Russell Cave Junior Ranger Activity Book

Pre-K to 3rd Grade

Welcome To Russell Cave

This book belongs to: _____

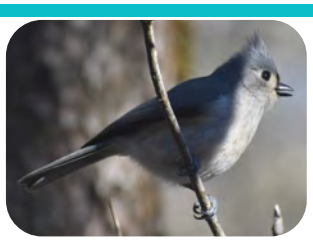
The answers can be found in the park brochure, visitor center, along the boardwalk, and around the park. If you get stuck, ask a Ranger for help. To earn a Junior Ranger badge, collect the number of points for your age group. However, you are encouraged to complete as many pages as you can.

<u>Star Challenge:</u> Pages with a **RED** star are **more challenging** but are worth **2 points!**

Pre-K	10 Points
Kindergarten	12 Points
1st Grade	14 Points
2nd Grade	16 Points
3rd Grade	18 Points

Scavenger Hunt

Try to find as many natural features, objects, and animals shown below as you explore Russell Cave. Remember to be respectful to all wildlife.



Any bird

NPS Arrowhead

Blue-tailed Skink

Any sinkhole

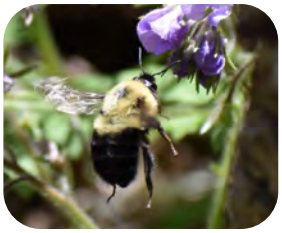
Russell Cave Point

Squirrel

Ranger hat

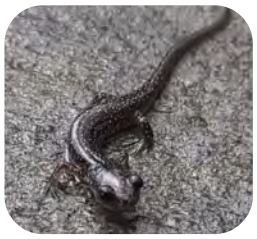
Any pottery

Pump-drill

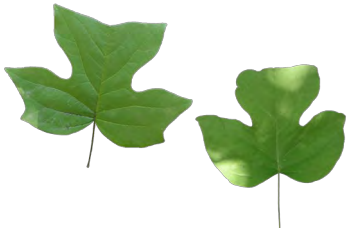


Any bug

Flag



Any salamander



Tulip poplar leaf

Slanted rock

Septarian concretion

Any flower

Trash bin

Atlatl man sign

Russell Cave Facts

Use the word bank on the next page to fill in the blank spaces.
Check your answers by reading the brochure and the displays.

The prehistoric inhabitants occupied Russell Cave from _____ years ago to _____ years ago.

Over 2 tons of _____ were found at Russell Cave.

President John F. _____ declared Russell Cave a National Monument.

Fishhooks were made from _____.

Jewelries were made from _____, _____, and _____.

Russell Cave Facts

_____ and _____ were used to clear land for farming.

Fire and holes were created by _____.

Teeth of the _____, a prehistoric boar-like animal, were found during the excavation.

_____ and _____ were stored in pottery.

Spear points, arrow heads, and knives were made from_____.

