



Junior Ranger Activity Book

Your Name: _____

A Junior Ranger is someone who learns about a special place and helps to protect it.

To receive your official badge, complete at least 7 of the 11 pages then show your book to a ranger at the visitor center.



Hooray! The printing of this book was funded by the Crater Lake Natural History Association, through purchases made in the park's visitor centers.

*Designed For
Ages 6 to 12*

Parents: Feel free to assist your aspiring Junior Ranger. This is a family program, intended to encourage interactive learning.

National Parks Are All Around Us!

The National Park Service protects America's most special places—more than 430 of them, located all across our country. Each park is special for a different set of reasons. Match the parks named below with one reason they are special.



Did you know? There are also national parks in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Home to half a million caribou (reindeer) _____

Author of "The Raven" lived in this house _____

Deepest lake in the United States 1

Where Orville & Wilbur flew the first airplane _____

People lived in these caves 750 years ago _____

Hot lava has poured into the Pacific Ocean here _____

Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto landed here in 1539 _____

Home of the first woman to be president of a bank _____

Over 1,100 plant species live in this park's sandy soil _____

1 Crater Lake National Park

2 Indiana Dunes National Park

3 Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

4 Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

5 Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site

6 Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site

7 De Soto National Memorial

8 Kobuk Valley National Park

9 Wright Brothers National Memorial

Can you name another national park and one thing that makes it special?

NATIONAL PARK: _____

WHY IT'S SPECIAL: _____

Design Your Own National Park

If you could design your own national park, what would it look like? What special features would it include? Draw your own national park in the space below. Don't forget to write the name of your park on the entrance sign!



Possible features to include:

trees	mountains	picnic tables
flowers	volcanoes	campgrounds
birds	waterfalls	visitor centers
animals	rivers	hiking trails
insects	islands	viewpoints
fossils	geysers	park visitors
caves	glaciers	park rangers
forts	sand dunes	cliff dwellings
cannons	hot springs	ancient pottery

Ranger's Notebook

Park rangers gather information by carefully observing the world around them. Go outside, find a quiet place to sit, and spend 5 minutes observing your surroundings. Record your experience below.

Date: _____ Time of Day: _____

Weather: ☐ cold ☐ sunny ☐ calm ☐ dry
☐ warm ☐ cloudy ☐ windy ☐ rainy/snowy

Look around. List four things you can see from this spot:

1) _____ 2) _____
3) _____ 4) _____

Listen. Identify two sounds that you hear:

1) _____ 2) _____

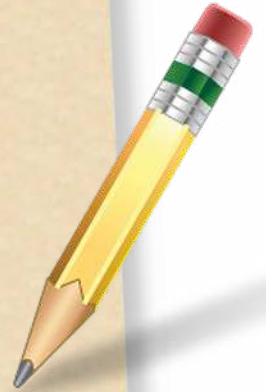
What kinds of animals might be living nearby?

1) _____ 2) _____
3) _____ 4) _____

Draw a picture of the most interesting thing you see from this spot:

Take a deep breath. What does the air smell like?

How does being outside at Crater Lake National Park make you feel?



All in a Day's Work

Park rangers protect our national parks in many different ways. Below is a list of jobs that rangers perform at Crater Lake. Cross out the ones that don't belong, and check the ones that do.

Ranger Stephanie's To-Do List:

- ☒ help kids learn how Crater Lake formed
- ☐ ~~drive really fast around the lake~~
- ☐ save endangered species
- ☐ feed the bears
- ☐ feed the squirrels
- ☐ build trails for visitors to enjoy
- ☐ throw rocks into the lake
- ☐ rescue lost hikers
- ☐ study animal behavior
- ☐ pick wildflowers
- ☐ pick up litter
- ☐ repair historic buildings
- ☐ harvest wild mushrooms
- ☐ look for signs of volcanic activity
- ☐ lead people on educational hikes
- ☐ write my name on the rocks
- ☐ write articles for the park newspaper
- ☐ allow my dog to run without a leash
- ☐ protect the lake from pollution
- ☐ remove non-native plants from the park
- ☐ remove all the dead trees from the forest
- ☐ study how climate change is affecting the lake



If you were a park ranger, which one of these activities would you enjoy the most?

