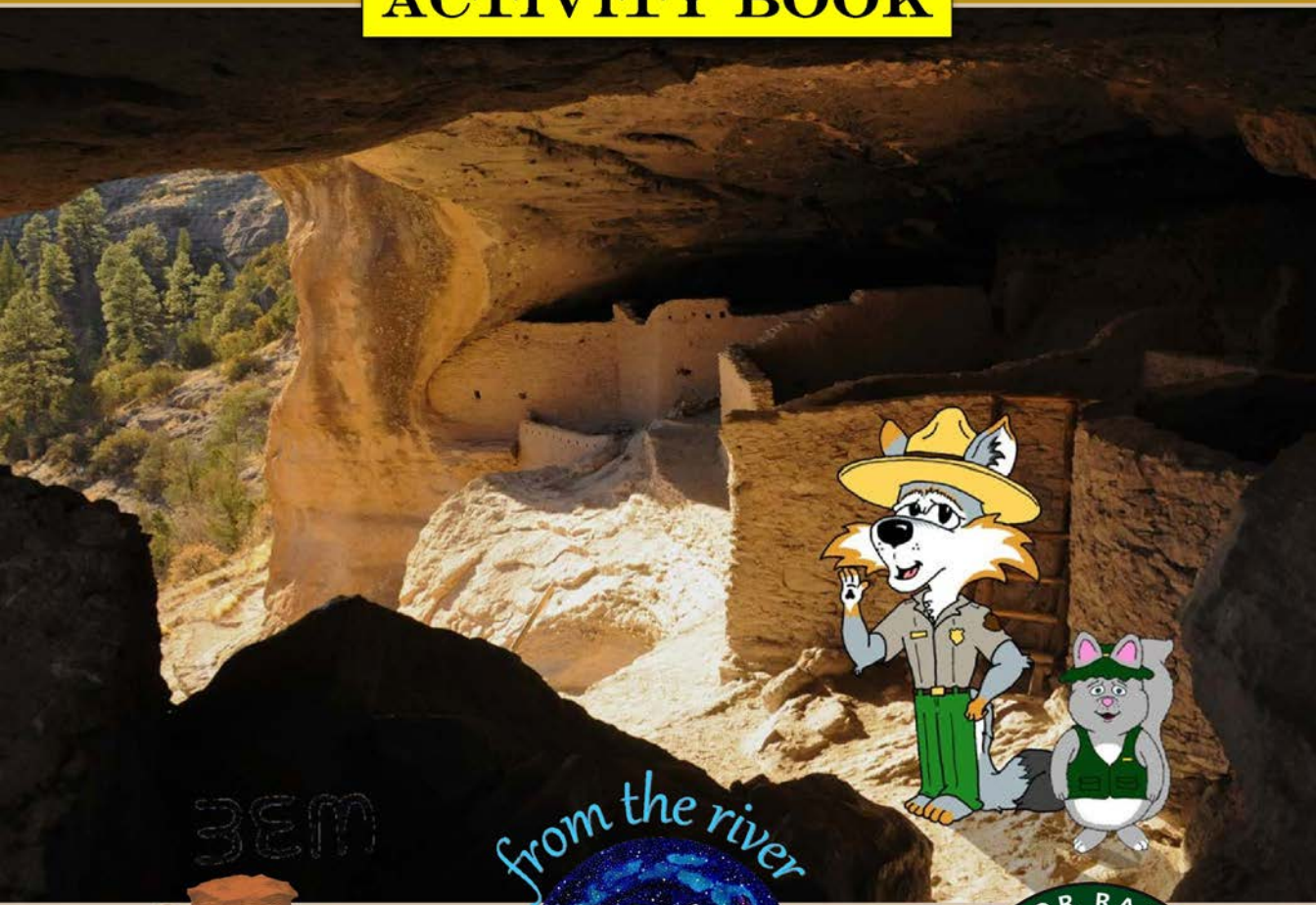


JUNIOR RANGER

ACTIVITY BOOK



Welcome to Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument!

Join Ranger Cliff and the Ranger Kits as you explore the monument to learn more about it and why it's such a special place. Here are some directions to help you earn your badge. Good luck and have fun!

If you want to be a Junior Ranger at Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, you need to:

- * Hike to the cliff dwellings with this book and a pen or pencil.
- * Complete Activity 1: A-maze-ing Role Models.
- * Do as many other activities in this booklet as you can. If you want to earn a Junior Ranger badge, do at least 5 activities. Complete at least 10 activities to earn a Senior Ranger patch, and you can earn both if you complete them all!
- * When you're done with your booklet, take it to the Trailhead or Visitor Center and find a park ranger to check your work and give you your badge and/or patch.