Word Bank

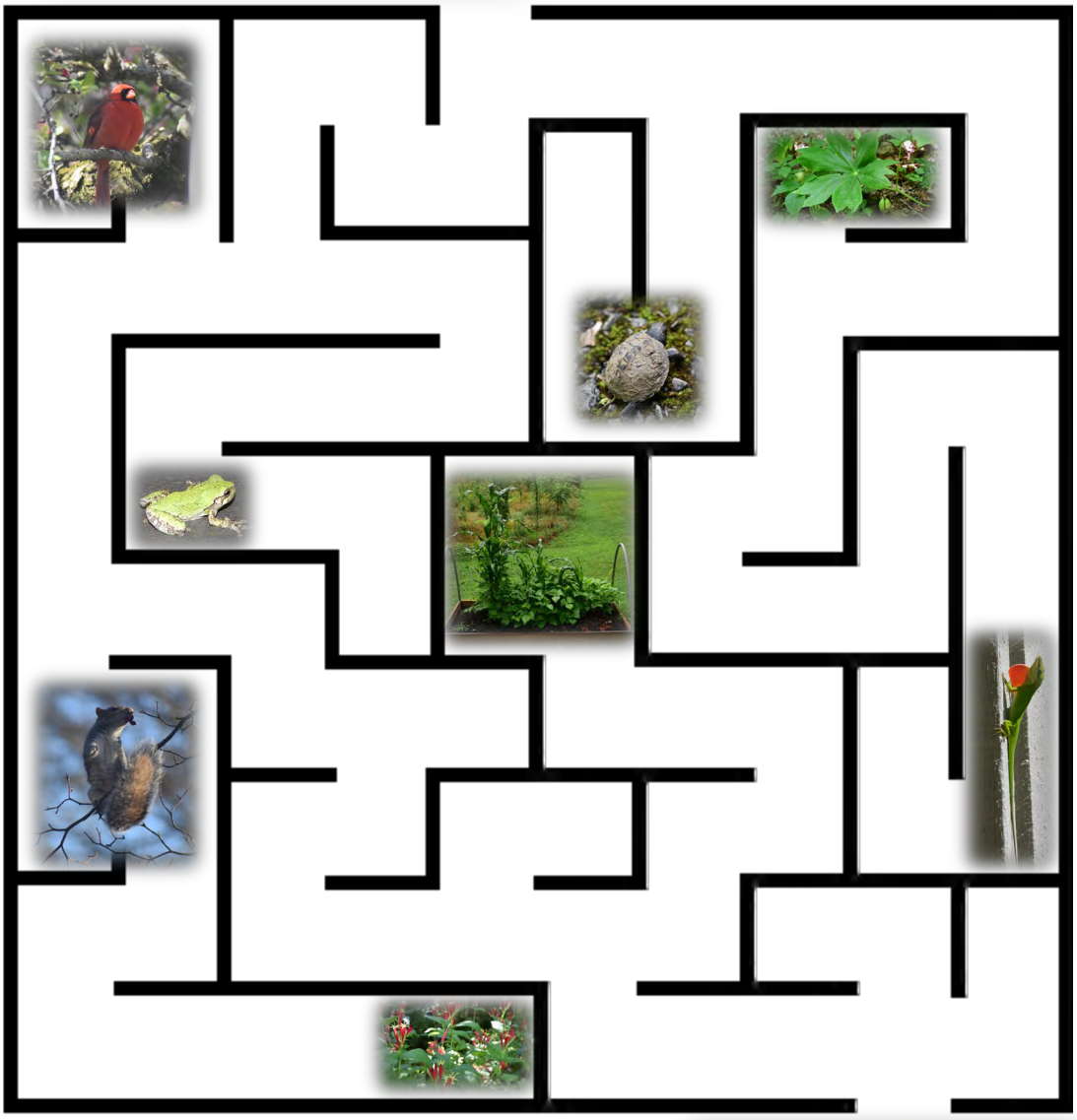
Fire	**Nuts**	**Flint**	**Axe**	**Shell**
Kennedy	**Copper**	**Mica**	**Bones**	**Seeds**
14,500	**Artifacts**	**Peccary**	**1,000**	**Drills**

Birds of Russell Cave

Name the four birds on the Spring Migration sign at the beginning of the boardwalk.

