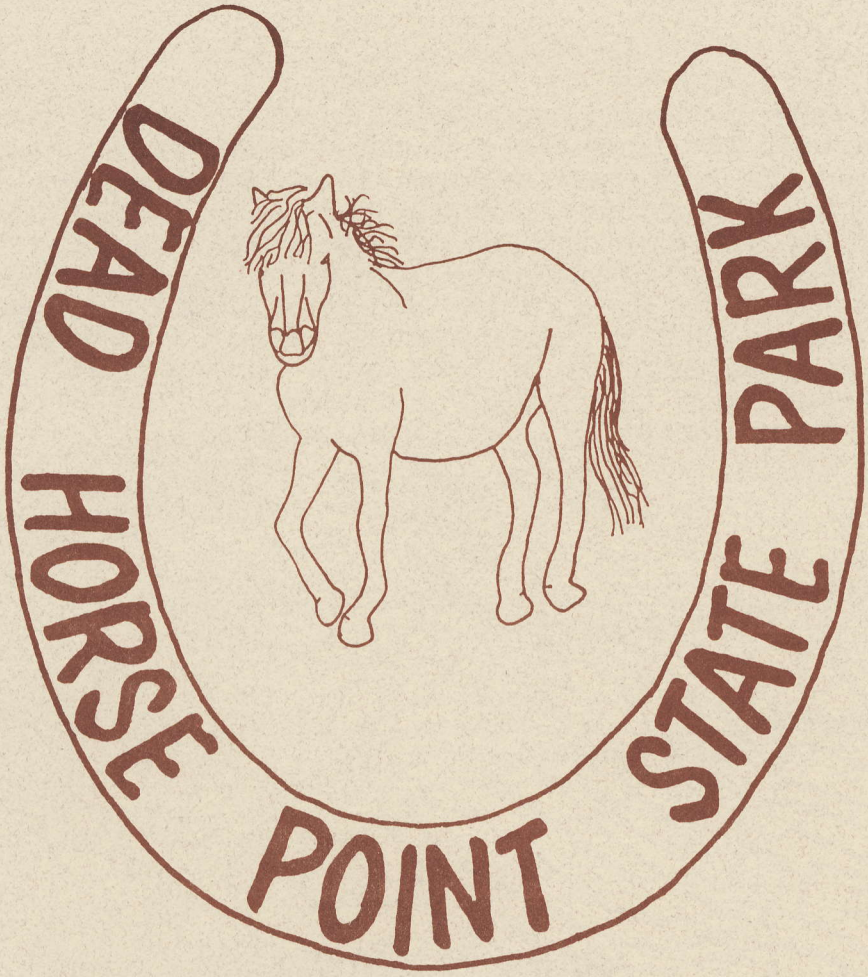


JUNIOR RANGER ACTIVITY GUIDE

HEY KIDS,

It's easy to become a Junior Ranger at Dead Horse Point. If you are between the ages of 5 - 9 complete at least 3 activities in this book. If you are between 10 - 12 complete at least 6 activities. It is OK for parents to help. Next, collect a small bag of litter. Litter picked out of trash cans or from your car does not count. Aluminum cans should be put into the recycling bins. Give your bag to a ranger and have them sign your book. Or, attend a ranger program, and have the ranger sign your book. When you are finished bring your book back to the visitor center and have a ranger look through it and sign it. You will then be an official Junior Ranger complete with a badge.

Litter Patrol_____
(Park Ranger)

