



JUNIOR RANGER ACTIVITY BOOK

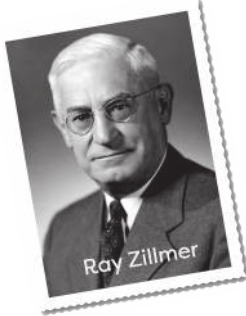
ICE AGE

National Scenic Trail

Name:



HELLO, JUNIOR RANGER



History of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail

The Ice Age Trail has an inspiring history. In the 1950s, Ray Zillmer, a lawyer and nature enthusiast, worked hard to protect Wisconsin's glacial features. His efforts helped establish the Kettle Moraine State Forest. In 1958, he founded a group to create a National Park to showcase Wisconsin's unique glacial features. Although Zillmer passed away before achieving his dream, on October 3, 1980, President Carter signed the law establishing the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.



Earn Your Ranger Badge

- 1 Complete the activities in this book
- 2 Explore and protect the Ice Age Trail
- 3 Take the Junior Ranger Pledge!



Activity Symbol

Instructions for each activity are next to these icons.



Partners Make it Possible

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is made possible through the hard work and friendship of many people. The Trail is built, managed, and maintained by volunteers, the Ice Age Trail Alliance, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, local partners, and the National Park Service. Together, they protect and celebrate this beautiful Trail.





FOOTSTEPS OF MAMMOTHS

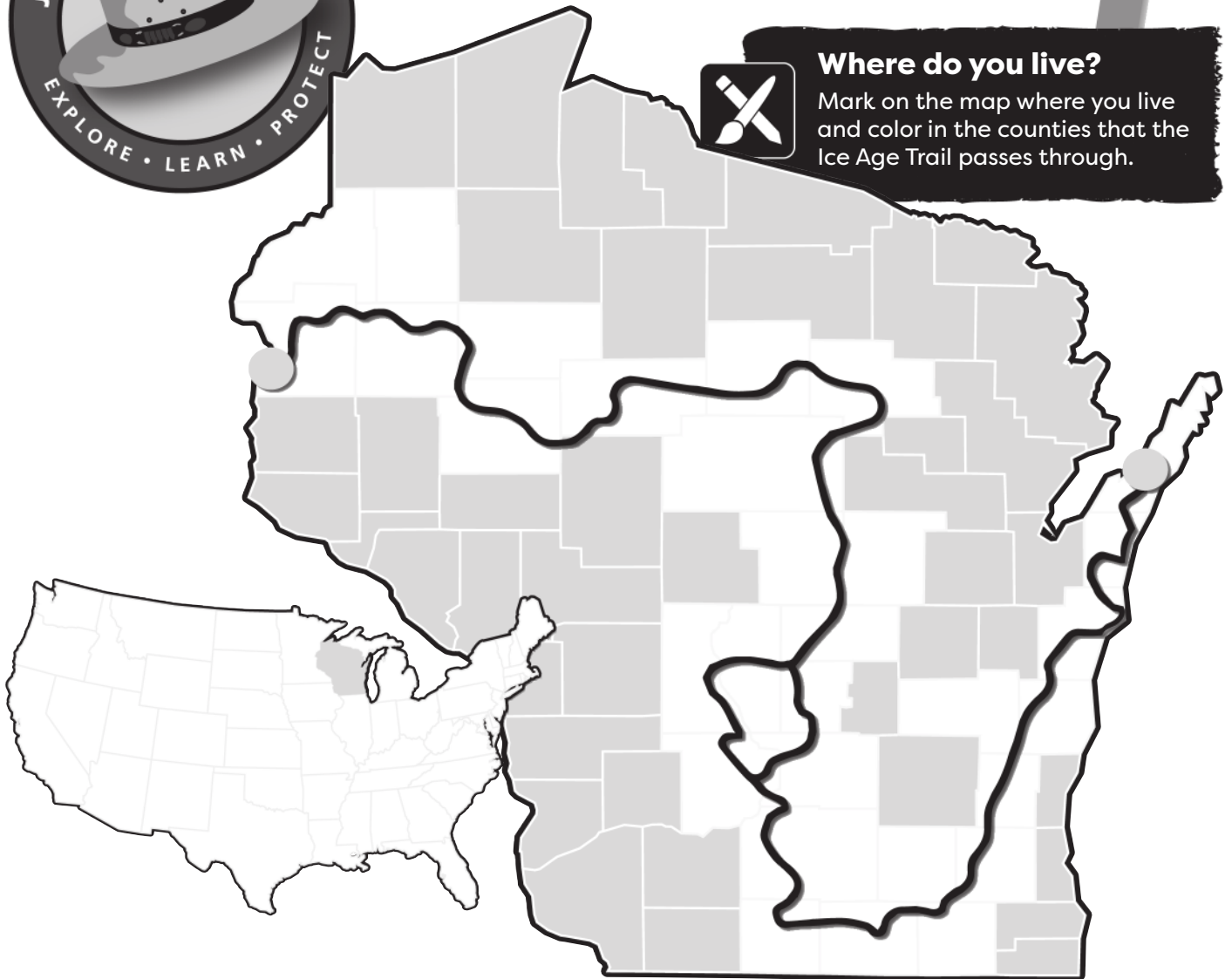
Welcome to the Ice Age Trail!