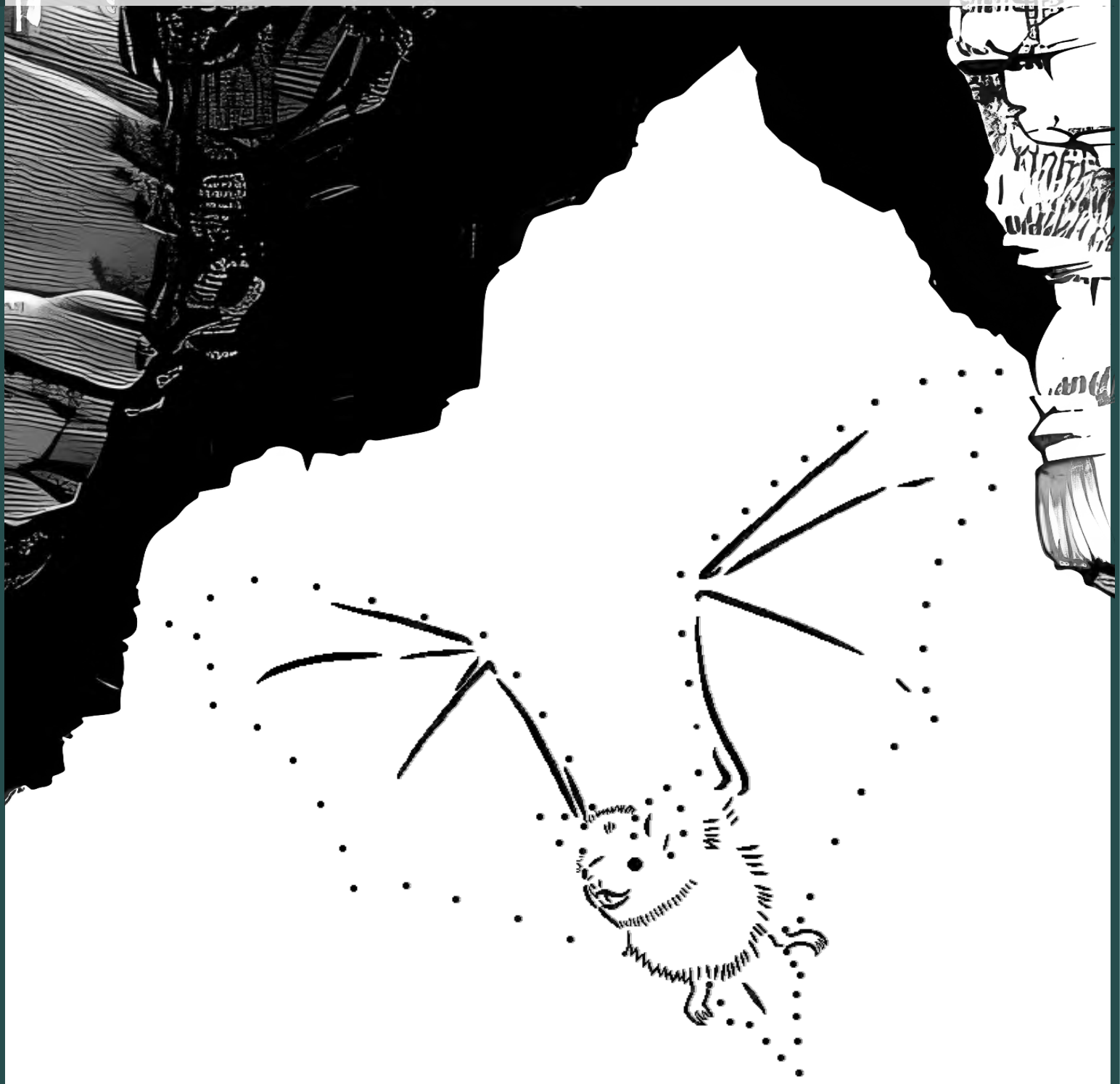
Maze

Find your way to the cave entrance from the visitor center.