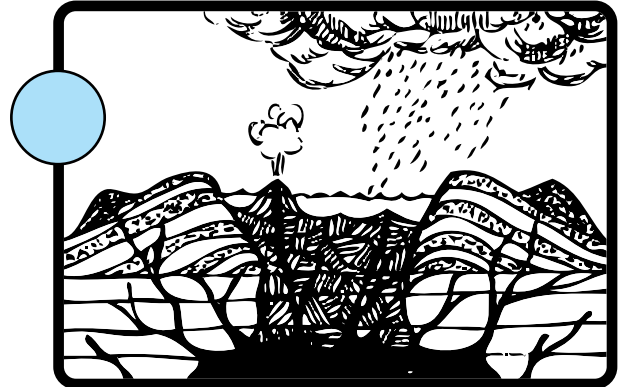
The Mountain That Became a Lake

We are making a new exhibit for the visitor center, but we mixed up the illustrations. Can you help us number them?

1

It Grew

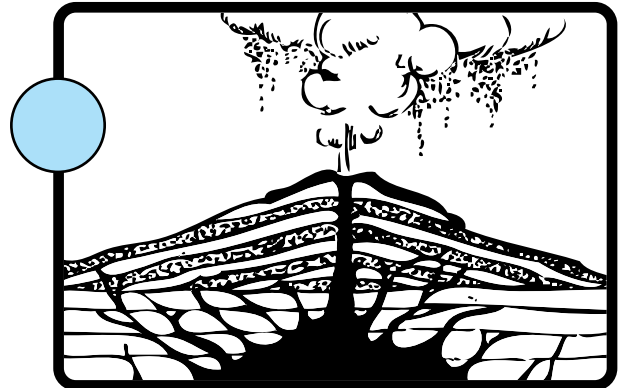
Half a million years ago, a young volcano started to grow here. Each small eruption added a new layer of lava and ash. Eventually, the volcano reached a height of 12,000 feet! We call it Mount Mazama.



2

It Blew

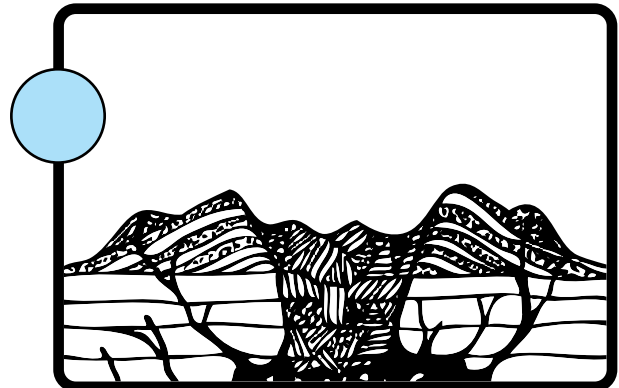
Around 7,700 years ago, Mount Mazama had its biggest eruption ever. It was very loud and violent. All plants and animals living nearby were killed. Some of the ash traveled all the way around the world!



3

It Fell

During the big eruption, the volcano's underground "magma chamber" began to empty out. With nothing to support it, the top of the mountain caved in! It fell straight down into the void. Mount Mazama was no more!



4

It Filled

Rain and snow started to collect inside the rocky crater. The depth of the water reached almost 2,000 feet! At the same time, a small eruption formed Wizard Island. And that's how Mount Mazama turned into Crater Lake.



An Eruption Story

When Mount Mazama collapsed, people were living in the area. They came up with stories to explain what they saw. This is one story told by the people of the Klamath Tribes, who still live nearby. Can you fill in the blanks and finish the story?

Since time began, people have lived in the Klamath Basin, a place filled with rivers, marshes, springs, trees, birds, and _____.

Not far away, a powerful spirit once lived inside a tall mountain. The spirit was known as the "Chief Of The Below World." One day, he emerged from the _____ at the top of his mountain and looked around. He saw a beautiful maiden with long, black hair. Her name was Loha (low-ha). She was the _____ of the Klamath Chief.

With one look, the Chief Of The Below World fell madly in love. He asked Loha to marry him, but she refused, saying "I don't want to live inside a mountain!"

The Chief Of The Below World became enraged. He swore revenge on Loha and her people. Rising up from his mountain, he threw red-hot _____ into the sky. Giant fireballs shot from his mouth. Fire, lava, and ash rained down on the Klamath Basin, destroying forests and villages. The Klamath people fled in terror and _____ for help.

Use these words to complete the story:

hole
rocks
peace
trembled
fell
daughter
prayed
fish

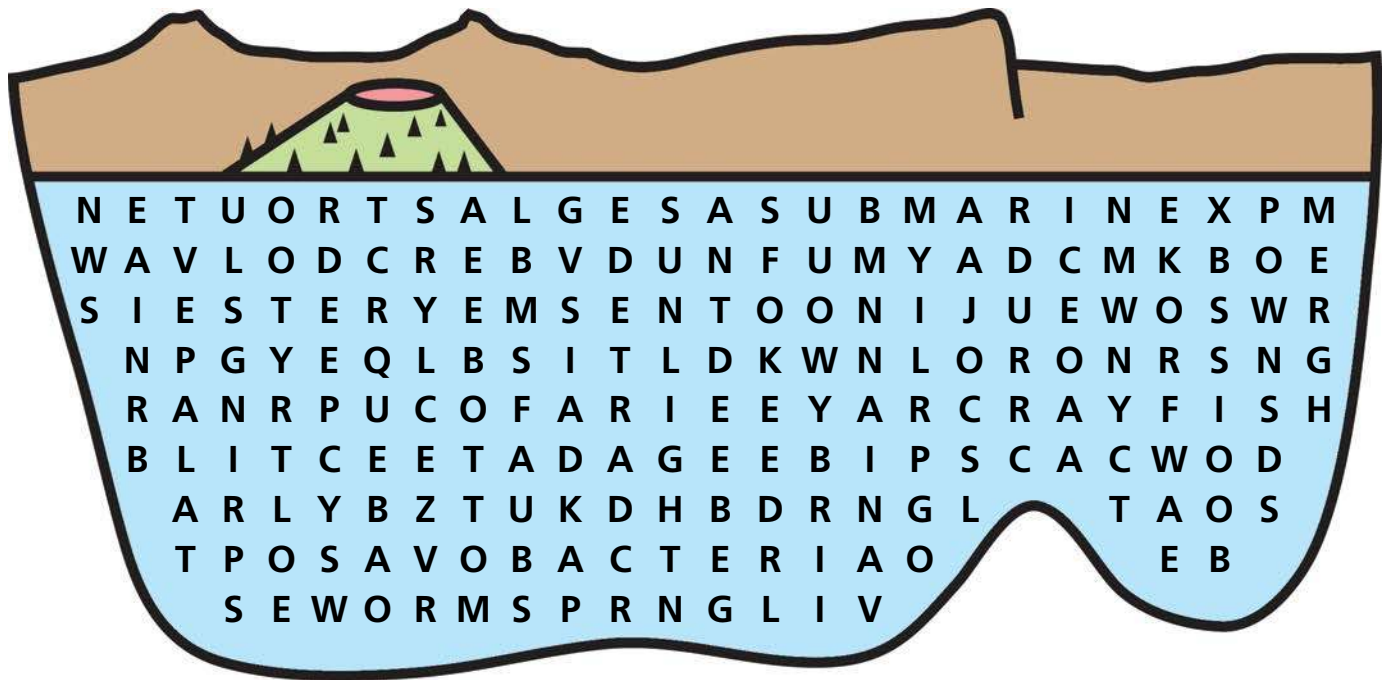
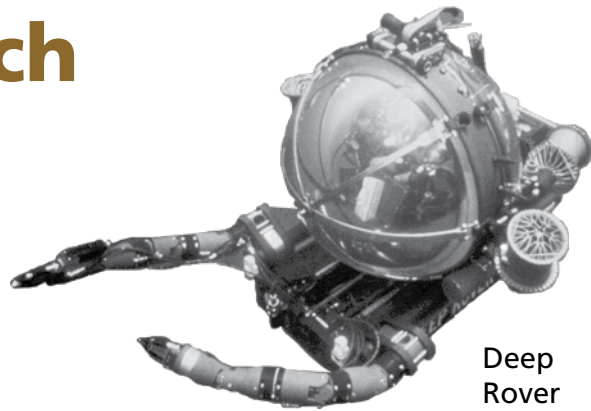


Another powerful spirit, the Chief Of The Above World, came to the rescue. He flew down from his home in the sky and began to do battle with his rival. The mountains shook and the earth _____ as the two spirit chiefs fought. Finally, the Chief Of The Below World was pushed back down into his hole. And the top of his mountain _____ down onto him!

The next morning, when the sun rose, the Klamath people saw that the mountaintop was gone. Soon, rain filled the empty crater with water, and _____ returned to the earth. Never again did the Chief Of The Below World rise up from his home. Never again did he frighten the people.

Submarine Search

In 1988, scientists explored Crater Lake in a submarine. They discovered some amazing things. How many can you find? Fill in the blanks below, then look for those words in the lake. Search down, up, across, backwards, and diagonally.



Deep Rover is the name of the **S** _____ that explored Crater Lake.

The lake looks blue because it is very clean and very **D** _____.

The water is clean because it comes from **R** _____ and **S** _____, not rivers or streams.

Underwater, along the shore, live **S** _____ with spiral shells.

Two kinds of non-native fish swim in the lake: Rainbow **T** _____ and Kokanee Salmon.

Non-native **C** _____, which look like baby lobsters, also live in the lake.

Even at 460 feet deep, there is still enough **S** _____ for plants to grow.