or

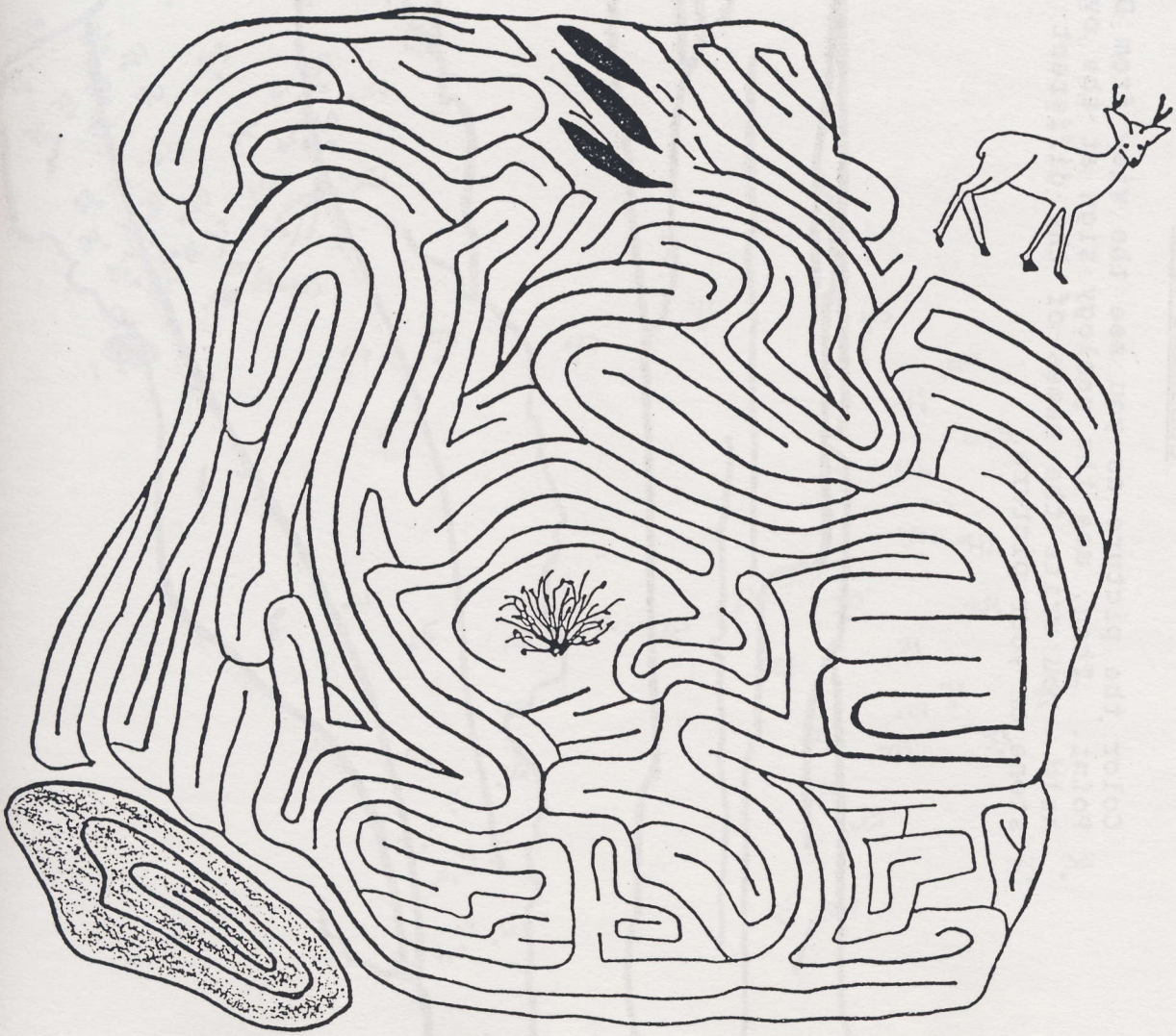
Ranger Program_____
(Park Ranger)

THINGS TO REMEMBER!!!!

Drink plenty of water; even if you don't feel thirsty.
Don't try to feed any animals or coax them to come to you; they may bite you; and people food is not good for animals
Be especially careful around the cliff edges.
Don't step on the cryptobiotic soil; it takes years to heal.
Don't put your hands and feet in places where you can't see; you may get bitten by a snake or spider.
Don't climb on the trees; some are hundreds of years old and very fragile.
If there is lightning in the air, get back in your car; on the cliffs you're the tallest thing around.

MAZE

When it rains on the mesa most of the water runs off into the surrounding canyons. Some of the water collects in depressions in the rock called "potholes." After it rains, this is the only water left on the mesa. If there is a long time between rains, the smaller potholes sometimes dry up. Help this deer find his way to the pothole still full of water so that he can have a drink. Don't be fooled by the empty potholes, but you may want to stop and have some rice grass for dinner.



COLORING PAGE

Color the picture as you see the view from Dead Horse Point. Then, use the geology sign at the overlook to help you write the names of the different layers of stone on your picture.