Start Here

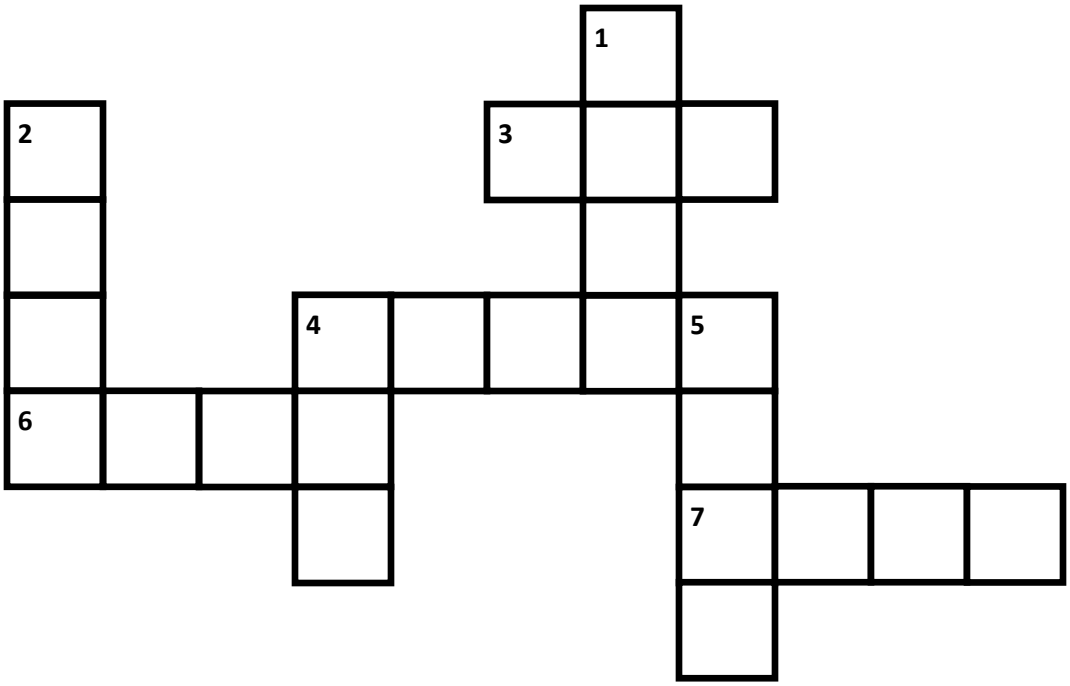
Connect the Dots



I am *nocturnal* (awake at night) and I love eating bugs!

What am I? _____

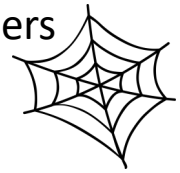
Crossword Puzzle



Down

1. Use for cooking and warmth

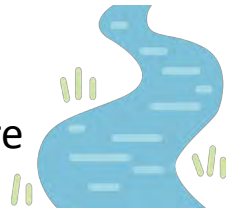
2. Killing for food

4. Created by spiders 

5. Hardened dirt

Across

3. To make holes in the ground

4. Helps when you're thirsty 

6. Has a lot of leaves and provide shade

7. Bats live here

Junior Ranger Motto

Use the **Key** on the next page to figure out the Junior Ranger motto.

Key

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

K

L

M

N

O

P

Q

R

S

T

U

V

W

X

Y

Z

Russell Cave Facts

Solve the math problem or read the displays to find the answer.

1950 + 11 = _____	The year Russell Cave became a National Monument.
307 + 3 = _____	National Geographic purchased this many acres from Oscar Ridley.
8 ÷ 2 = _____	There are this many prehistoric periods at Russell Cave.
29 - 3 = _____	The cave shelter's ceiling is this high (ft).
110 - 3 = _____	The cave shelter is this wide (ft).
4 x 2 = _____	There are this many species of bats known to live in the park.
3 + 4 ½ = _____	Estimated miles of Russell Cave's passageways.
8 x 4 = _____	The deepest depth dug down by archeologist in the cave shelter (ft).
1970 - 3 = _____	Russell Cave was dedicated by the National Park Service in this year.

