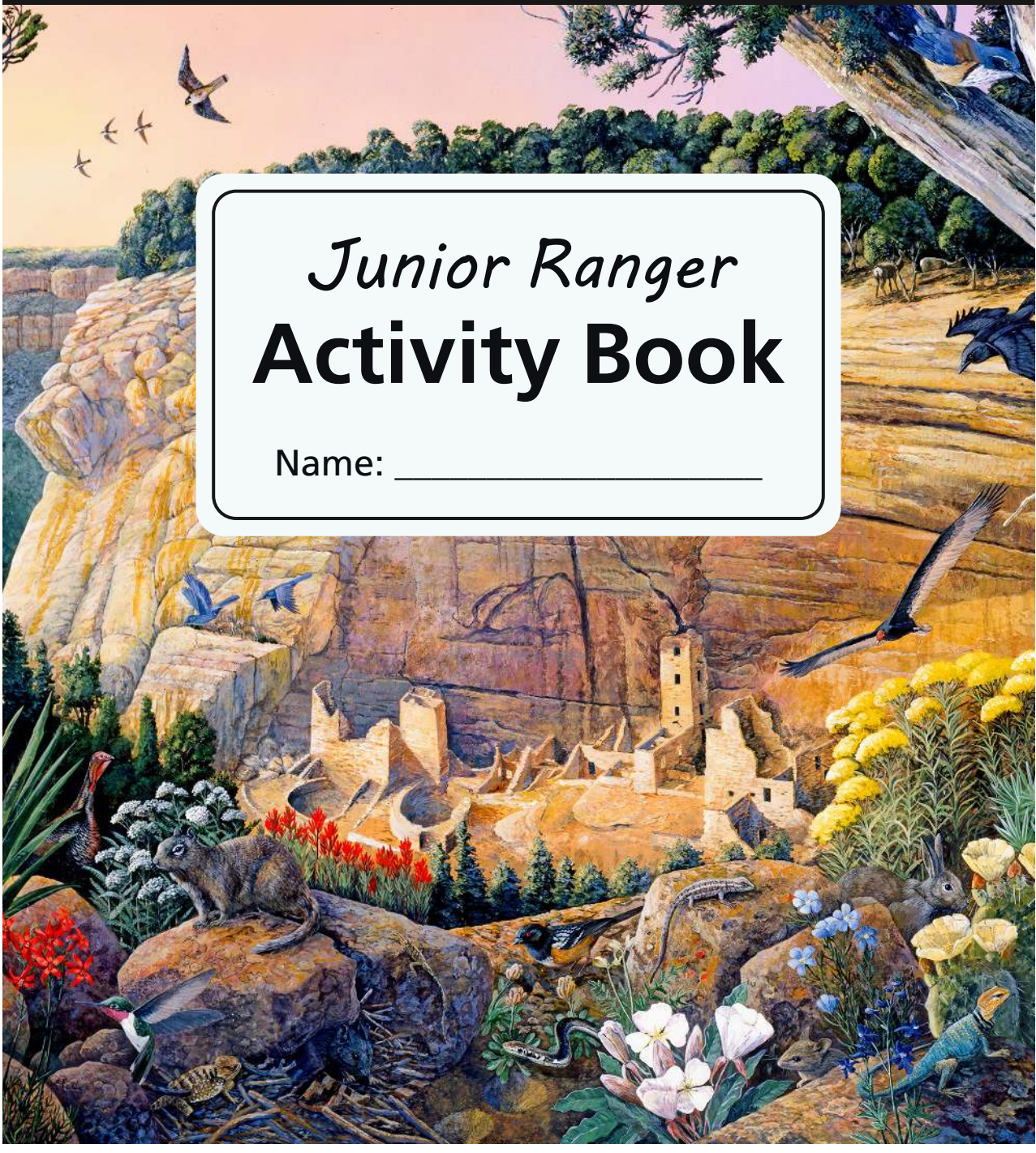




Junior Ranger **Activity Book**

Name: _____

Welcome to

Mesa Verde National Park!



Hello! I am a Junior Ranger at Mesa Verde National Park.

I had so much fun visiting Mesa Verde and learning all about the Ancestral Pueblo people who lived here.

