

Death Valley National Park



Junior Ranger



Name: _____ Age: _____

How to Become a Junior Ranger

1 Complete the right number of activities for your age.

- Ages 6 and under - do at least 4 activities
- Ages 7-10 - do at least 6 activities
- Ages 11 and above - do at least 9 activities



2 Attend a ranger-guided program.

Program Title: _____ Ranger Signature / Date: _____

What did you learn at the program? _____

OR, if you are unable to attend a ranger-guided program:

Interview a Ranger: ask these questions

- Why did you become a ranger?
- What do you like best about Death Valley?
- AND ask your own question

Ranger Signature: _____

3 Complete ONE of the projects listed below.

Circle the project you chose. Get an adult's signature when you complete the project.

- Pick up 10 pieces of litter and put them in a trash bin. Don't forget to recycle!
- Reuse something you have already used in a different way (for example: reuse your empty soda bottle as a water bottle or reuse paper to draw a picture).
- Recycle items your family used in the recycle bins at the visitor center, campgrounds and resorts. Be sure to separate items and place them in the proper bins.

Adult's Signature: _____

4 After you complete steps 1, 2, and 3:



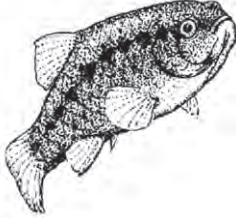

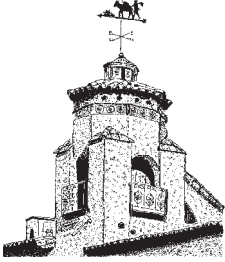






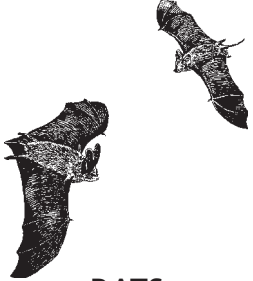
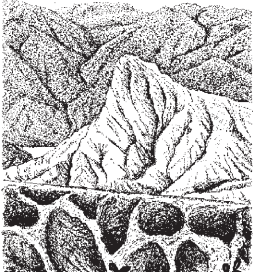


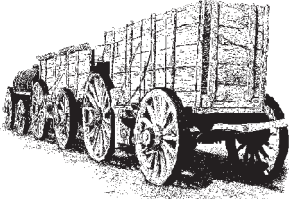
Go to a Visitor Center or Ranger Station in Death Valley National Park. A ranger will check your work and give you a Death Valley Junior Ranger Badge! To buy a Junior Ranger Patch take your signed certificate to a visitor center bookstore.

Junior Ranger Bingo

Junior Rangers are always watching the world around them. Some of the animals, plants, and other things you may see while visiting Death Valley National Park are shown on this page. Some are hard to find, so keep your eyes open.

Circle what you see on your visit.