The biggest plant is a carpet of green **M** _____ that grows on the rocks underwater.

Deep Rover collected rock samples from Merriam Cone, an underwater **V** _____.

Scientists explored all the way to the **B** _____, which is 1,943 feet below the surface.

There they discovered warm **S** _____, where water enters the lake from below.

Colonies of yellow **B** _____ live around these hydrothermal vents.

Scientists even spotted tiny **W** _____ crawling on the floor of the lake.

Poetry in the Park

The beauty of Crater Lake inspires people to sing, dance, draw, and write. Think about something you have noticed or experienced at Crater Lake, then write a poem using the letters of the word “crater” to begin each line.



C _____
R _____
A _____
T _____
E _____
R _____

Crater Lake
Really pretty
All my family
Together
Experiencing
Real nature

Here are some
poems that
other people
have written:

Chipmunks & squirrels
Running
Around the park
They are so cute
Eating seeds and nuts
Remember not to feed them!

Calm, blue water
Resting inside a volcano
A long time ago
The mountain caved in!
Eventually
Rain & snow made a lake

An A-maze-ing Bird!

Whitebark Pines are beautiful trees that grow on the rim of Crater Lake. Did you know that each one was planted by a bird? Make your way through the maze to find out more.



START



You are a Clark's Nutcracker. You have a long beak, perfect for removing seeds from pine cones.

You bury the rest of the seeds a few inches deep in the soil. This is a lot of work! You hide about 35,000 seeds every summer.



Where should you store your extra seeds? You decide to hide some of them under a rock. You concentrate hard to memorize the location.



Sorry—no seeds here!



You fly to the top of a Whitebark Pine. Its seeds are very tasty. Yum! But you can't possibly eat them all. You fly away, carrying 100 extra seeds in your mouth.



Look! A grove of young Whitebark Pines. Each one grew from a seed that a Clark's Nutcracker forgot to dig up.

Sorry—no seeds here!

Fortunately, you have an excellent memory. You recall hiding some seeds last summer in this cave. Sure enough, they are right where you left them! You eat them and survive the winter.



Uh-oh! Winter is here. There are no more seeds in the Whitebark Pine cones. You are getting hungry! Can you remember where you put your extra seeds?



FINISH

Winter Scramble

When winter arrives, animals at Crater Lake must scramble to survive. Some change their behavior, some change their diet, some change their color, and some change their location. Solve the scrambled words, then draw a line to match each animal with its winter adaptation.



Vole

In the winter, the snow at Crater Lake can be over 10 feet deep—too deep for me to graze on grass. That's why, before winter comes, I leave the park. Scientists call this behavior...

M R I T G A I N O



Elk

Winters here are cold! My brown fur looks warm, but to keep from freezing I dig tunnels deep into the snow and huddle together with members of my family. The snow above us acts like a warm...

B E N T K A L



Snowshoe Hare

In the summer, I eat flowers and grasses. In the winter, I'm forced to eat tree bark and evergreen needles. Fortunately, my big hind feet allow me to hop on top of the snow without...

S G N I K I N



Gray Jay

In the summer, I run around eating seeds. To survive the winter, I burrow into the ground. I lower my temperature and heart rate to save energy. It looks like I'm asleep! Scientists call this...

H E T N I B I N R O A



Long-Tailed Weasel

In the summer, my fur is brown. In the winter, I grow a white coat—the color of the snow! It keeps me hidden from my prey, as well as from predators such as bobcats and owls. My fur is an example of...

C U G A F L A M E O



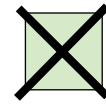
Ground Squirrel

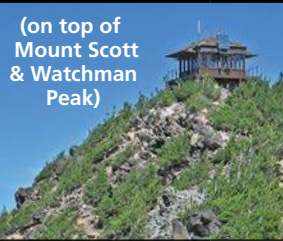
All summer long, I gather seeds and insects. I glue them (using my sticky saliva) to tree trunks around the park. In the winter, I fly from tree to tree and eat my stored snacks. So, I survive the winter by...

P A I L G N N A E H A D

More-Than-a-Lake Bingo

There is more to this park than just a lake! How many of these other features can you spot? Each time you find one, mark it with an X. Find five in a row to make bingo.



				
Crater Lake Lodge	Butterfly	Mosquito	Northern Spotted Owl	Wizard Island
				
Snow	Park Ranger	Mountain Hemlock	Crater Lake License Plate	American Flag
		FREE SPACE		
Deer	Black Bear		The Moon	A Yellow Wildflower
				
Gray Jay	Clark's Nutcracker	Crater Lake Trolley	Marmot	Phantom Ship
				
Fire Lookout	Ground Squirrel	Chipmunk	Waterfall	Pumice Castle