Short on time? You can finish your book at home and send it to us. A ranger will check your work and mail you your badge for free! Send your completed booklet to:

Gila Cliff Dwellings NM
Attn: Jr. Ranger Program
26 Jim Bradford Trail
Mimbres, NM 88049

Hey adults!

The activities in this booklet are labeled for different age groups with symbols that can be found in the upper right corner of each page. Here's how to find the suggested activities appropriate for your Junior Ranger:



Ages 4-7
(Gila Trout)



Ages 8-12
(Mexican Spotted Owl)



Ages 13+
(Mexican Gray Wolf)





A-maze-ing Role Models



Junior Rangers are role models. They set a good example for other park visitors by staying safe, following the rules and making sure everything in the park stays just as it was found. Can you make the right choices to be a good Junior Ranger role model? Find out in the maze below!



How should you
START
the trail?

Alone and unprepared.

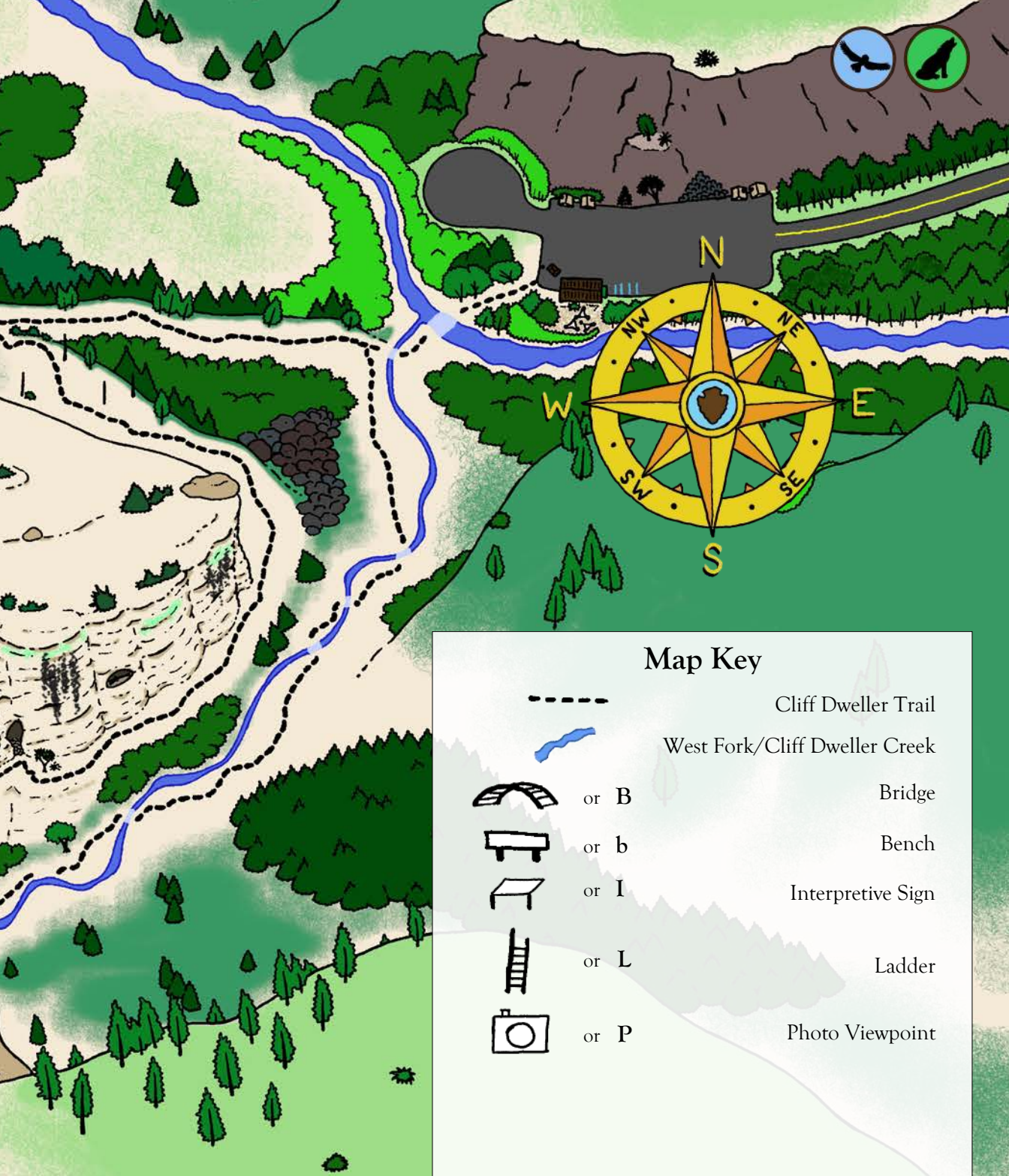
YOU DID IT!
You're a super
Junior Ranger
Role Model!



