
(Signature of friend or family member)

Date: _____



To print your virtual Mesa Verde Junior Ranger Badge, click on the link below, then right-click on the image and select "print" or "save as".

- https://www.nps.gov/meve/learn/kidsyouth/images/jr-ranger-no-cut-here_webprint.png