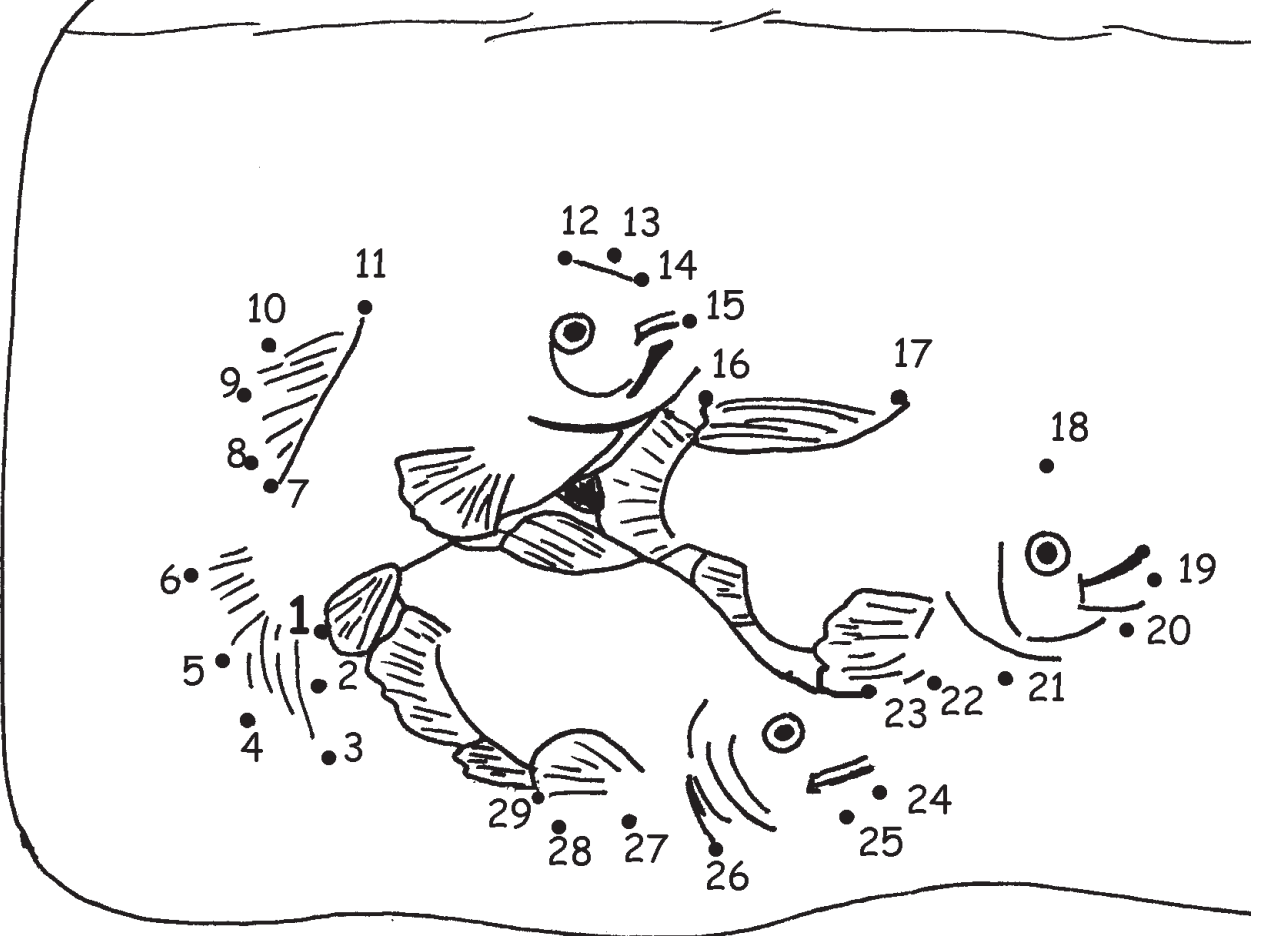
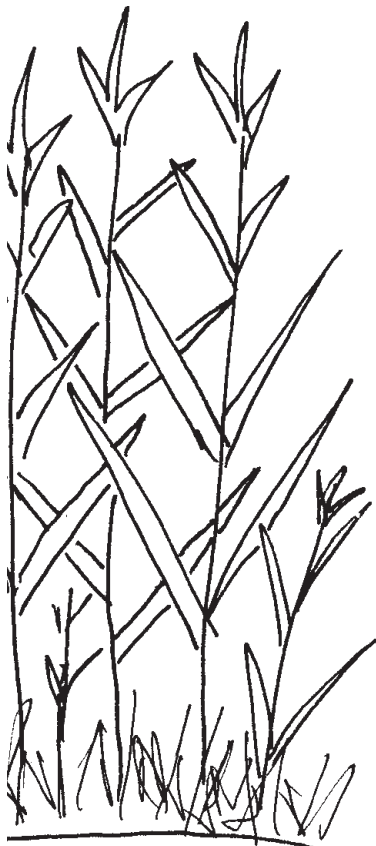
Connect 4 in a row across, down or diagonally to complete the activity.

 <p>LIZARD</p>	 <p>CANYON</p>	 <p>PUPFISH</p>	 <p>DESERT HOLLY</p>
 <p>SCOTTY'S CASTLE</p>	 <p>RAVEN</p>	 <p>ARROWHEAD</p>	 <p>COYOTE</p>
 <p>ROADRUNNER</p>	 <p>RANGER HAT</p>	 <p>CACTUS</p>	 <p>BATS</p>
 <p>ZABRISKIE POINT</p>	 <p>JOSHUA TREE</p>	 <p>GROUND SQUIRREL</p>	 <p>WAGON</p>

Dot-to-Dot

Pupfish are tiny fish found in some of the springs and creeks in Death Valley. Many pupfish are ENDEMIC to their spring or creek. This means they can only be found in that place and nowhere else. The Salt Creek pupfish are only found in Salt Creek and the Cottonball Marsh pupfish are only found in Cottonball Marsh. The pupfish at Devils Hole are an endangered species; there are very few of them.

Connect the dots to see what pupfish look like.



☆ A Timbisha Coyote Story ☆

This is a very old story told by the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe.
Read it out loud with your family. ☆

"Aiyee! This cool night breeze tells me
all is good. All is good with the land.
And I am good, good, good.
Visit the south, the Newe (American Indians)
and the waters that I smell from the spring.
I am the one who walks the land,
All is for me, me, me." ☆

Coyote is saying this as he admires his tail.
He twirls his tail around and around.
"My power is in my tail," he says loudly.

"I see the Newe and the waters.
Newe are dancing and singing, also drumming.
I shall dance also, better than the Newe."
Coyote goes side to side, back and forth.
He twirls his tail around and around.
"Thanks to the land I walk upon with my power,
my power, my power," he sings as he dances.