I also enjoyed learning about the many plants and animals found in the park.

As a Junior Ranger, you can help protect Mesa Verde by visiting with respect and learning more about this special place.

Becoming a Junior Ranger is fun and easy! Just follow the three steps below.

HOW TO BECOME A MESA VERDE JUNIOR RANGER

1. Complete the first activity, "*Visit with Respect.*"
2. If you are **4-7** years old you must complete 3 more activities. **8-9** complete 4 more activities. **10 and up** complete 6 more activities. Some activities are more challenging than others. Use the spiral codes below to help choose the right activities for you.



- Easy



- Moderate



- Challenging

3. Once you have finished steps 1 and 2, take your activity book to any park information center to receive your Mesa Verde Junior Ranger badge.

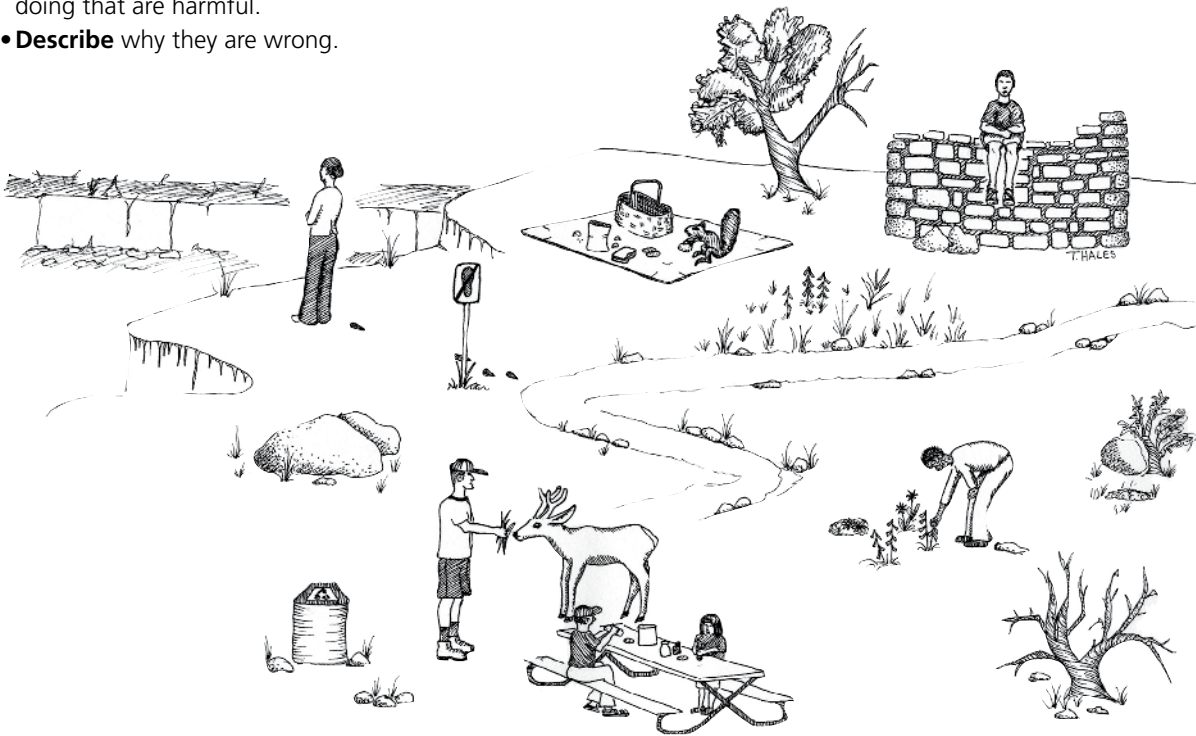
Visit with Respect



Mesa Verde National Park provides a home for hundreds of species of plants and animals. The park also preserves thousands of ancestral sites that are important and sacred to Pueblo people today. You can help protect the park and visit with respect by following a few simple rules.

Directions – Look at the picture below.

- **Circle** four things people are doing that are harmful.
- **Describe** why they are wrong.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Living on the Mesa

Use the displays in the Visitor Center to complete the activities on pages 3 & 4.