2 Hiking Cliff Dweller Canyon

Oh no! This map is incomplete. Can you help Ranger Cliff finish it? As you walk the trail through Cliff Dweller Canyon, see what's missing on the map and draw in the corresponding symbol you'll find in the Map Key (bottom right). Did you see something on your hike that isn't in the key? A cool rock, pretty flower or wildlife? Maybe you saw or did something else you want to remember. Use the extra space in the Map Key to come up with some symbols of your own, and don't forget to add them to the map!





Map Key



Cliff Dweller Trail



West Fork/Cliff Dweller Creek



or B

Bridge



or b

Bench



or I

Interpretive Sign



or L

Ladder



or P

Photo Viewpoint



3 Noticing Nature



When we experience nature we use all of our senses, not just our eyes. As you hike Cliff Dweller Trail or explore other areas nearby, find a spot to stop and rest. Sit quietly for a few minutes, then write or draw your experiences in the boxes below.

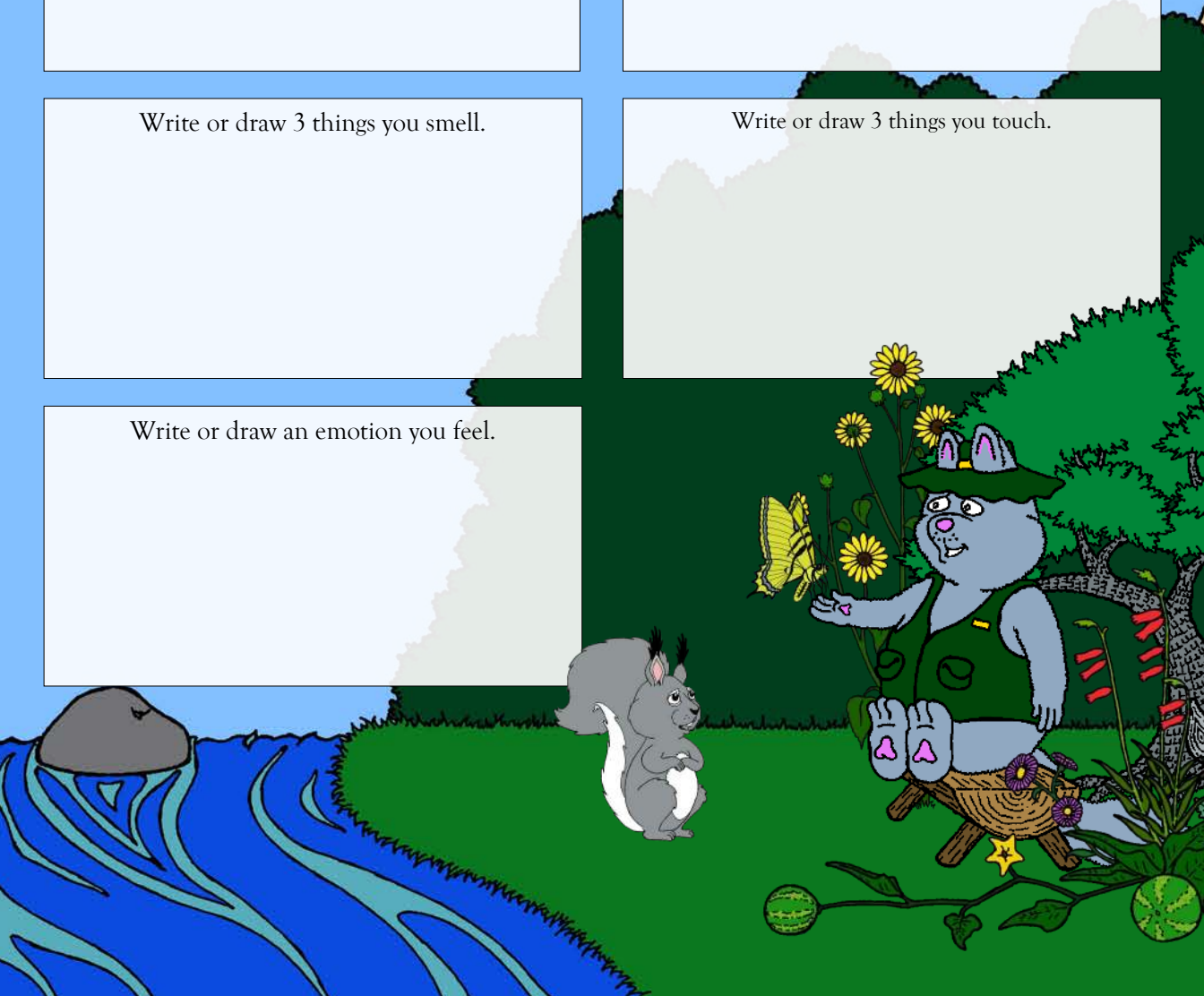
Write or draw 3 things you see.