DOT - TO - DOT

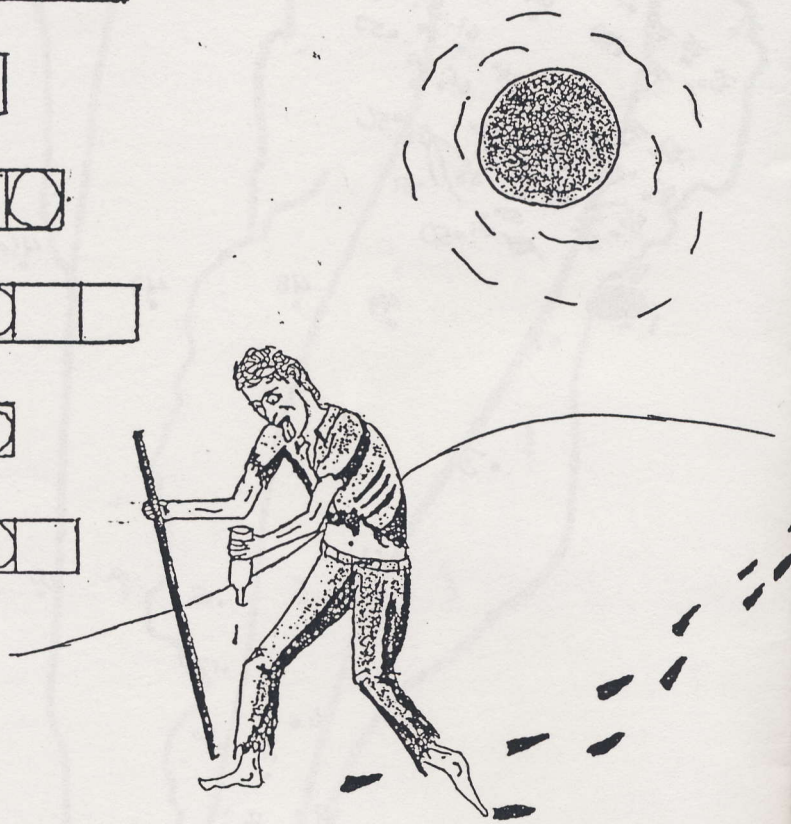
Sometimes animals try to blend into the background in order to hide from predators. Connect the dots to find out what animal is hiding in this picture.

DESERT SCRAMBLE

Unscramble each of these words then use the letters that are circled to unscramble the answer to the cartoon.

Hint: All the words have something to do with the desert, and can be found in this booklet.

1. AMES
2. OYCNAN
3. EDRE
4. VIRER
5. SACTCU
6. EWVI
7. ENKAS



What should this man have done to ensure a safe hike in the desert?????

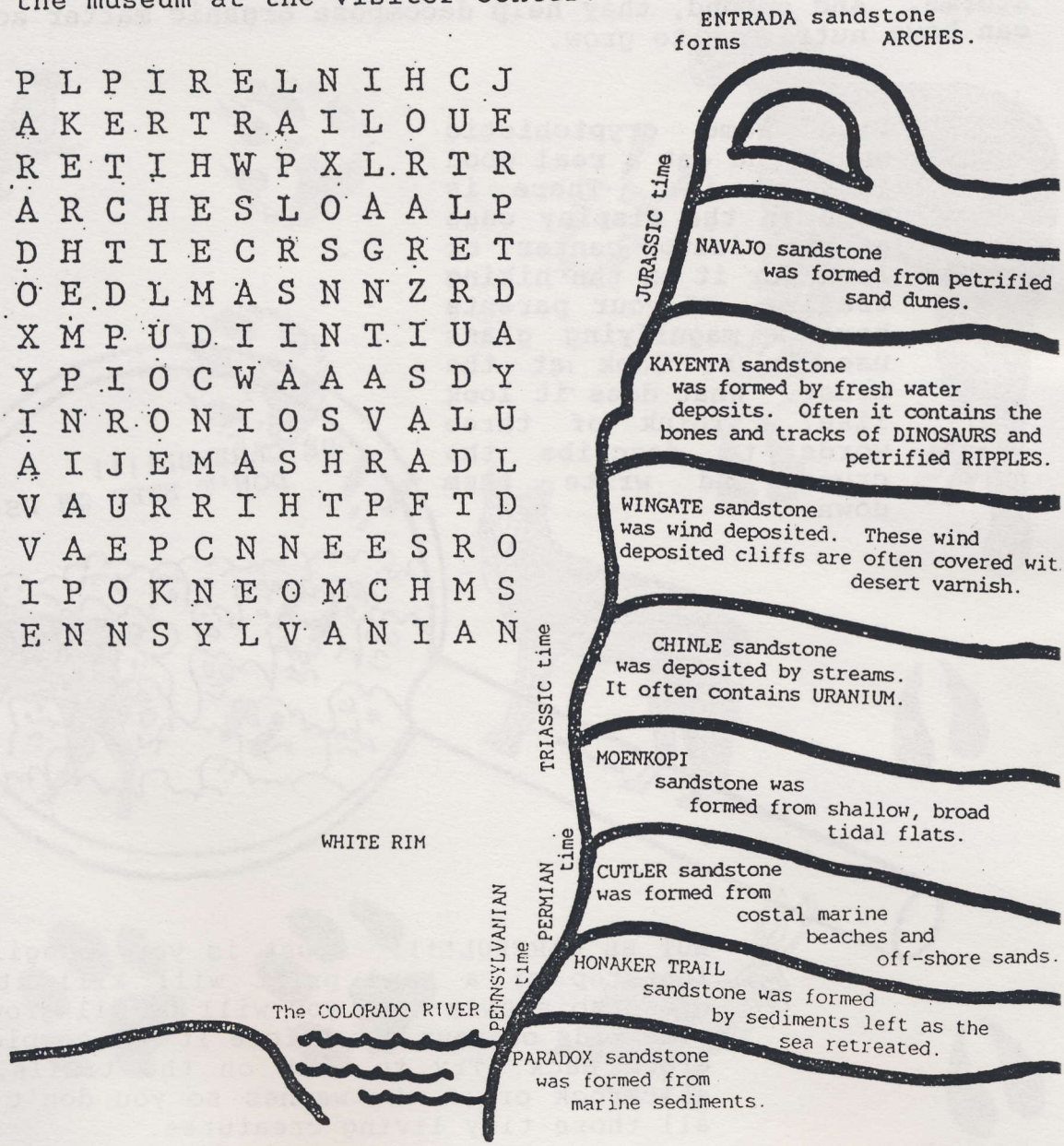
LOTS OF IT!!!!!!!

