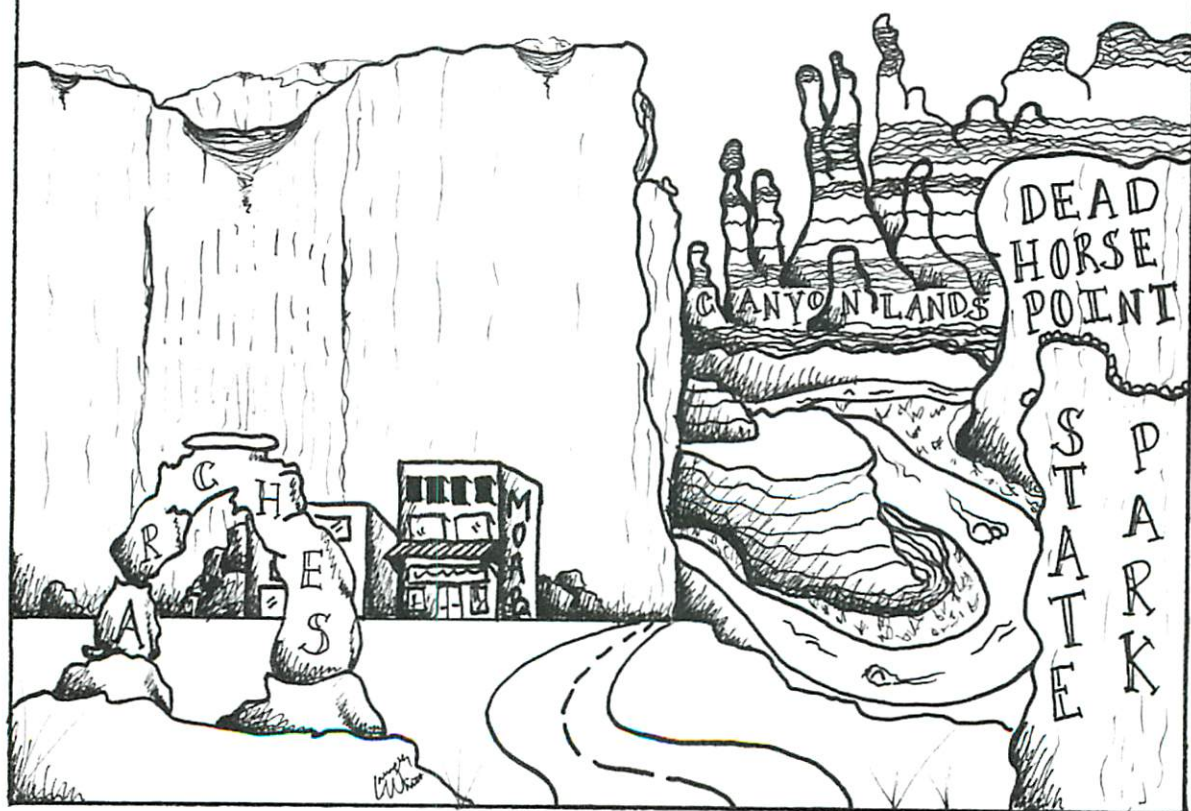


# DEAD HORSE POINT STATE PARK

## JUNIOR RANGER

### ACTIVITY GUIDE



# ATTENTION JUNIOR RANGERS!

## **Our parks need your help!**

In this booklet you learn why our parks need Junior Rangers like you!