Write or draw 3 things you hear.

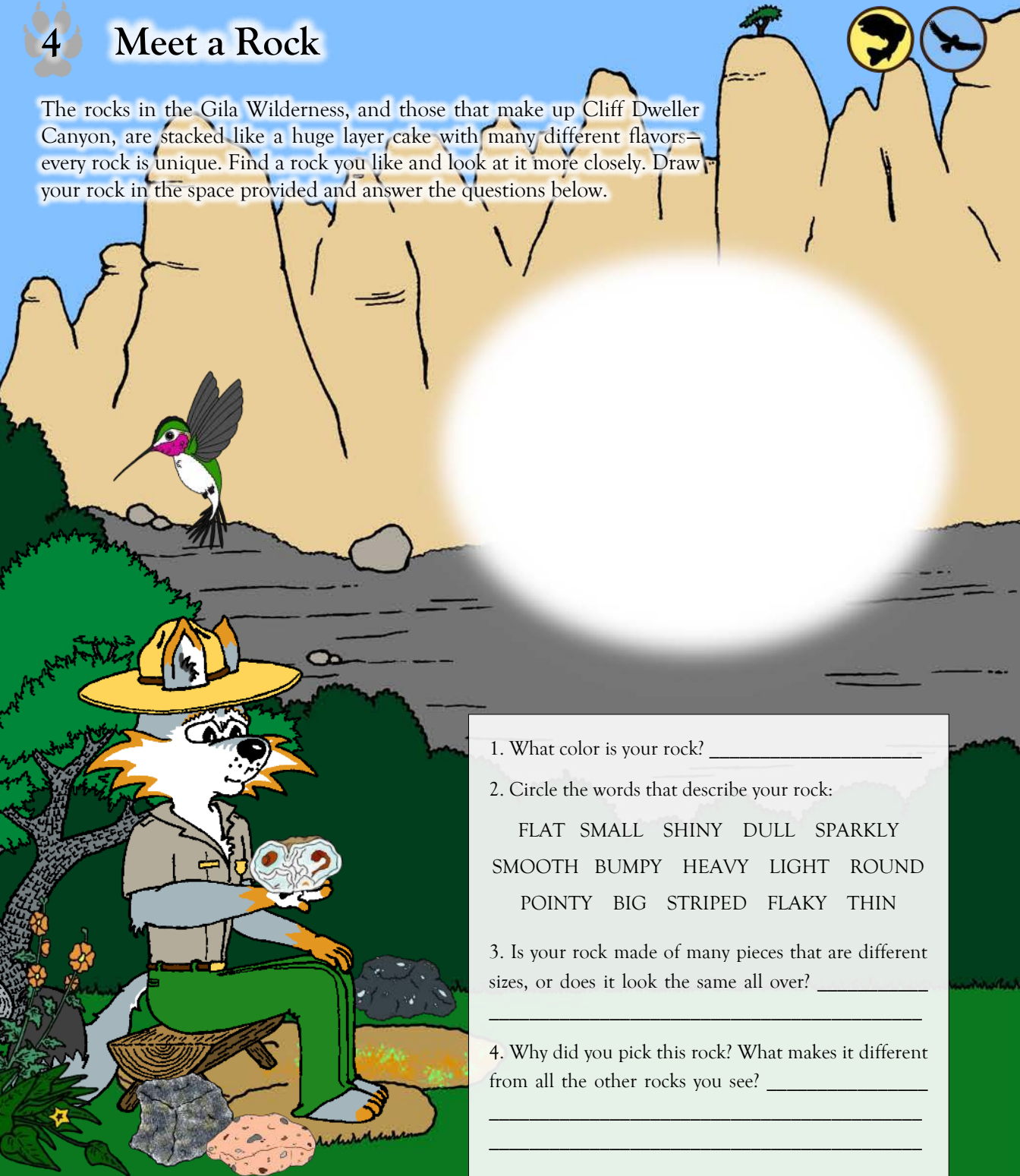
Write or draw 3 things you smell.