The Newe danced 'til dawn. ☆
Coyote's eyes were closing; he was falling
asleep. "I can't have Newe see me asleep.
I'll roll my eyelids back and up so I can see."
Coyote danced and danced.

☆ He then saw the tules swaying like dancers
Tree leaves were singing and clapping
together sounding like drums. ☆
Coyote's eyes were wide open.
He then twirled, chasing his tail and nipping
at it and howling.
He howls at the dawn, howls and howls.

The Newe talked to the Great Spirit,
of the Creator.

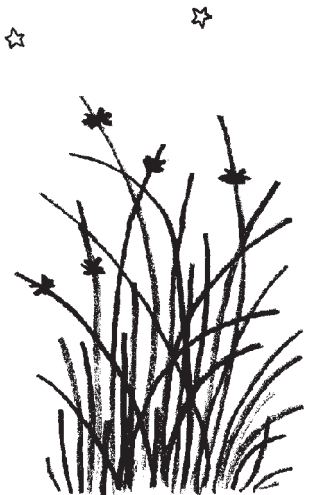
Singing and drumming from the trees.
Some Newe will hear the whispering of the
tules in time with song.
Some songs were given to them from the
Coyote's trips to the springs. ☆

The Newe will teach
Do not be vain like the coyote.
Do not have pretenses of power.

☆ The singing and drumming within the trees
and other growing forms were left by
Newe's ancestors in spirit. Respect this!

The waters of the spring Coyote smelled is
now known as Tule Spring.

☆ Draw a scene from the story. ☆



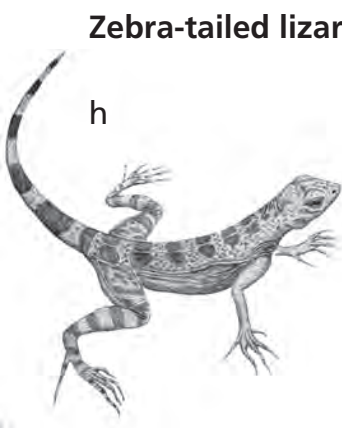
When Do You Wake Up?

What would it be like to live in one of the hottest places in the world during the middle of July? Temperatures often get above 120° Fahrenheit (48° Celsius) in the shade. When would you be active? Some animals have adapted to the heat by adjusting their schedules.

Which of the terms below best describe these desert animals' activity?

NOCTURNAL (nock-tur-nal) animals are most active during the night, usually staying in burrows during the day to stay out of the heat.

DIURNAL (die-yur-nal) animals are most active during the day, though most of them find a shady place to rest when the sun is hottest.

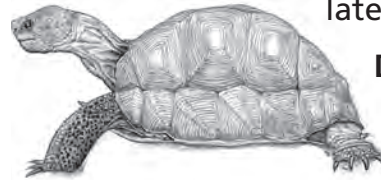


Zebra-tailed lizards warm up their bodies in morning sun. To avoid fast as 18 mph (29 kph) to shady areas.

Zebra-tailed lizards are:

- NOCTURNAL
- DIURNAL

Desert tortoises live in underground burrows. If they come out during the hottest part of the year, it is in the morning and late afternoon.



Desert tortoises are:

- NOCTURNAL
- DIURNAL

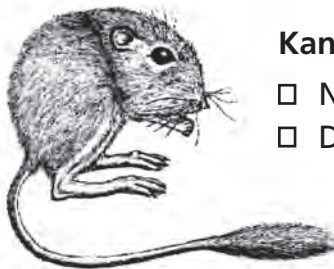
Scorpions are:

- NOCTURNAL
- DIURNAL



Scorpions hide from the light under rocks and bark. Their eight tiny eyes are so sensitive they can see by starlight. They hunt their prey by feeling vibrations.

Kangaroo rats have large eyes to help search for seeds in the dark. When the moon is bright they stay in their burrows to avoid predators.



Kangaroo rats are:

- NOCTURNAL
- DIURNAL

Coyotes hunt small animals in the moonlight, drink from desert springs during the day, and can be heard singing anytime in a 24-hour period.



Coyotes are:

- NOCTURNAL
- DIURNAL

Name two other diurnal Death Valley animals.

Name two other nocturnal Death Valley animals.

Build an Animal

Imagine what you would want to be like if you were an animal in Death Valley. You could fly, run, hop, or slither. You could have night vision, great hearing, or a perfect sense of smell. The animals that live here have special ADAPTATIONS to help them survive in the hot and dry desert.

How would you like to be like a **jackrabbit**?

They have long ears that shed heat to help keep them cool. They can make speedy escapes on their long legs to keep themselves safe from other animals. To help see danger all around, they have eyes that stick out of the sides of their head.