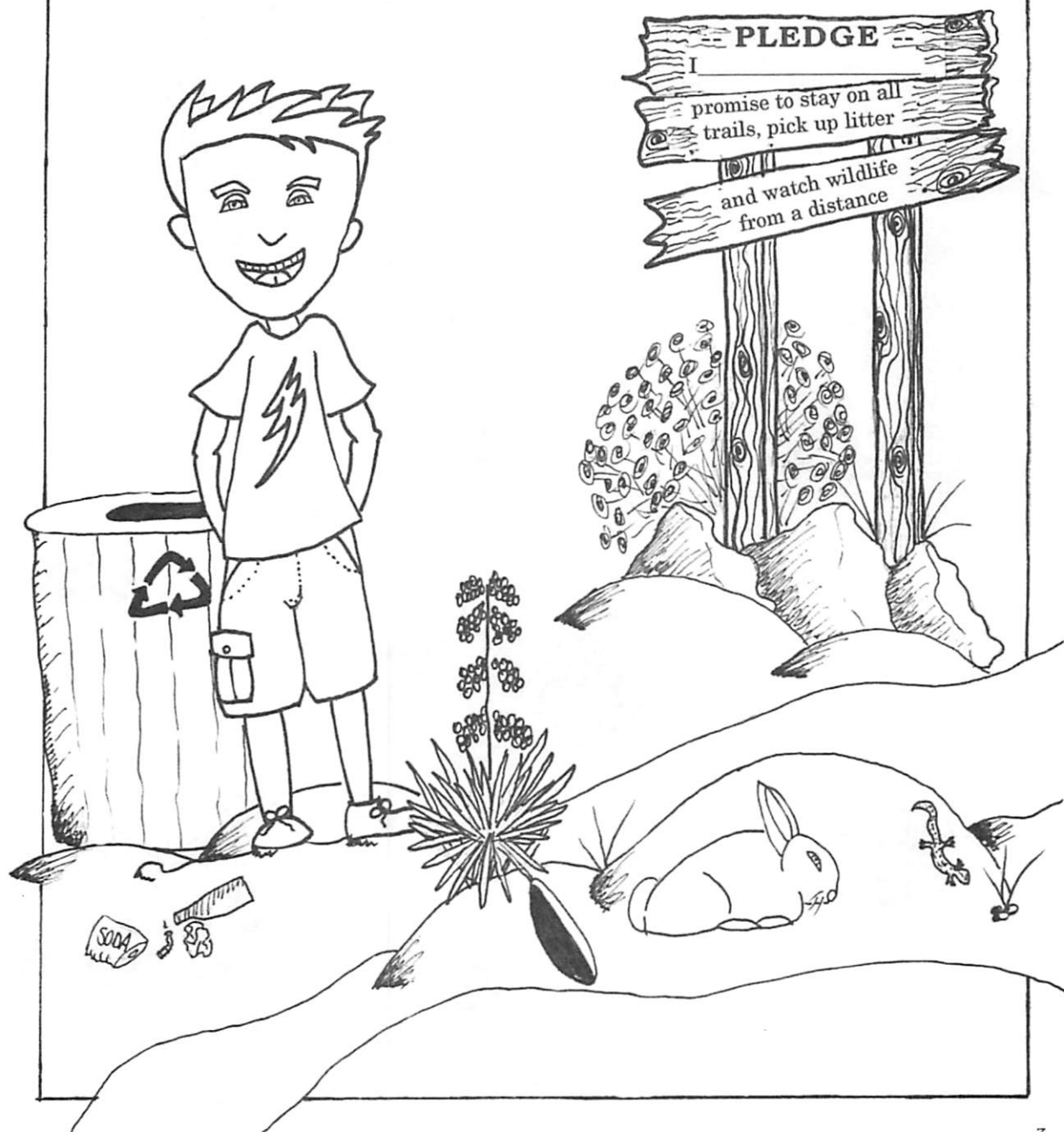
Junior Rangers follow park rules, help us pick up litter, and teach others to care about the park so everyone can enjoy it.

Complete at least 5 of these activities (your parents can help), and recite the pledge to a ranger at the visitor center to get your badge, and become a Junior Ranger at Dead Horse Point State Park!