Write or draw 3 things you touch.

Write or draw an emotion you feel.



The rocks in the Gila Wilderness, and those that make up Cliff Dweller Canyon, are stacked like a huge layer cake with many different flavors—every rock is unique. Find a rock you like and look at it more closely. Draw your rock in the space provided and answer the questions below.



1. What color is your rock? _____

2. Circle the words that describe your rock:

FLAT SMALL SHINY DULL SPARKLY
SMOOTH BUMPY HEAVY LIGHT ROUND
POINTY BIG STRIPED FLAKY THIN

3. Is your rock made of many pieces that are different sizes, or does it look the same all over? _____

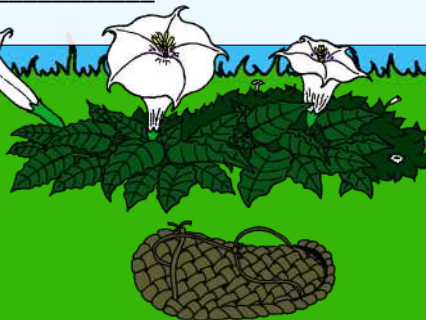
4. Why did you pick this rock? What makes it different from all the other rocks you see? _____

As you hike on Cliff Dweller Trail or walk around the Visitor Center, you will see a variety of plants, cacti and trees. Many of these were used by the Mogollon people in their daily lives. You can learn about how plants were used by filling in the blanks from the word bank below.

Word Bank

SANDALS CRADLEBOARD FRUITS
CHOLLA SOAP JUNIPER LADDERS
POTATOES DIAPERS BEAMS CALCIUM

1. Ponderosa pine logs were used to build tall _____ and roof _____.
2. Once the thorns were removed, long stalks of _____ cactus could be eaten. The flower buds have as much _____ as a glass of milk!
3. Just like many people today, the Mogollon people ate the _____ of the prickly pear cactus .
4. The soft inner bark of the _____ bush was used for _____ bedding and _____ for babies.
5. Some yucca roots are sudsy like _____, and others can be baked and eaten like _____. The fiber from the leaves can be woven into comfortable _____.





The pictures and designs left behind by early American Indians, called *pictographs*, help us understand their lives. When we see these pictures we think about their connection to this place, as well as our own.

Look at the pictures on this page or pictographs you find as you walk around the park. You can see pictographs in the caves or along the Trail to the Past. What do you think the designs mean? What messages do you think they share? _____



Draw your own pictograph in the space above. What images would tell the story of you, your family and where you're from? How might someone interpret your pictograph if they found it 700 years from now? _____



Archaeologists believe the Gila Cliff Dwellings were built between the late 1200s and early 1300s. That's over 700 years ago! These caves are a perfect place to build a home. They face south which allows the sun to warm the rooms during the winter, but the low cave openings keep out the higher summer sun, casting the dwellings in a cool shade.



There are many ancient cliff dwellings throughout the southwestern United States. Connect the dots in the image above. Have you seen this scene in your travels?



Pottery can tell us a lot about an ancient culture. It can give us insight into their art and clues about everyday life. Archaeologists can look at *sherds*, or broken pieces of pottery, to estimate the shape of the pot, the type of designs on it and possible purposes for its use. The designs on each pot are clues for who made it, where and why. Each pot is its own puzzle into the past.