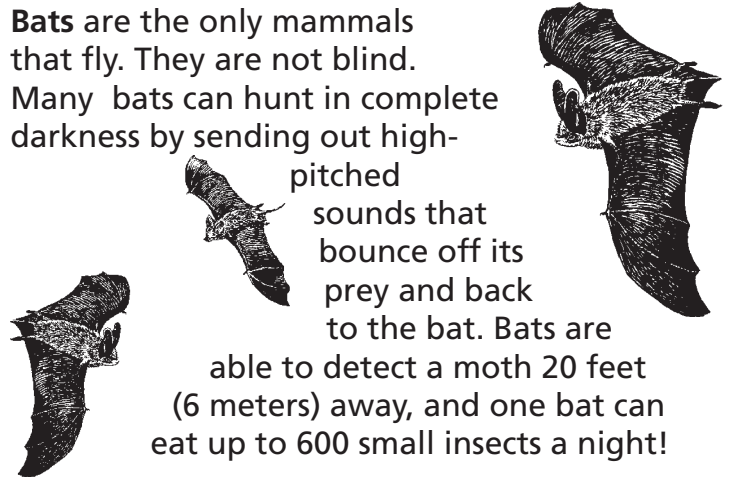
Kangaroo rats can live their entire lives without drinking water. They do not need to drink water because their bodies use a special process that creates water out of the seeds they eat. They use their large hind feet to jump like a kangaroo. Their large feet also keep them from sinking into soft sand, just like snow shoes keep us from sinking into soft snow.



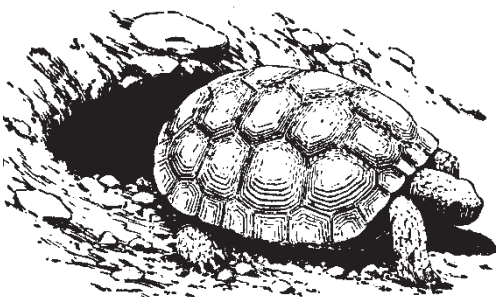
In the warm season, **chuckwallas** sit on rocks during the day and eat plants. When they are in danger, they sneak into a crack in a rock and puff up like a balloon, making it difficult for predators to pull them out. This helps save chuckwallas from being eaten by larger animals.



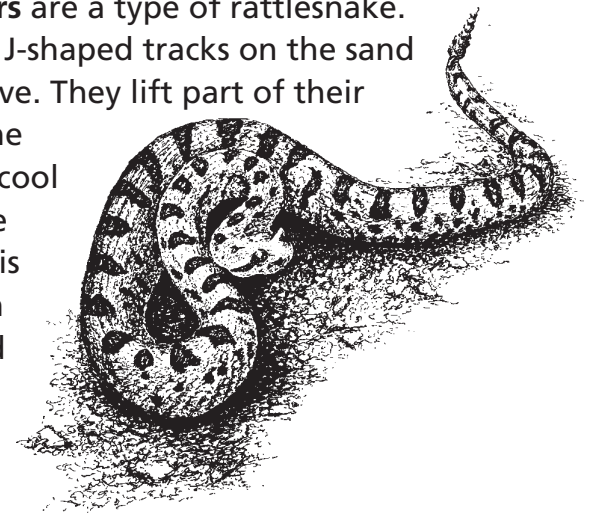
Bats are the only mammals that fly. They are not blind. Many bats can hunt in complete darkness by sending out high-pitched sounds that bounce off its prey and back to the bat. Bats are able to detect a moth 20 feet (6 meters) away, and one bat can eat up to 600 small insects a night!



Desert tortoises spend up to 95% of their lives underground. Tortoises stay in their burrows during the winter, hibernating until spring when wildflowers may bloom and food is available. Their burrows also help to keep them cool in the summer.



Sidewinders are a type of rattlesnake. They leave J-shaped tracks on the sand as they move. They lift part of their body off the ground to cool it while the other part is pushing on the ground to move.



**Use your imagination to invent a desert animal.
Draw a picture of your creation and its home below.**



Answer these questions about the adaptations your animal uses to survive in Death Valley.