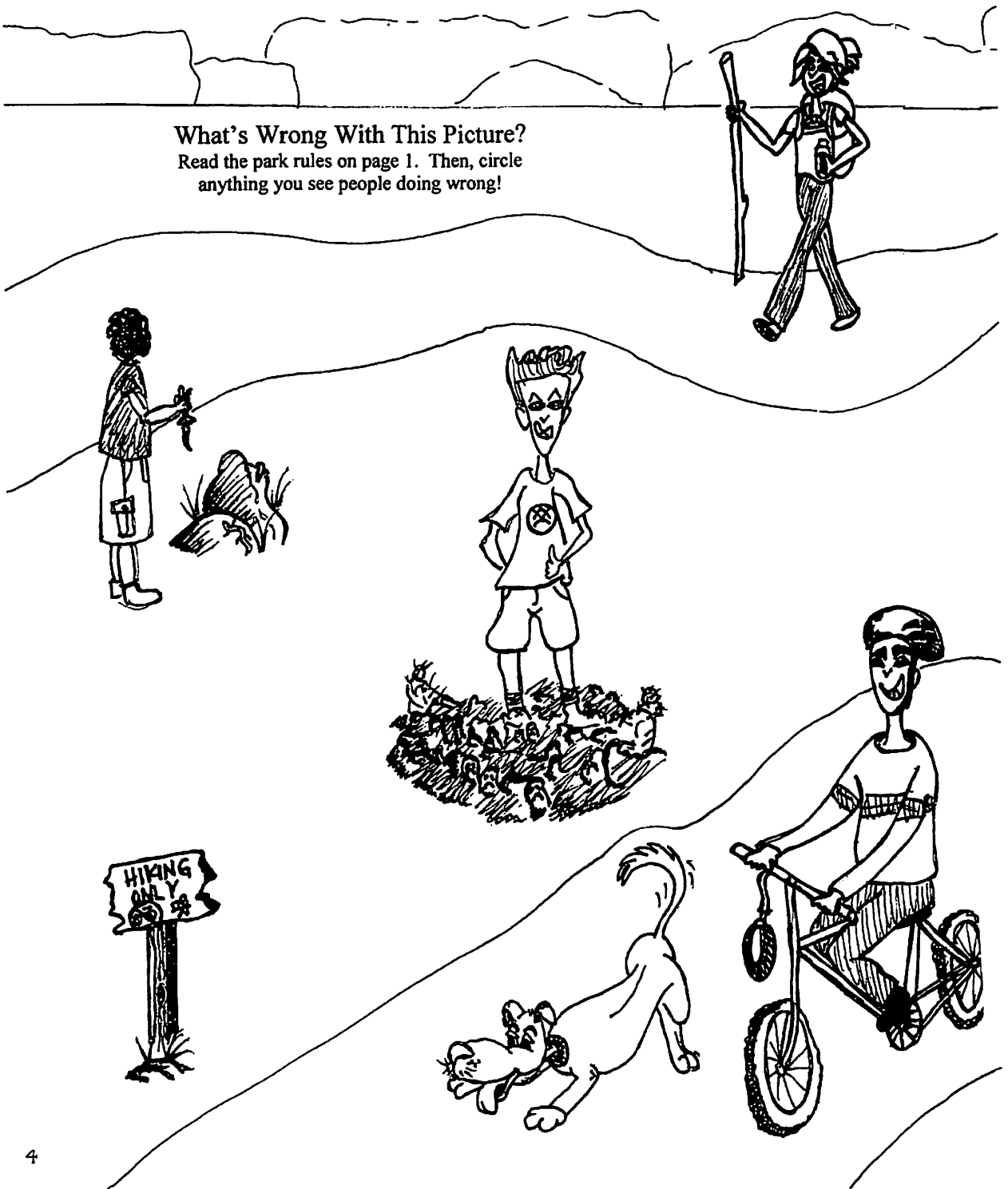
### **Park Rules**

- Please stay on the trails
- Keep pets on a leash at all times
- Wood fires are not allowed
- Please leave flowers, trees, and rocks unharmed and for others to enjoy
- Please don't chase park wildlife
- Please keep bicycles on the pavement, or designated mountain bike trails
- Please place all litter in trash cans or designated recycling bins
- Remember to drink water, wear a hat, sunscreen, and good shoes

# BECOMING A JUNIOR RANGER



What's Wrong With This Picture?  
Read the park rules on page 1. Then, circle  
anything you see people doing wrong!





\* Things like orange/banana peels, or candy wrappers take a very long time to decompose or "break-down" in the desert!



# DON'T BUST THE CRUST!

([www.soilcrust.org](http://www.soilcrust.org))