Take a look at the pottery on this page or in the Trailhead and Visitor Center Museums. Examine what was drawn or painted on the pots and think about what it might mean. Then decorate the pot that Ranger Cliff is holding to the right. What does your design mean to you? _____

Now have a friend or family member look at your pot. What does your design mean to them? _____





Backpack Archaeology



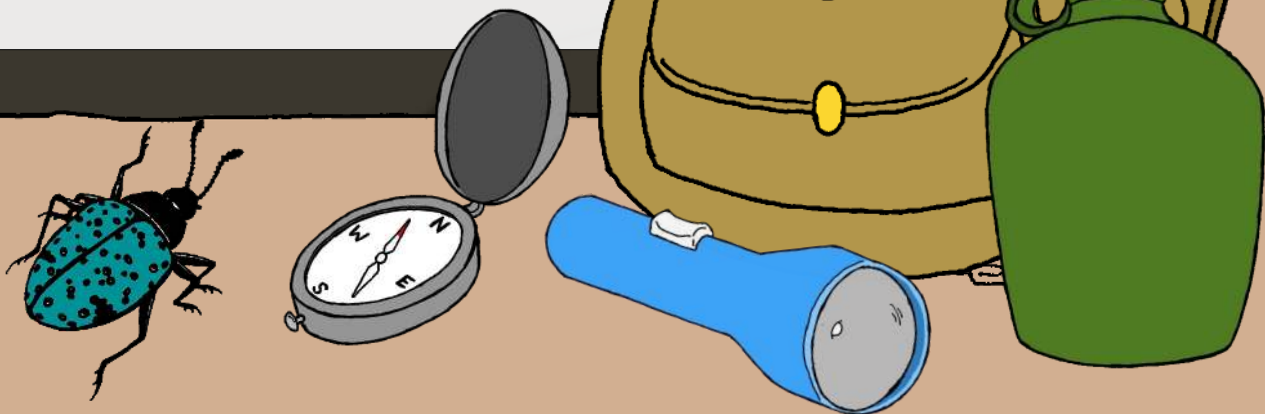
An *archaeologist* is someone who discovers, collects and studies the things left behind by ancient cultures, called *artifacts*. Most artifacts are things people used every day, like you would use a pencil, comb or spoon today. Every artifact tells a story about the people who used it.

What would your artifacts be? Look in your backpack, car or bedroom. Find three objects you use every day and write down below:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What story do you think these objects tell about you?

Imagine archaeologists find your artifacts 1,000 years from now. What story might they think the objects tell?

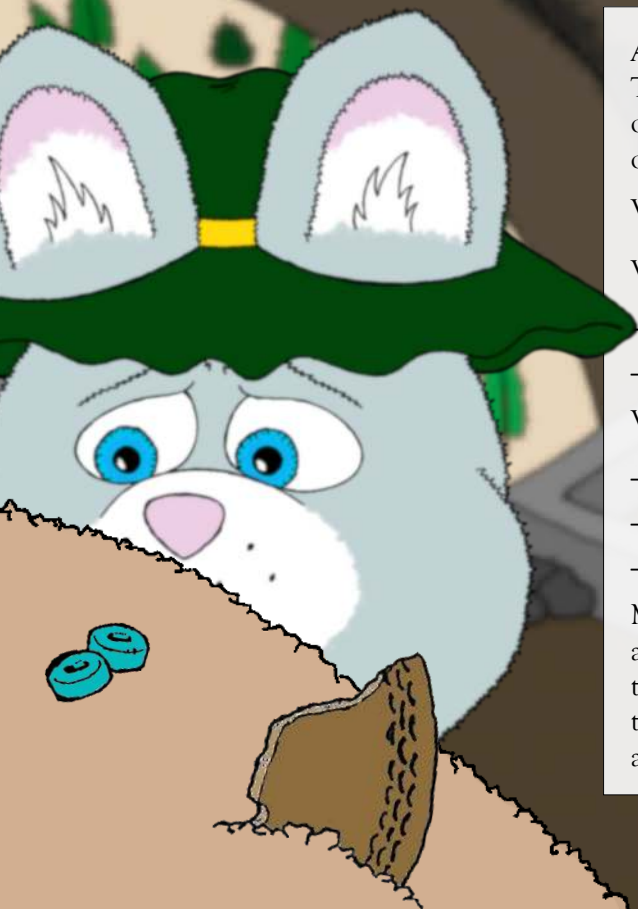




10 Trash or Treasure?



A *midden* is what archaeologists call a place where ancient people left their garbage, like a big trash can or dump. Middens often contain pottery sherds, broken tools, animal bones and other items people could no longer use. Because so many things can be found in middens, they help archaeologists form a more detailed picture of the past by making educated guesses about the lives of the people who lived nearby.