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a footpath across Wisconsin where you can explore landscapes carved by ancient glaciers.



Where do you live?

Mark on the map where you live and color in the counties that the Ice Age Trail passes through.



**DID YOU
KNOW!?
ICE AGE
TRAIL IS...**



- 1,200 miles long
- Built and maintained by thousands of volunteers
- Used by millions of people every year

GLACIERS CARVED THIS LAND

Shaping Wisconsin

Huge glaciers moved through the State long ago during the ice age, making hills, forming lakes, and shaping the land.



Color and Match

Color the glacial features and then draw a line from the landform to the correct description that matches it.

What's a glacier?!

A glacier is like a massive, frozen river made of ice. It forms in cold places when snow falls. Over time, layers of snow build up, compressing lower layers into ice.

1

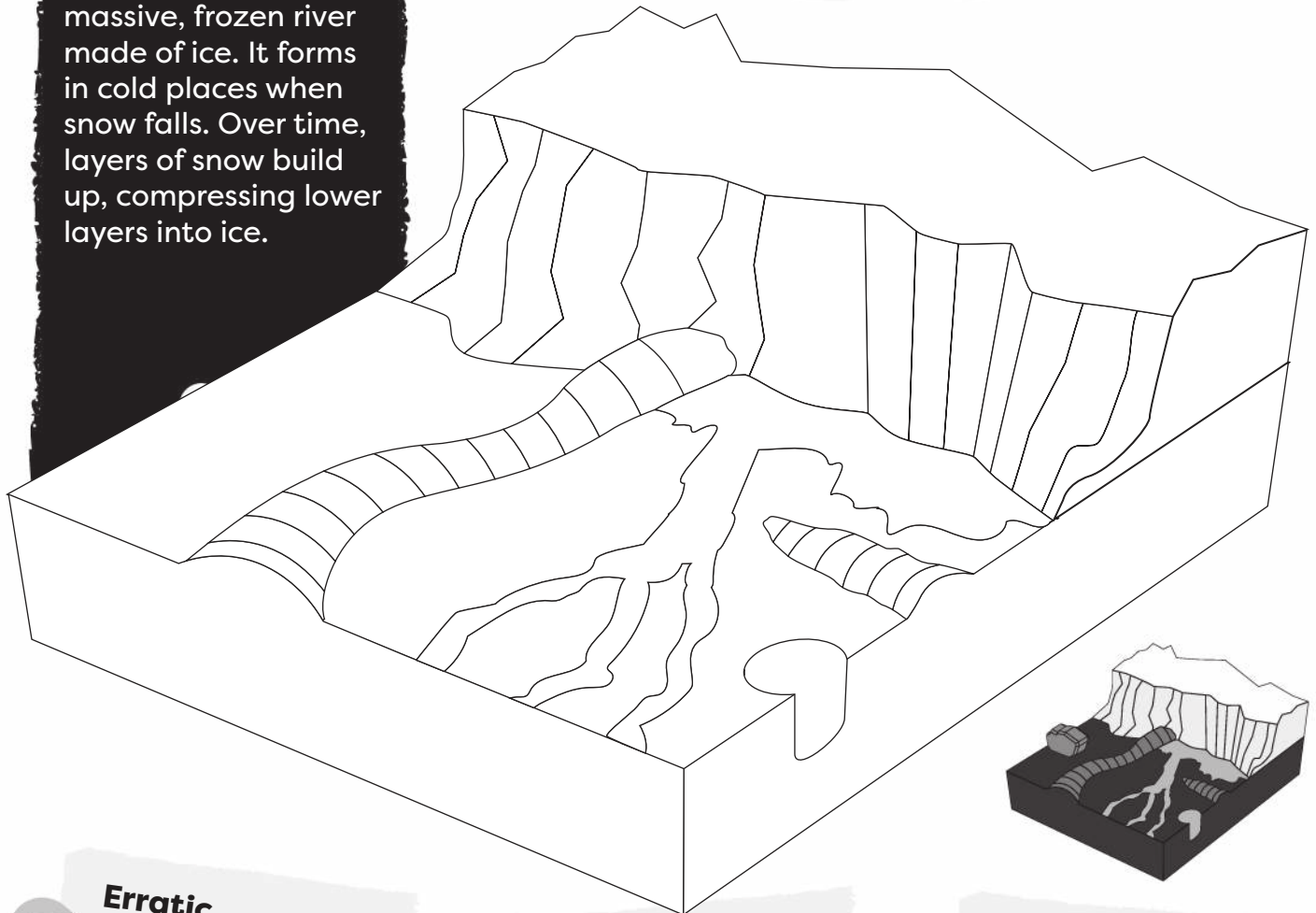
Esker

A curvy hill of sand and gravel left by a river under a glacier.