GEOLOGY WORD SEARCH

Read the information about the layers of rocks you see when you look off Dead Horse Point. Then, find the CAPITALIZED words in the word search.

For more information on Geology take a walk through the museum at the visitor center.

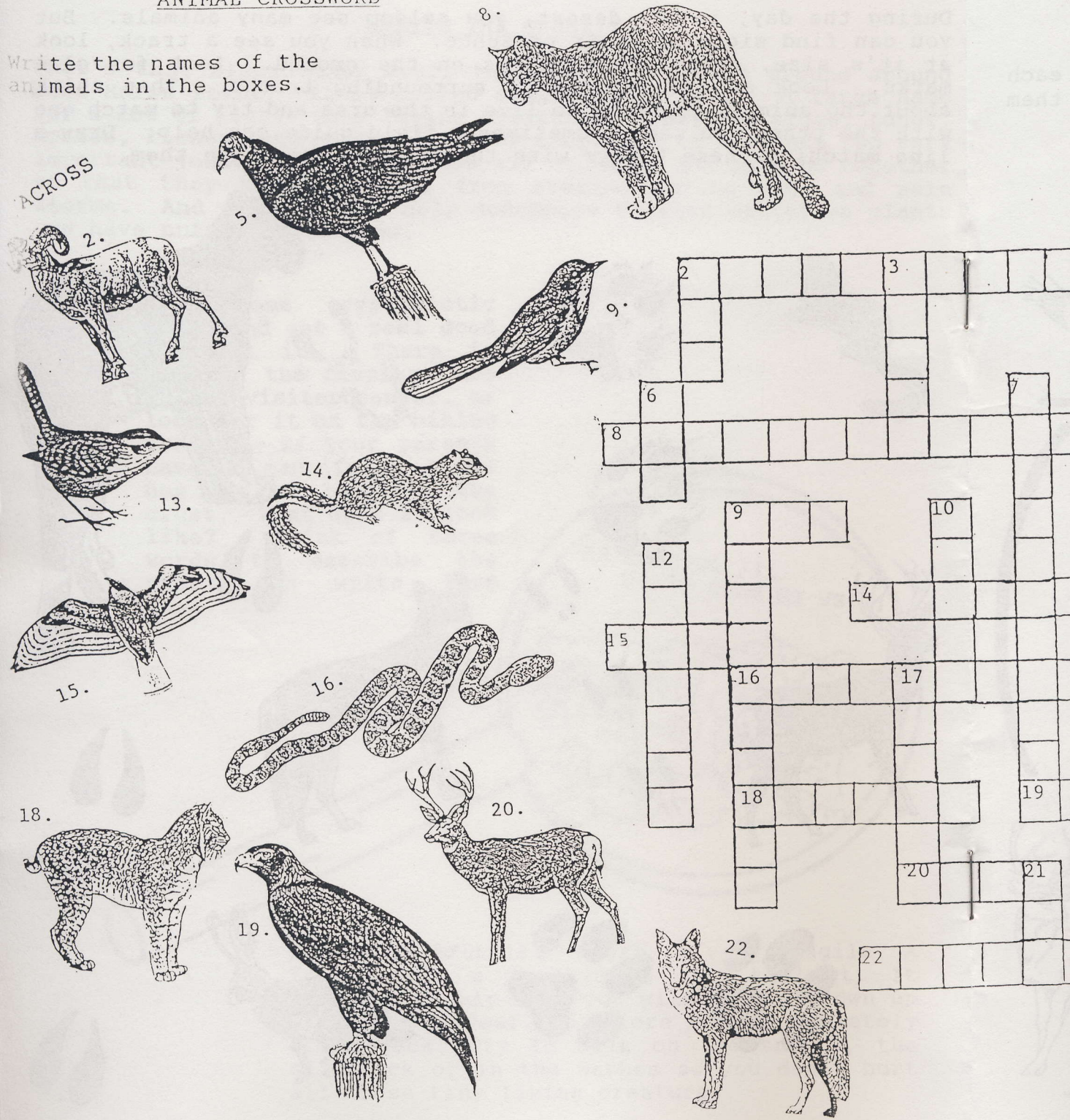
J	V	X	P	L	P	I	R	E	L	N	I	H	C	J
H	O	N	A	K	E	R	T	R	A	I	L	O	U	E
N	M	I	R	E	T	I	H	W	P	X	L	R	T	R
E	S	H	A	R	C	H	E	S	L	O	A	A	L	P
Z	K	D	D	H	T	I	E	C	R	S	G	R	E	T
D	A	A	O	E	D	L	M	A	S	N	N	Z	R	D
I	Y	E	X	M	P	U	D	I	I	N	T	I	U	A
N	E	O	Y	P	I	O	C	W	A	A	A	S	D	Y
O	N	A	I	N	R	O	N	I	O	S	V	A	L	U
S	T	R	A	I	J	E	M	A	S	H	R	A	D	L
A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