Use these 2 pages to learn about Biological Soil

Unscramble each of the clue words

ANDS

--	--	--	--

4

LIVEA

--	--	--	--	--

6 7 8

TAWER

--	--	--	--	--

2

SEDRET

--	--	--	--	--	--

3

NDWI

--	--	--	--

1

LOIS

--	--	--	--

5

\* Copy the letters from the numbered boxes above into the matching boxes below

--	--

1 2

--

3

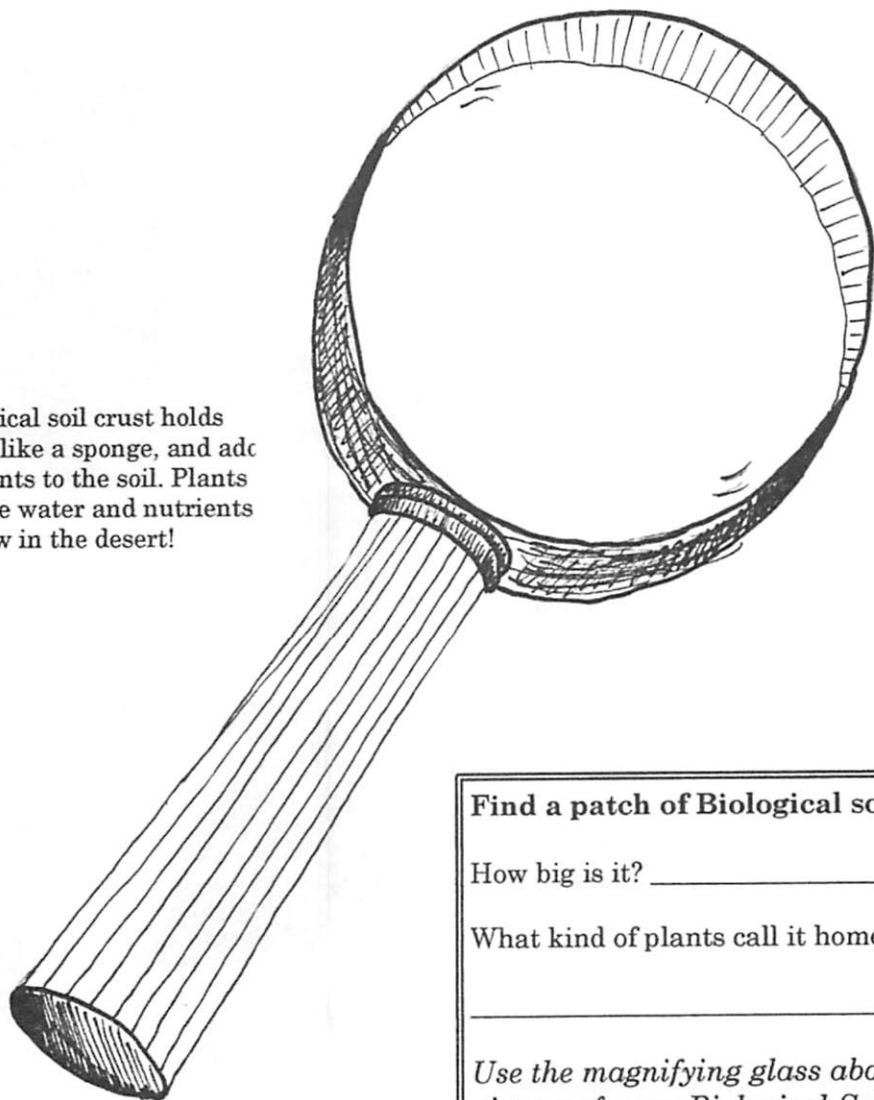
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4 5 6 7 8

# It's Alive!!!

No, it's not Frankenstein, it's the dirt! If you look closely when you hike, you'll see patches of black, lumpy stuff covering the dirt. This is called Biological Soil Crust. It is a community of bacteria, fungus, algae, and mosses.

Biological soil crust holds water like a sponge, and adds nutrients to the soil. Plants use the water and nutrients to grow in the desert!



Sticky strands of cyanobacteria (si-ano-bacteria) hold sand grains together

**Find a patch of Biological soil crust.**

How big is it? \_\_\_\_\_

What kind of plants call it home? \_\_\_\_\_

*Use the magnifying glass above to draw a picture of some Biological Soil Crust!*

# Desert Animals

Match the animal names with their pictures below. Have you seen any of these animals on your trip? Which ones?