What is your desert animal called? _____

Where does it live in the park? _____

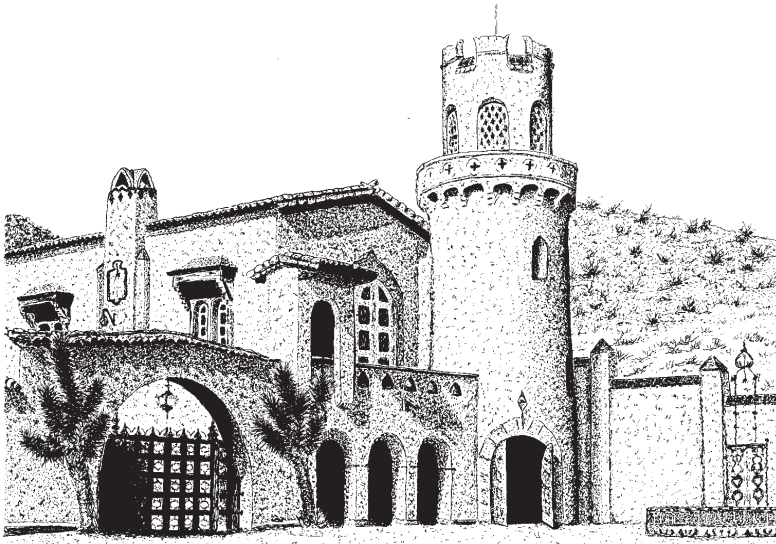
How does it survive extreme heat? _____

How does it get water? _____

How does it protect itself from enemies? _____

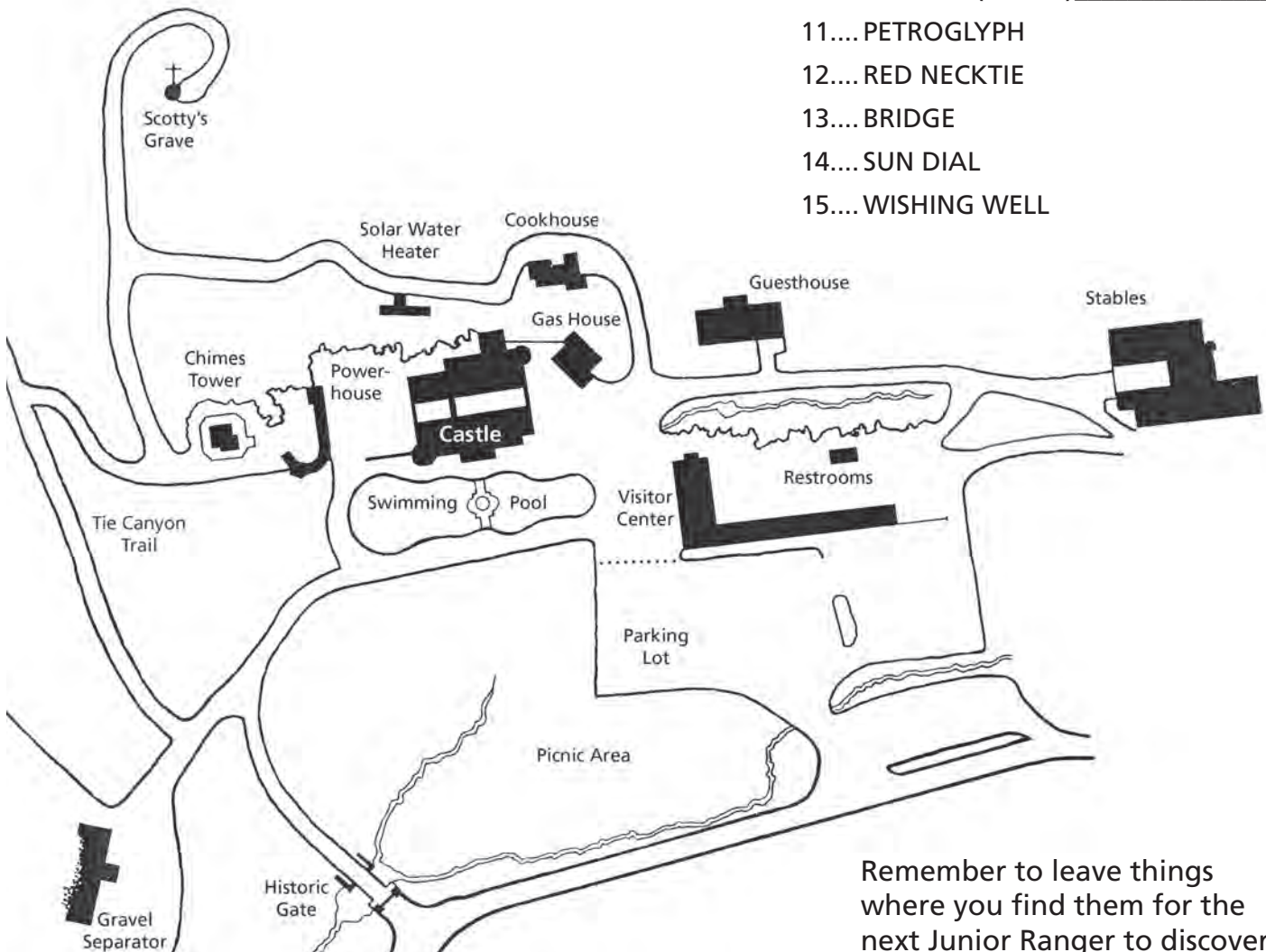
Scotty's Treasure Hunt

Death Valley Scotty told stories about finding treasures including a gold mine. He didn't find a real gold mine, but there are many treasures to be discovered at Scotty's Castle.



Find 10 of these treasures.
Write the treasure's number on the map where you found it.