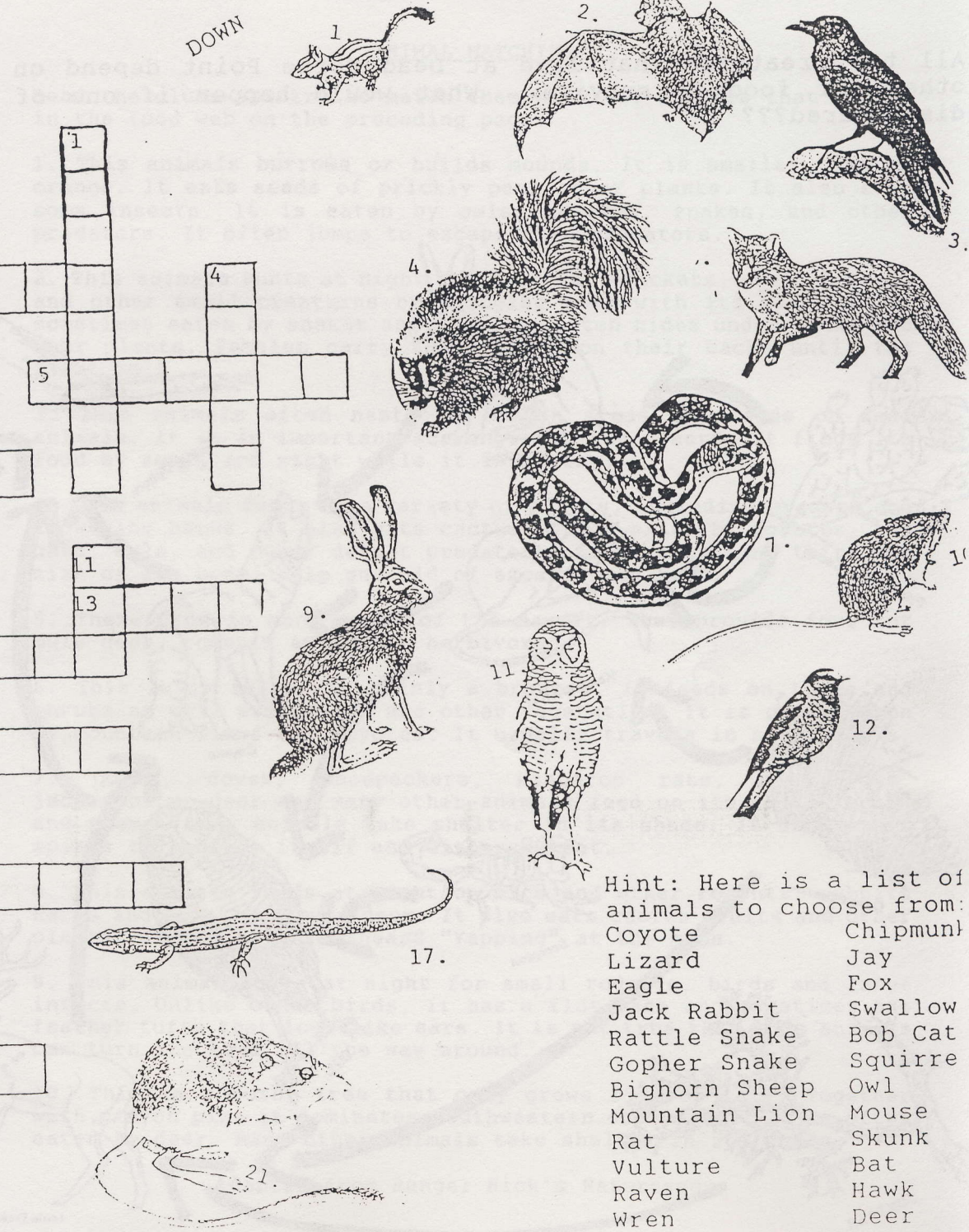
ANIMAL CROSSWORD

Write the names of the animals in the boxes.