As you browse the Cliff Dwellings, Visitor Center or Trailhead Museum, look for pottery sherds or other objects that might have been thrown away. Choose one artifact and use it to answer the questions below:

What did you find? _____

What do you think it was used for? _____

Why do you think it was thrown away? _____

Middens and artifacts can be found all around you, and each offers stories about the people who used them. Look for these artifacts, even at home, and think about what stories we may be sharing with future archaeologists.





11 Who Am I?



There are lots of different animals inside the park. Read the following poems and decide which of the six animals below are described in each one. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

I bound along, eating twigs
You humans say my ears are big!
Those ears help me hear so well
That I hear you long before I smell.

Who am I? _____

I'm quick as a flash when I go run
Across the trail beneath the sun.
My tail is long; my beak is strong,
One quick bite and whoosh—I'm gone!

Who am I? _____

Eight hairy legs and eight bright eyes
I grow to a very impressive size.
Insects and lizards are my prey
Look for me at dusk—I sleep all day!

Who am I? _____

I like to go down deep inside
Cracks and rocks where I can hide.
The spiny scales around my neck
Are shiny black, which you'll detect!

Who am I? _____

My fuzzy ears are tipped with black.
I have no claw marks in my tracks.
For my short tail I have been named;
As a stealthy hunter I am famed.

Who am I? _____

I root, I grunt, my smell is strong.
My tail is short, but my snout is long.
It looks like a farm is where I belong,
But call me a pig and you'll be wrong.

Who am I? _____

A. Crevice Spiny Lizard

B. Bobcat

C. Mule Deer

D. Tarantula

E. Roadrunner

F. Javelina





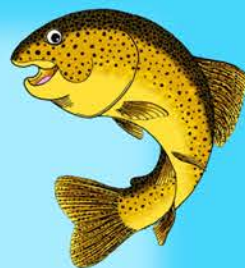
12 Gila Habitats



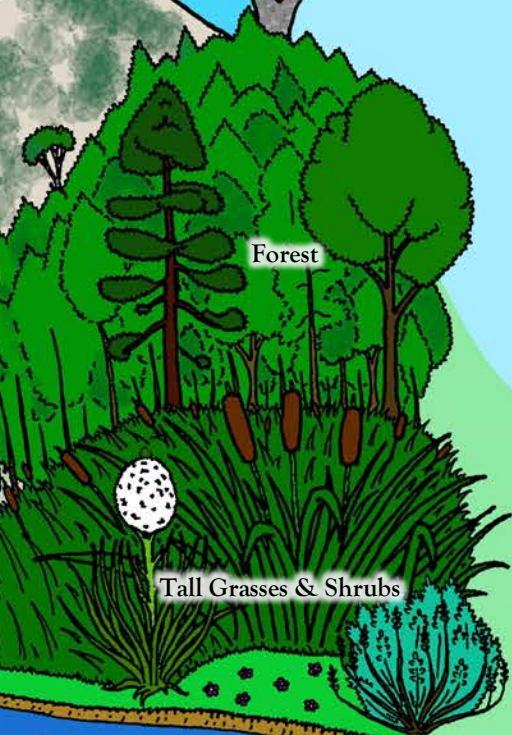
More than just the Mogollon people called the Gila Wilderness home. Even today many types of animals live in the wilderness around you. An animal's home is called its *habitat*, and there are many different kinds of habitats in the Gila. Can you choose the correct habitats for the animals below? Draw a line to match each habitat on the left with the animal on the right that calls it home.



Tall Trees



Gila Trout



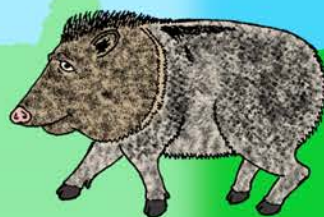
Forest



Mexican Spotted Owl



Tall Grasses & Shrubs



Javelina



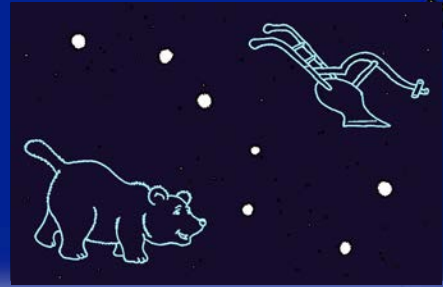
Gila River



Mexican Gray Wolf

13 Same Stars, Different Stories

People around the world create different stories about the shapes they see in groups of stars, called *constellations*. The constellation we call the Big Dipper has been seen as many different things by other people: American Indians and Greeks saw a great bear, English farmers a plow. Australian fishermen saw it as a canoe, and to the Germans it was a wagon. This is because people see things that are important in their everyday lives.