The Ancestral Pueblo people built homes, villages, and farms on Mesa Verde for hundreds of years. As you explore the Visitor Center you will discover how their communities survived and thrived while living here.

Directions – Explore the Visitor Center to complete the following activities.

What made Mesa Verde a good place to live?



FOOD

Find the display of the Pueblo farmer.

Mesa Verde was a great place to grow crops and gather wild foods. With plentiful food, Ancestral Pueblo villages grew larger and larger. What were some of the foods the Ancestral Pueblo people enjoyed? Circle all the correct answers below.

Corn Pine Nuts Deer Oranges

WATER

Find the display of a person collecting water.

All living creatures, including humans, need water to survive. Where did Ancestral Pueblo people find water on the mesa?

Faucets Seep Springs Rivers Oceans

SHELTER

Find the display of a person building a home.

The mesa provided lots of natural resources for the Ancestral Pueblo people to build their homes. What materials did they use?

Concrete Wood Sandstone Mud/Adobe

FOOD FIND

Place an **X** over the plants and animals you find as you explore the visitor center exhibits.

		
Deer	Corn	Turkey
		
Yucca	Rabbit	Squash
		
Beans	Prickly pear	Pine nuts

Being Resourceful



The items listed in the boxes below are objects that were made or used by Ancestral Pueblo people. Use the blanks beside the boxes to write the name of the resource used to make the listed items. (Hint: answers can be found in the word bank on page 6)

Bowls
Mugs
Mortar
Plaster

C _ _ _ _

Sandals Needles
Rope Baskets
Mats
Shampoo

_ _ _ _ _

Feathers
Bone tools
Warm blankets
Eggs

_ _ _ _ _

Pine nuts
Timber for building
Pine pitch
Firewood

_ _ _ _ _

Woven shirts
Manta dresses
Socks
Sashes and belts

_ _ _ _ _

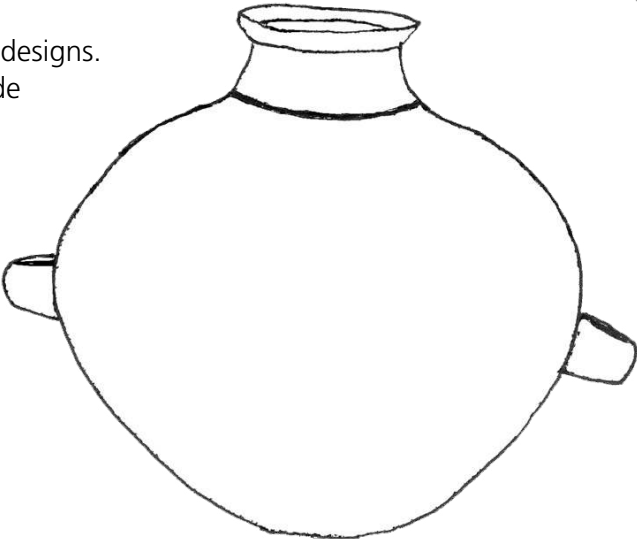
Fur socks
Blankets
Meat for stew

_ _ _ _ _

Surviving or Thriving?



Mesa Verde pottery is known for its beautiful designs. These designs, as well as other fine items made by Ancestral Pueblo artists, show us that the people of Mesa Verde were not simply surviving, they were thriving. Look around the displays for examples of Pueblo art. Draw your own design on the jar.



Building a Home

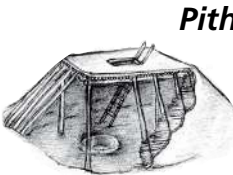
Ancestral Pueblo families built homes and villages of wood, mud/adobe, and sandstone. Like homes today, they were filled with items that made them comfortable places to live.

Directions – As you explore the park, try to imagine what it would have been like to live in one of these homes and complete the following activities.

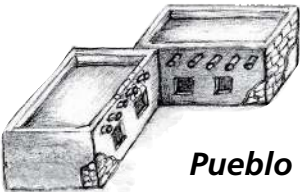
Changing Homes



Over time, the Ancestral Pueblo people built different kinds of homes to adapt to changing needs. Look for these different styles of homes and circle the ones you find.