ACROSS



DOWN

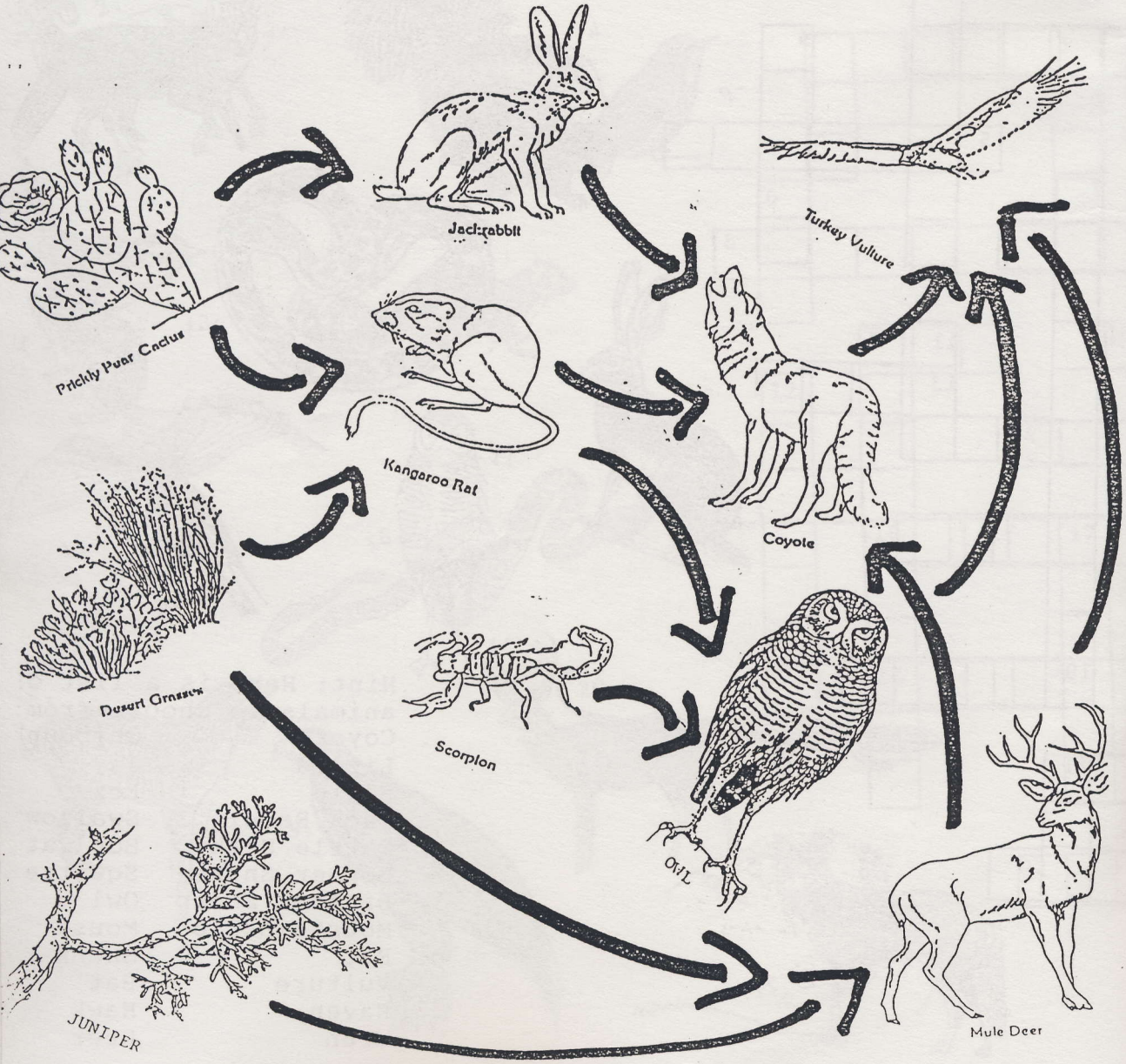


Hint: Here is a list of animals to choose from:

Coyote	Chipmunk
Lizard	Jay
Eagle	Fox
Jack Rabbit	Swallow
Rattle Snake	Bob Cat
Gopher Snake	Squirre
Bighorn Sheep	Owl
Mountain Lion	Mouse
Rat	Skunk
Vulture	Bat
Raven	Hawk
Wren	Deer

DESERT FOOD WEB

All the creatures that live at Dead Horse Point depend on each other for food to survive. What would happen if one of them disappeared???



ANIMAL MATCHING

Read the clues and try to match them with the animals that appear in the food web on the preceding page.

1. This animals burrows or builds mounds. It is smaller than an orange. It eats seeds of prickly pear other plants. It also eats some insects. It is eaten by owls, coyotes, snakes, and other predators. It often jumps to escape from predators.