- 1..... WATER WHEEL
- 2..... WINDY
- 3..... BLACK TOWER
- 4..... WAGON
- 5..... J & S
- 6..... RAILROAD TIES
- 7..... ARROWHEAD
- 8..... FLOWING WATER
- 9..... ANIMAL (what?) _____
- 10.... RANGER (name?) _____
- 11.... PETROGLYPH
- 12.... RED NECKTIE
- 13.... BRIDGE
- 14.... SUN DIAL
- 15.... WISHING WELL



Remember to leave things where you find them for the next Junior Ranger to discover.

A Wilderness Park

Death Valley National Park is 95% WILDERNESS—a special place where humans no longer are allowed to change the landscape. When you are exploring the wilderness, you should leave it the way you find it.

About *one million people* visit Death Valley every year. Even little changes made by each visitor can make a big impact all together.

Draw or describe the impacts these changes would make on the wilderness.

If each park visitor picked a plant or flower.....



X 1,000,000 visitors

...what would happen?

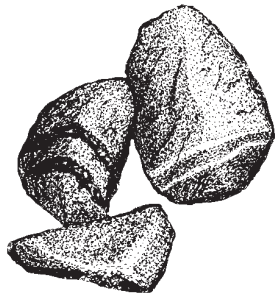
If each park visitor fed the wild animals or birds.....



X 1,000,000 visitors

...what would happen?

If each park visitor collected a few rocks.....



X 1,000,000 visitors

...what would happen?

If each park visitor scratched their name on the walls of the canyons.....



X 1,000,000 visitors

...what would happen?

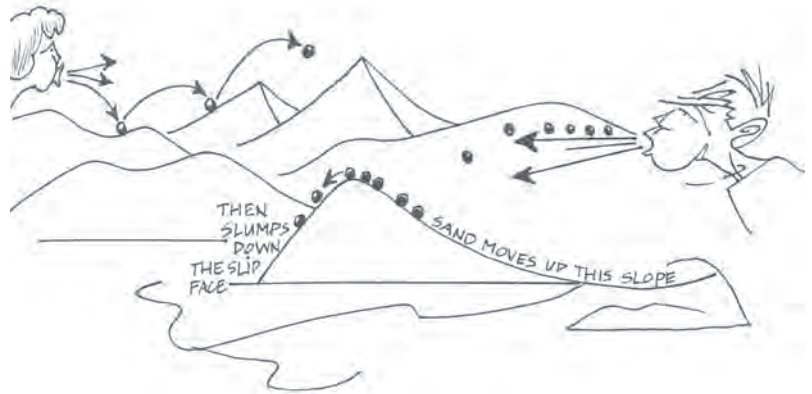
Death Valley Rocks!

Death Valley National Park is famous for its geologic formations. Look around as you travel through the park and you will see the results of many geologic processes.



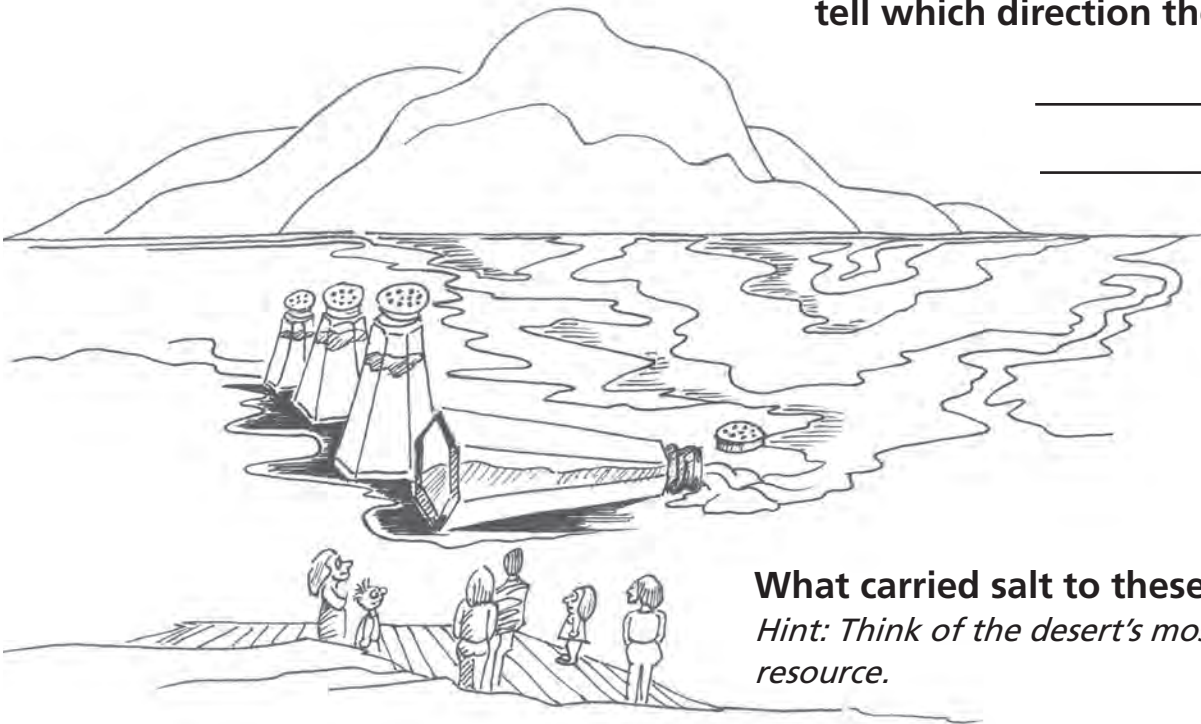
At **Sarriking Point**, you can see stripes in the rocks that once laid at the bottom of an ancient lake. The process that forms these stripes is **SEDIMENTATION**.