Pithouse



Pueblo



Cliff Dwelling

My Favorite Home



Draw the type of house you would most like to live in. What makes it a comfortable place to live?

.....

Story Time



Can you imagine living in a cliff dwelling? The story below paints a picture of what a day might have been like for an Ancestral Pueblo kid who lived at Mesa Verde. Use the word bank at the bottom of the page to fill in the blanks as you go. If you are traveling with a little sibling or friend, share your story when you are done.

My family and I live in the stone rooms of a cliff dwelling village. The people of my community wake up early each morning and start cooking fires in the rooms and courtyards. My mother goes to collect water from the nearest _____ spring, while I feed the turkeys.

As soon as we finish eating our morning meal my father climbs up the cliff side using _____ and toe holds to reach our fields. Spring days are spent clearing the fields and planting _____, beans, and squash. Corn is my favorite vegetable. In the fall, my mother and I will dry the harvested corn and use a mano and _____ to grind it into cornmeal. But for now, my mother is teaching my younger sister and me how to make _____ from _____. The bowls and jars we make will be used for cooking, storing food, and collecting water.

This afternoon, my brother plans to go hunting. I hope he catches a _____. While my brother is hunting, I will help my grandparents harvest wild plants, such as nuts from the _____ pine trees and fruit from the prickly pear cactus. We also collect _____ leaves to pound into fibers to make rope, sandals, and baskets. My father is a talented weaver. He will weave _____ feathers with yucca fiber to make warm blankets for the winter. Sometimes he trades with other Pueblo farmers from far away to get _____ which he weaves into manta dresses for my mother, sister, and me.

As the sun sets after a busy day, my family gathers in our _____. I love spending time in these warm, underground rooms listening to the stories of my people. Snuggled up next to my grandmother on a comfy yucca mat, I fall asleep, excited for another day.

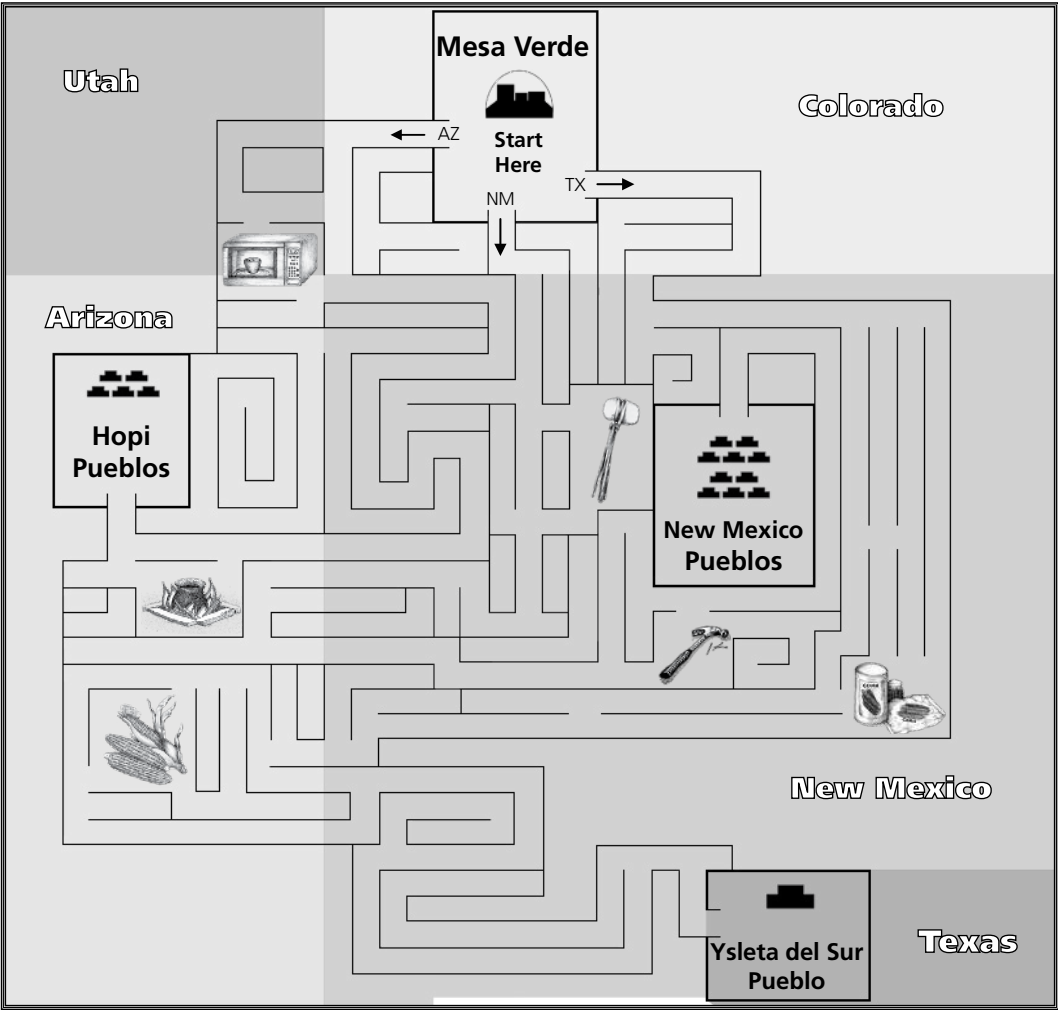
clay	pottery	kiva	turkey
corn	rabbit	metate	yucca
hand	seep	pinyon	cotton