The Spear Thrower

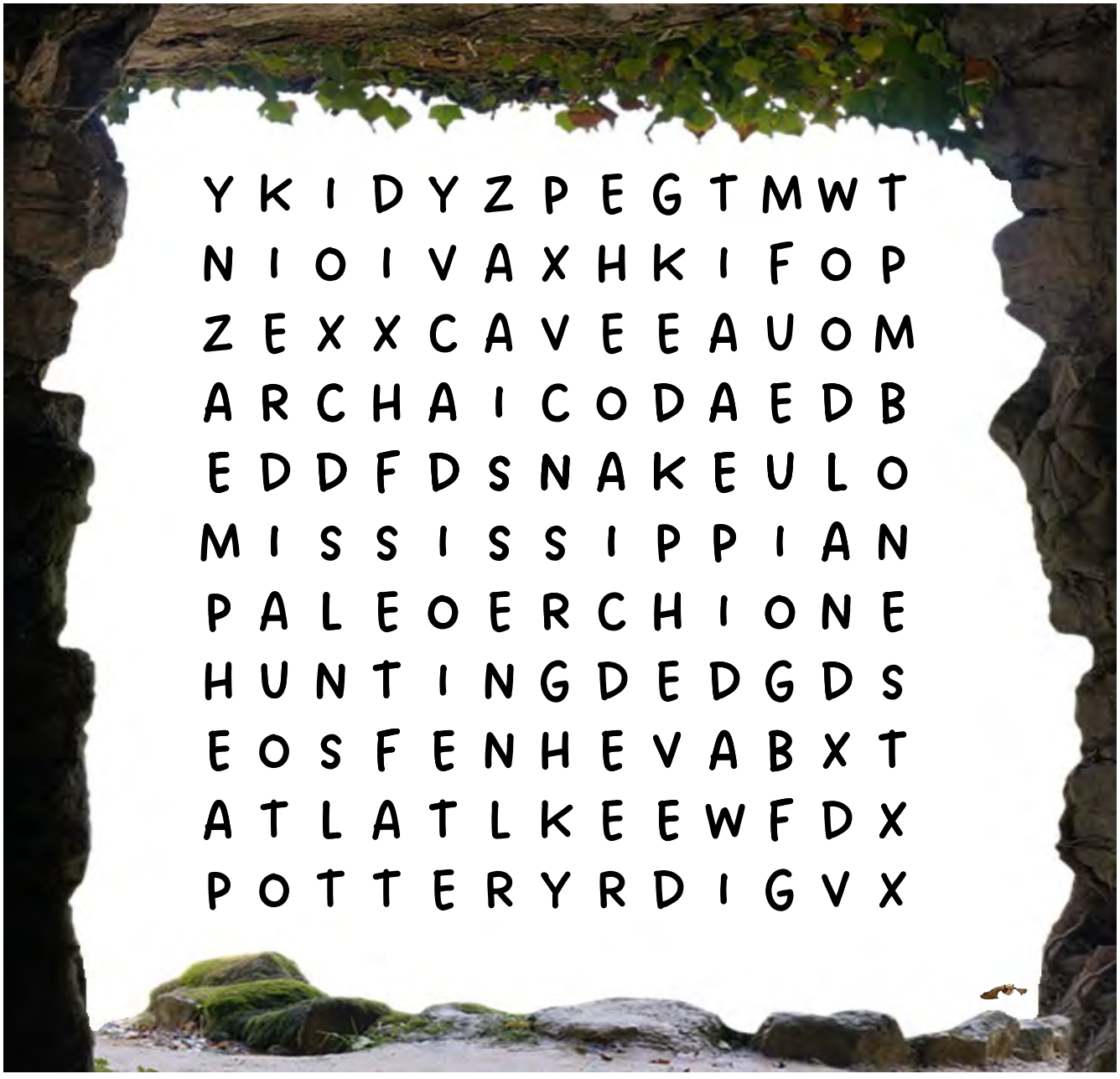
Ask a Ranger to demonstrate the atlatl, then answer the following questions.

What is an atlatl?

How did the atlatl help the hunter?

When did people started using the atlatl?

Word Search



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

ARCHAIC
HUNTING
DIG
POTTERY
DEER
BONES
PALEO
CAVE
SNAKE
MISSISSIPPIAN
WOODLAND
ATLATL

Life Inside Russell Cave

People from four different cultural periods lived in Russell Cave. Each periods has characteristics that are unique to them. Write down your favorite for each of the time periods.

Paleo-Indian Period

Archaic Period

Woodland Period

Mississippian Period

Create Your Own Pottery

People began making pottery in the Woodland period.
Draw your own pot and decorate it.
Use the pottery sherds found at Russell Cave for inspiration.

What would you put in your pot?

Danger Noodles

Russell Cave is home to many creatures, including snakes.

Although scary to some, snakes has very important roles in our environment. They are great pest control since they prey on rodents such as rats and mice, while being a source of food for other predators as well.

How much do you know about snakes?	Circle True or False	
1. Snakes are reptiles.	True	False
2. All snakes are venomous.	True	False
3. All snakes are green.	True	False
4. Snakes can swim.	True	False
5. You should pick up a snake.	True	False

Watch where you step...

All wildlife is protected at Russell Cave.
Keep in mind that this is their home and WE are the visitors!
Respect all wildlife, do not touch or pick up any animals you may encounter.
Tell a Ranger about any snakes or other animals you see!

If You Lived Here...

Imagine you are a prehistoric inhabitant living inside the cave shelter. It is very cold outside.

What would you do to keep warm?

What food would you eat?

What would you do to pass time?

My Russell Cave Journal

Date: _____

What is the weather today:

I came here with:

I really enjoyed:

CONGRATULATIONS!!

As a Russell Cave Junior Ranger, I promise to:

Explore

as many national parks as I can;

Learn

about their magnificent natural and historical resources; and

Protect

them so that everyone can experience our beautiful national parks for many years to come.

Sign Your Name

Ranger Signature

Russell Cave Stamp

Junior Ranger Stamp