Why do you think we can see these layers now?



The **sand dunes** near Stovepipe Wells are formed by winds that blow grains of sand. The sand drops into piles of dunes. Sand is blown up one slope then slumps down the slip face.

By looking at the dunes, how can you tell which direction the wind blows?



Salt is a distinctive feature in Death Valley. You can see it at low places, especially at Badwater or the Devils Golf Course.

What carried salt to these low places?

Hint: Think of the desert's most precious resource.

Word Search

Finish the words in the sentences below, then find those words in the puzzle. Words may be read up, down, forward, backward, and even diagonal.

The D _____ is hot and dry but full of different animals and plants.

What was a metal that miners looked for in Death Valley? G _____.

Who was the person the Castle in Death Valley was named for? S _____.

What kind of pack animal did miners use in the old days? B _____.

A C _____ is formed by flash floods and is sometimes called a gorge.

Badwater is 282 feet (86 meters) below S _____ L _____.

What is one type of prickly plant that grows in Death Valley? C _____.

What should you always have with you when you visit the desert? W _____.

The Desert T _____ has a protective shell and is so rare it is almost E _____.

If you have a question about Death Valley, who can you ask? R _____.

B _____ fly out into the night after they sleep all day in a cave or mineshaft.

What large black bird lives in Death Valley and makes loud calls? R _____.

Sometimes you can see this big hairy spider as it crosses the road. T _____.

This mineral was mined in Death Valley and used in detergent. B _____.



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



A Place to Live

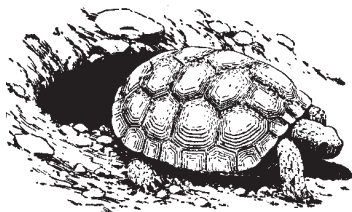
Everyone needs a place to live. Death Valley National Park is home to thousands of species of plants and animals. Some of them, like coyotes and ravens, can live just about anywhere. Others only survive in one smaller HABITAT (place to live) because of their special needs. **Bighorn sheep** stay safe from predators by climbing high above them. **Desert tortoises** are good diggers. They need open places with loose dirt and scattered shrubs so when they dig their burrows, roots will support the roof. **Eureka Dunes Evening Primroses** only live in the dunes they are named for. They are able

to keep their heads above the drifting sand while other plants get buried. **Pupfish** are real survivors! Their ancestors lived here during the Ice Age when the climate was wetter and a huge lake covered the valley floor. Now Death Valley is the driest place in the nation, yet these little fish manage to live in springs and streams scattered across the desert. Both the Eureka Dunes Evening Primrose and the Devil's Hole Pupfish are **ENDANGERED SPECIES**. They are better protected from extinction since their habitats are being preserved as part of Death Valley National Park.

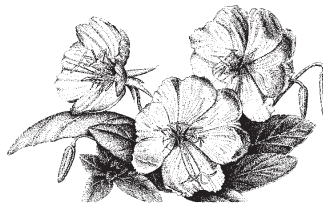
Draw a line connecting the species with the habitat in which it lives.



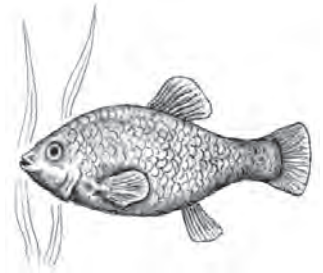
Bighorn Sheep



Desert Tortoise



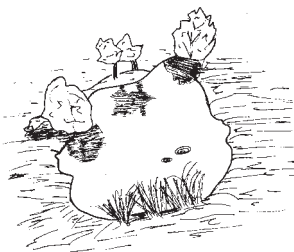
Eureka Dunes Evening Primrose



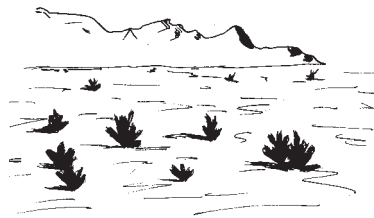
Pupfish



sand dunes



desert spring



desert shrub



rocky slope

Pick one species and fill in the following information.