2. This animals hunts at night for spiders, crickets, small lizards and other small creatures by stinging them with its tail. It is sometimes eaten by snakes and owls. It often hides under rocks and near plants. Females carry their young on their backs until the first molt.

3. This animals often nests in canyon areas. It feeds on dead animals. It is an important scavenger in the desert. It finds its food by smell and sight while it is flying.

4. This animals feeds on a variety of plants, including grasses and flowering herbs. It also eats cactus. It is eaten by coyotes, bob cats, owls, and other desert predators. Large ears (one third the size of its body) help get rid of excess body heat.

5. These grow in many parts of the desert. They provide food for mule deer, rodents and other herbivores.

6. This large animal is mainly a browser. It feeds on trees and shrubs as well as grasses and other vegetation. It is preyed upon by mountain lions and coyotes. It usually travels in small herds.

7. Quail, doves, woodpeckers, kangaroo rats, pack rats, jackrabbits, deer and many other animals feed on its fruit, seeds and stems. Many animals take shelter in its shade. It uses sharp spines to protect itself and disperse heat.

8. This animals feeds at night on mice and other rodents, rabbits hares and sometimes mule deer. It also eats cactus fruits and other plants. It can often be heard "Yapping" at the moon.

9. This animal hunts at night for small rodents, birds and large insects. Unlike other birds, it has a flat face and sometimes has feather tufts that look like ears. It is not true that this animals can turn its head all the way around.

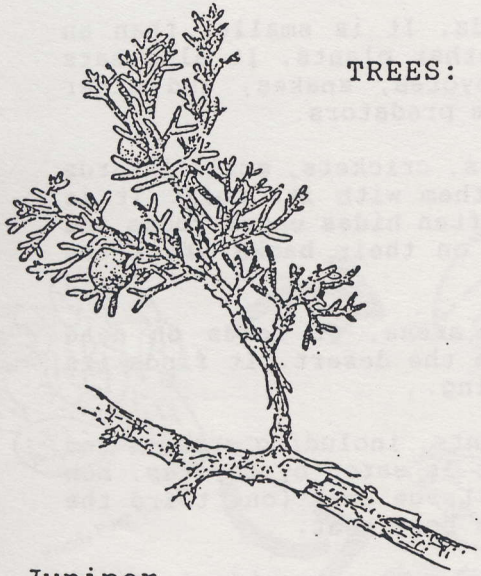
10. This is a bushy tree that only grows 15 feet tall. Together with pinyon pine it dominates southwestern ecosystems. It is often eaten by deer. Many other animals take shelter in its shade.

Adapted from Ranger Rick's Naturescope

PLANT FIND

Take a walk on the nature trail outside the visitor center. Compare the plants that you see to these pictures and see how many you can identify. Check off as many as you can.

TREES:



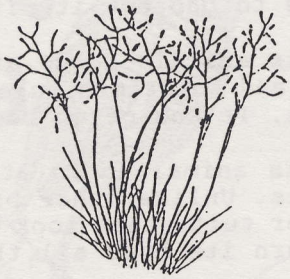
Juniper_____

Pinyon Pine_____

Single Leaf Ash_____

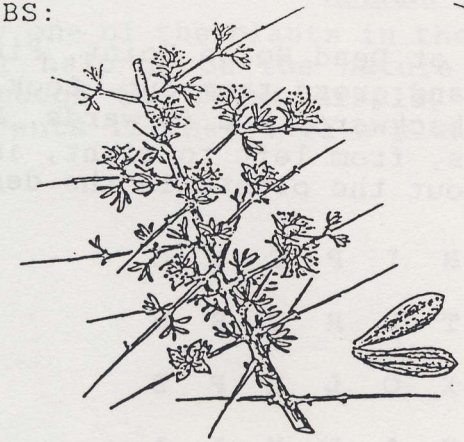
GRASSES:

Cheat Grass_____



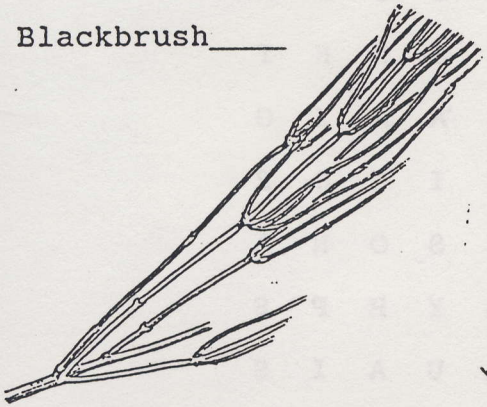
Indian Rice Grass_____

SHRUBS:



Blackbrush____

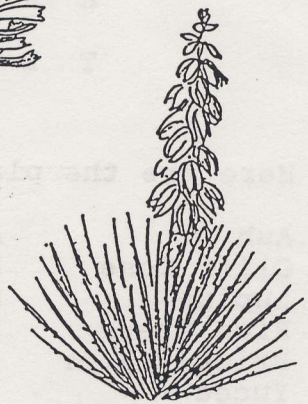
Mountain Mahogany____



Ephedra(Mormon Tea)____

Sage____

Cliffrose____



Narrowleaf Yucca ____

PLANT SEARCH

There are many plants that live at Dead Horse Point. Find the names of the plants listed and cross them out. Look for plants across, down, diagonal, backwards and forwards. Next, write down the remaining letters, from left to right, in the spaces to find out something about the plants in the desert.