What do you see in the sky? Connect stars above to make your own constellation and write a story about what it means below:

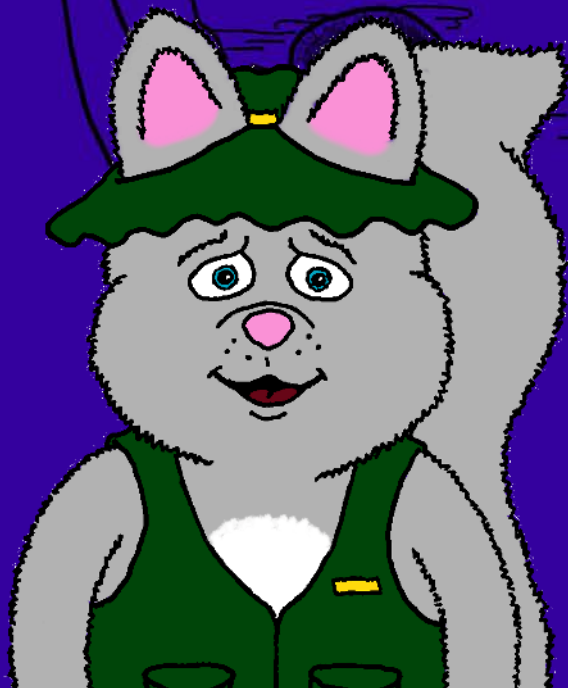


14 All About You



Many of the visitors to Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument have been here before. One day you might come back, too! Help yourself to remember this visit by filling in the blanks below.

Today I went to visit Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument with _____. The weather was _____ and _____. We hiked for one mile and I thought hiking was _____. The first time I saw the Cliff Dwellings I felt _____. My favorite part of the visit was _____, and I will help protect it by _____.



15 Talk to a Ranger



Park rangers and volunteers help you stay safe and have fun while visiting your national parks. They also love talking about the park and its resources with you. Want to learn more? Find a ranger or volunteer and ask them the following questions:

Ranger's name: _____

1. Why is Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument a special place to you? _____

2. What is your favorite national park? _____

3. What is the best part about working here? _____

4. Who owns the national parks? _____

5. Now, think of your own question: _____

Answer: _____



Certificate of Completion

awarded to

(your name)

for successful completion of the
Junior Ranger Program

at

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

JUNIOR RANGER PLEDGE

I am a Junior Ranger
And I will protect this place from danger.
I will be respectful when I visit these homes,
I promise not to take any bones or stones.
No animals will get my food,
And I won't litter because that's rude.
My job here is never done,
This ranger life is so much fun!



Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument
OFFICIAL JUNIOR RANGER



Your name

Issued by

Signature

Date

🌀 Explore

🌀 Learn

🌀 Protect



The National Park Service was established in 1916 to “preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.” The arrowhead became the service’s official emblem in 1962, symbolizing the values of the park system. It consists of the Sequoia tree to represent vegetation and the bison to represent wildlife. The mountain and lake denote recreation and scenery while the arrowhead itself is an embodiment of cultural, historical and archaeological values.



Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, designated by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1907, is the only site in the National Park Service dedicated to the Mogollon culture. With over fifty rooms spanning across five naturally formed alcoves the cliff dwellings, which were built and occupied over 700 years ago, offer a rare glimpse into this unique culture, the fate of which is largely unknown. The monument was expanded in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy to include the largest unexcavated Mimbreno site in the country. Altogether the park is comprised of 533 acres and receives about 80,000 visitors per year.

What’s next?

Your adventure doesn’t have to end once you’ve finished this book. In addition to Junior Ranger programs at other national parks and monuments, many state and local parks, as well as other public lands, often offer similar opportunities. Get out and **explore** these places, or even your own backyard. You can also visit online. Go to www.nps.gov/kids for more ways to **learn** about your national parks. Or you could join a local club or community with a focus on conservation. These organizations can offer a variety of ways for you to help **protect** your environment. Whatever your path, continue to share your experiences here at Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument and wherever else the wind takes you. Happy trails!

This book was written and compiled by the staff and volunteers at Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument
Design, layout and illustrations by Ranger Blake Metcalf

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument



JUNIOR RANGER I.D.

To create your Junior Ranger I.D. card, cut along the dotted line, or ask an adult for help.