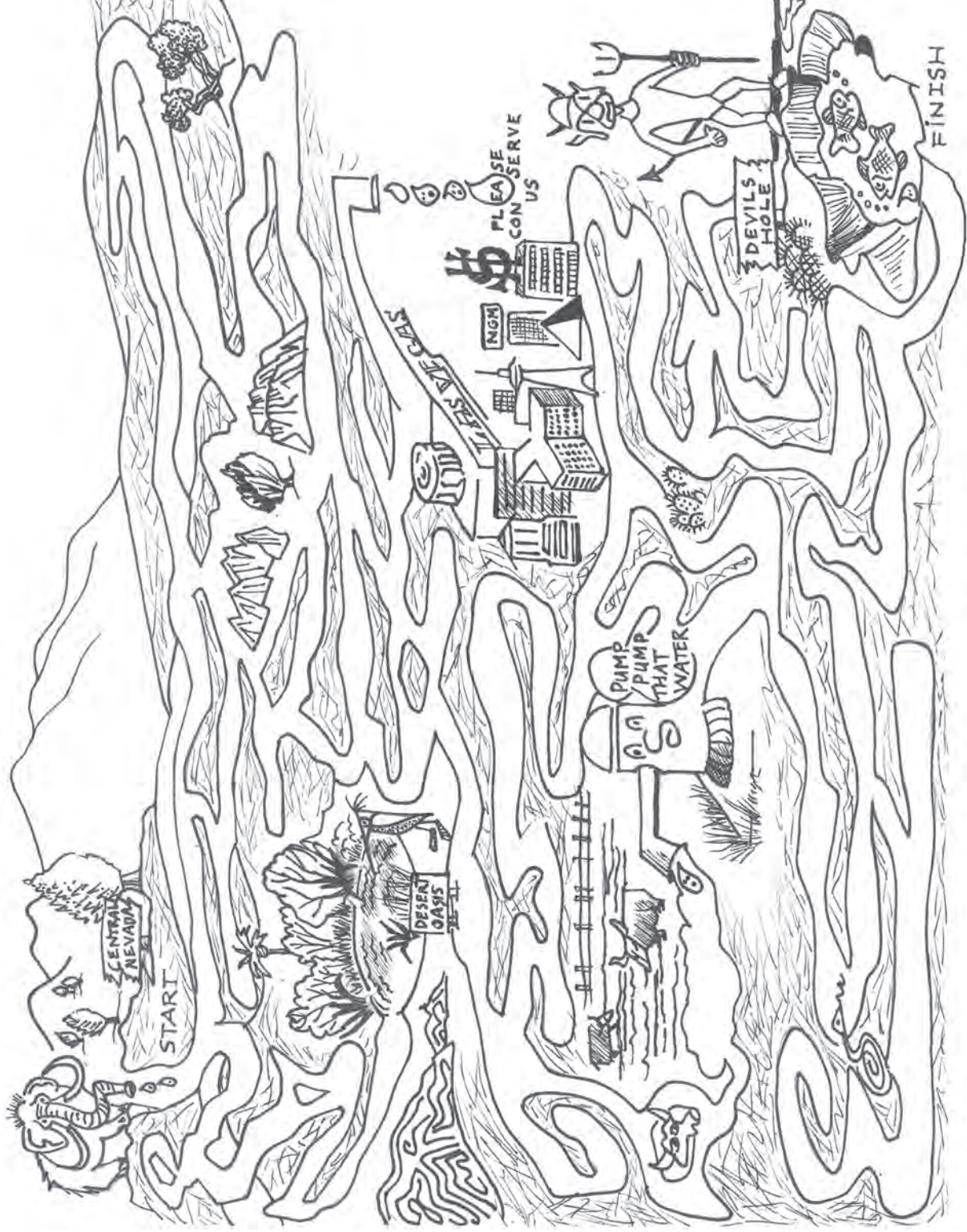
Species / Habitat: _____

What threatens the survival of this species? _____

How can you help protect plants and animals in this park? _____

How Old is YOUR Drinking Water?

Help the drop of water travel through time from the age of the Woolly Mammoths to Devils Hole.



Hydrologists (scientists who study water) believe that the water we drink in the park today may have traveled underground from as far away as Central Nevada.

It started its journey when Woolly Mammoths roamed the area tens of thousands of years ago! ... and you thought your parents were old!

We ALL need water to survive, but there is only so much for all of us to share.

What can you do to conserve water?

Death Valley National Park



Junior Ranger

I will help protect all national parks.

I will help keep wildlife wild.

I will leave rocks, plants and historic objects where I find them for everyone to enjoy.

I will share what I learn with others.

Junior Ranger Signature / Date

Ranger Signature / Date