Moving Away



After living here for hundreds of years, the Ancestral Pueblo people began to move away from the mesa. Drought (less rain and snow over many years) may have been the reason people began to leave. Looking for better lands to farm, Pueblo families migrated south. Today their descendants include the 19 Pueblos of New Mexico, the Hopi in Arizona, and the Pueblo of Ysleta del Sur in Texas.

Directions – Follow the paths through the maze from Mesa Verde to the present-day homes of Pueblo communities. You must find at least one Ancestral Pueblo object along the way.



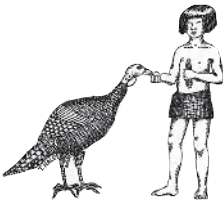
Then and Now



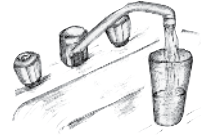
Today many Pueblo families live in New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas. While some things have changed over time, many traditions have remained the same.

Directions – Draw a line from each item in the left column (things the Ancestral Pueblo people used or did in the past) with an item in the right column (things we use or do today).

Then



Now



Take a Hike!

There are many fantastic trails to hike in Mesa Verde National Park. Hiking is a great way to explore the park, look for animals, and learn about plants.

Directions – Choose a trail to hike and complete the two activities below.

Trail I plan to hike: _____

.....

Be Prepared



Double check that you are prepared for your hike. No matter if the hike is long or short, you should always have the following items with you.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Water | ☐ Hat | ☐ Trail Snacks |
| ☐ Sturdy Shoes | ☐ Sun Block | ☐ Map or Directions |

.....

Field Notes

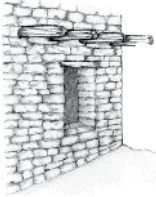


Find a nice place along the trail to sit down and make a few observations. Use the space below to draw or describe something you hear or see.

Mesa Verde Bingo



Directions – As you explore Mesa Verde, look for the items below and place an “X” over the ones you find. Find four in a row, across or diagonally.

			
Ladder	T-shaped Door	Juniper Berries	Mano and Metate
			
Viga (roof beam)	Yucca	Kiva	Seep Spring
			
Prickly Pear Cactus	Ranger Hat	Two-story Building	Soot-blackened Wall
			
Lizard	Fire Pit	Pinyon Pine	Bird

Illustrations and artwork by Mary Lloyd, Talela Hales, Marna Bastian, DJ webb, and Jim Tschetter. Cover illustration by Larry Eifert.



This Certifies That

has completed the Junior Ranger Program at

Mesa Verde National Park

As a Mesa Verde Junior Ranger, I will do my best to protect Mesa Verde and all national parks. I will stay on the trails, not feed the wildlife, not litter, and recycle when I can. I also promise to be respectful of other cultures whose way of life may be different from my own.

Witnessed by: _____
(Park Ranger Signature)

Date: _____