2

Retreating Glacier

A glacier that is shrinking and moving back as it melts.



3

Erratic

A big rock that was carried and dropped by a glacier.

4

Kettle Lake

A round lake that forms in a hole left by a piece of melting glacier.

5

Moraine

A pile of dirt and rocks at the edge of a glacier, showing where it was.

Design a Trail Marker!



BLAZE YOUR OWN TRAIL



Trail Markers

When you hike on the Ice Age Trail, you will see colorful painted blazes on trees. These trail markers help guide people along the right path.

Yellow Blazes

Mark the main route of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

Blue Blazes

Mark spur trails that lead to special places.

White Blazes

Mark trails that branch off from the main trail and loop back to it.



Your Turn: Use the space above to design your own blaze. What colors and symbols will you use to guide hikers?

Indigenous peoples navigated using landmarks like rivers and hills, marking paths with symbols carved into trees, and creating stone piles.

DID YOU KNOW!?



LET'S GO FOR A HIKE



Check the Weather—Color and circle the weather outside:

Sunny



Rainy



Cloudy



Snowy



Pack Your Bag—Color and draw lines from each item to your bag:



Rain Jacket



First Aid Kit



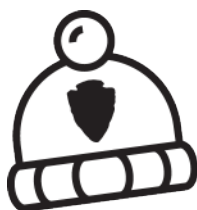
Snacks



Extra Layer



Water



Hat



Sunscreen



Map

Plan Like a
Park Ranger



Before your adventure, plan ahead! Park rangers check the weather, pack safety gear, and know the trail. You can do this too for a fun and safe hike.

Start Here



End Here



YOUR TRAIL SKETCHBOOK



Draw Your Experiences

Use the boxes below to draw your favorite memories and what you see on the Ice Age Trail. Let your creativity shine!

Draw a Map

Draw a Plant

Draw a Mammoth

Draw an Animal Track

Draw Yourself on the Trail

Draw How You Feel



ICE AGE IMPROV



Act It Out Outdoors

Act out each prompt below. Let your creativity and silliness shine as you embody these aspects of the trail. Check each box when you are done.

Scene



You are a giant woolly mammoth stomping through the snow.

☐

Scene



Pretend you are a park ranger guiding visitors on a hike.

☐

Scene



Act as if you are crossing a stream on the Ice Age Trail.

☐

Scene



You're a big, glacial erratic boulder resting in the forest.

☐

Scene



Role-play a curious fox sneaking through the underbrush.

☐

Scene



Pretend you are a slowly melting glacier retreating across Wisconsin.

☐

Scene



You are walking 12,000 years ago and see a 6-foot-tall sloth!

☐



NATURE JOURNAL

This book belongs to _____ (name).



Fill in the Blanks

I am _____ (age) years old, and I love _____ (noun)!

The Weather was _____ (adjective) today.

While on the Ice Age Trail, I saw _____ (noun),

I heard _____ (noun), and I smelled _____ (noun).

It made me feel _____ (adjective).

On the trail, I hiked with _____ (noun),

and I had _____ (noun) for a snack.

I learned about _____ while on the trail today.

After my visit, I felt _____ (adjective).

BE A TRAIL STEWARD



Care for the Trail!

Taking care of the Ice Age Trail helps protect nature, keeps paths safe for everyone, and ensures that future generations can enjoy the beauty of the Ice Age Trail. Test your knowledge: do the examples below follow good trail steward principles?



Yes or no? Are you being a trail steward?

Yes! 😊

No ☹️

1

You eat an orange for a mid-hike snack and throw the peel along the Trail.

☐☐

2

You take a photo of a neat-looking rock instead of picking the rock up and taking it home.

☐☐

3

You research Trail conditions ahead of time – so you'll know if it is too muddy to hike.

☐☐

4

You see a porcupine on the Trail and decide to chase it up a tree.

☐☐

5

You want to listen to music while you hike, so you bring along a portable speaker to play it loud.

☐☐

6

To get an even better view of a lake, you walk 10 feet off the Trail through and trample plants.

☐☐

7

You pitch your tent in an officially designated dispersed camping area (DCA).

☐☐

8

You bring a portable stove with you to cook your food, rather than build a campfire.

☐☐

ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL JUNIOR RANGER

PLEDGE & CERTIFICATE

“As an Ice Age National Scenic Trail Junior Ranger, I pledge to preserve and protect the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. I promise to share what I have learned with others and to continue exploring and protecting our National Scenic Trails.”

Junior Ranger's Name

Junior Ranger's Signature

Date





Print and cut at home: Junior Ranger badge