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

Here are the plants to look for:

Ash	Aster	Black Brush	Cheat Grass
Cliff Rose	Daisy	Ephedra	Juniper
Lupine	Mahogany	Moss	Rabbit Brush
Rice Grass	Rye	Phlox	Pinyon Pine
Prickly Pear	Princes Plume	Sagebrush	Vetch
Yucca			

_ _

Identify one of the plants in the word search and draw a picture of it. For help go on the nature walk outside the visiter center, look through the plant display inside the visitor center or ask your parents if they have a plant book.

LANDSCAPE MATCH

The landscapes in the desert are carved by water. See if you can name each formation by matching them with the clues given.

1._____ When a river flows through a high, rocky area, it cuts, grinds, and carves the rock year after year and often forms this dramatic desert feature. The main overlook at Dead Horse Point looks into one.

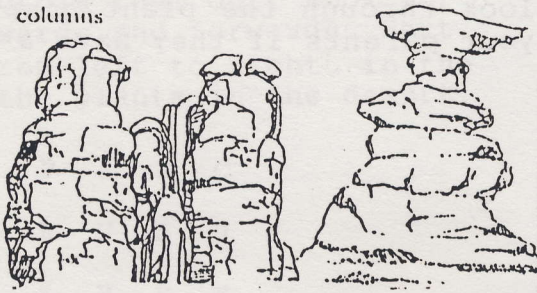
2._____ This unusual landform is often caused when a small hole or crack forms in soft rock. Water freezes and thaws in the crack and causes it to weaken until a chunk of rock falls out creating a window. There is a park full of these near Moab.

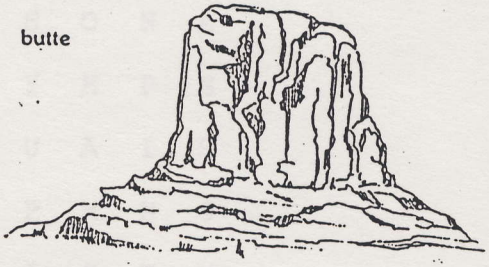
3._____ This huge desert landform can be created when hard rock sits on top of softer rock, forming a cap. As wind and water erode the soft rock, steep sloping sides form. The hard "Caprock" forms a flat top. Dead Horse Point sits on the edge of one.

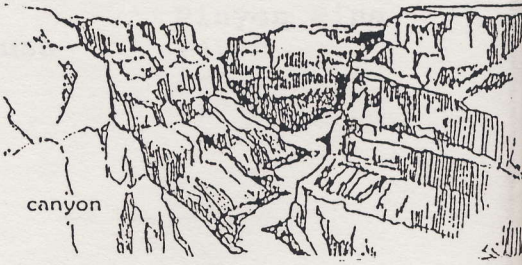
4._____ A smaller version of #3 with flat or rounded tops and steep slopes on all sides.

5._____ These tall landforms are large rock formations that have been worn away at their bases by rushing water. Sometimes harder rocks are left on top forming caprocks. These are also called pinnacles, needles and pedestals.

Adapted from Ranger Rick's Naturesope







LEGENDS

A legend is a story that has been told so many times that people think it is true. There are many different legends about how Dead Horse Point got its name. Read the official story in the park brochure, then see if you can write your own legend about how Dead Horse Point got its name.

CONGRATULATIONS YOU'RE A JUNIOR RANGER

As a Junior Ranger you are expected to do your part to help keep Dead Horse Point a nice park to visit. Here's how you can help:

Keep your eyes and ears open for interesting plants and animals.

Pay attention to and protect other living creatures.

Stay off of the Cryptobiotic Soil and tell your friends to do the same.

Keep the park clean. If you find any litter put it in a trash can.

Help us recycle. Put aluminum cans in the recycling bins.

Share with others the lessons you have learned from these activities.

Walk gently on the earth and help others to do the same.

I Certify that _____
(Name)
Completed the Dead Horse Point Junior Ranger Program

_____ _____
(Park Ranger) (Date)

Dead Horse Point State Park gratefully acknowledges Heidi Eaton for her efforts in the design and preparation of this booklet.