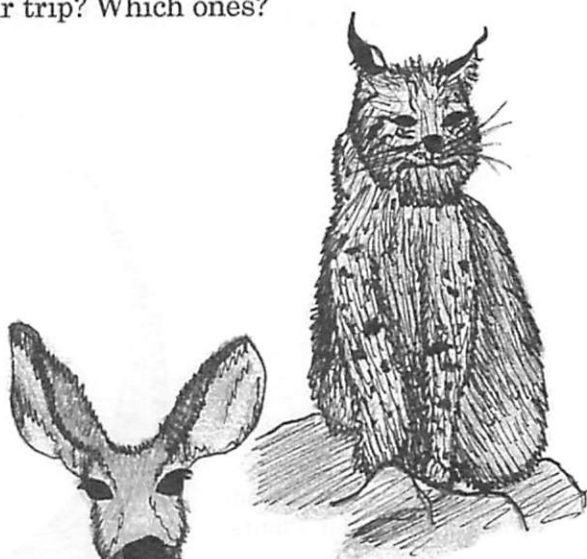
Kit Fox: This hunter is active at dawn and dusk

Raven: They are daytime scavengers. Put your food away!

Bobcat: These nocturnal hunters are rarely seen.

Chipmunk: They can be seen gathering nuts and seeds during the day.

Mule Deer: These herbivores are active at dawn and dusk, resting during the day.





# Scat & Tracks

Many desert animals are nocturnal to avoid the heat of the sun, and to conserve water. Even if you don't see animals during the day you can look for signs that they've been here!



Scat = Animal droppings (you might know it as poop..)  
Tracks = Prints they've left behind by paw or hoof



Name the animals (from page 7) that left these sets of tracks and scat...



This is from a: \_\_\_\_\_



This is from a: \_\_\_\_\_



This is from a: \_\_\_\_\_



This is from a: \_\_\_\_\_



This is from a: \_\_\_\_\_



# Geology of Dead Horse Point State Park

## (Rock Layers)

### Kayenta

The Kayenta Formation was deposited during the Jurassic period. River and flood plain deposits make up this rock formation.

### Wingate

The Wingate Formation was deposited during the Jurassic period. An ancient desert containing wind blown sand dunes formed the Wingate Sandstone.

### Chinle

The Chinle Formation was deposited during the Triassic period. Rivers, flood plains, and lakes were the environments that now make up Chinle's deposits.

### Moenkopi

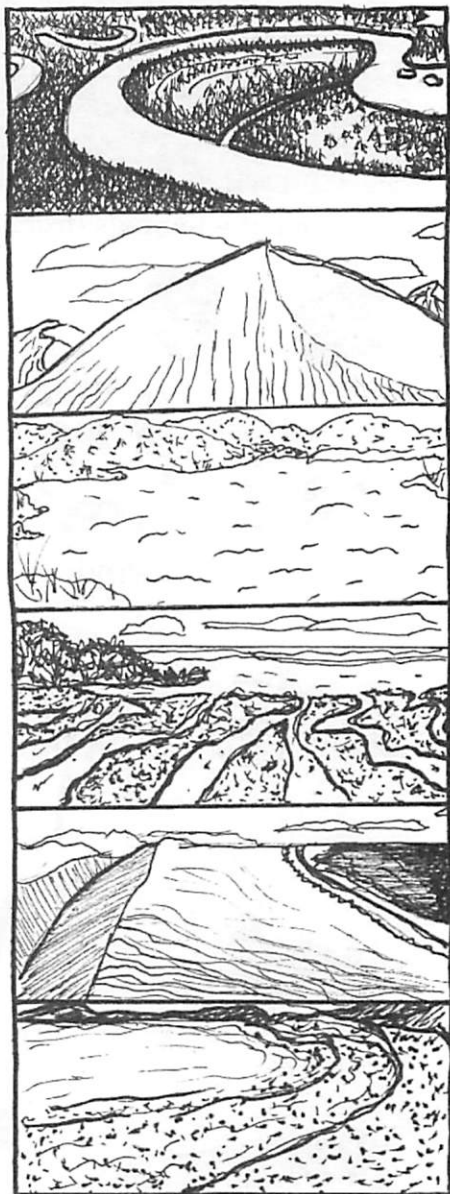
The Moenkopi Formation was deposited during the Triassic period. Vast tidal flats are responsible for the sediments left behind to form Moenkopi.

### Cutler

The Cutler Formation was deposited during the Permian period. Rivers and coastal sand dunes formed the Cutler rock formation.

### Honaker Trail

The Honaker Trail Formation was deposited during the Pennsylvanian period. This area was a shallow sea during this time period.



Draw a line to match the ancient environment  
to the correct rock layer.

**Tip!** Try reading the descriptions of each layer on the previous page.

Ancient Environments

Rivers, flood plains and lakes

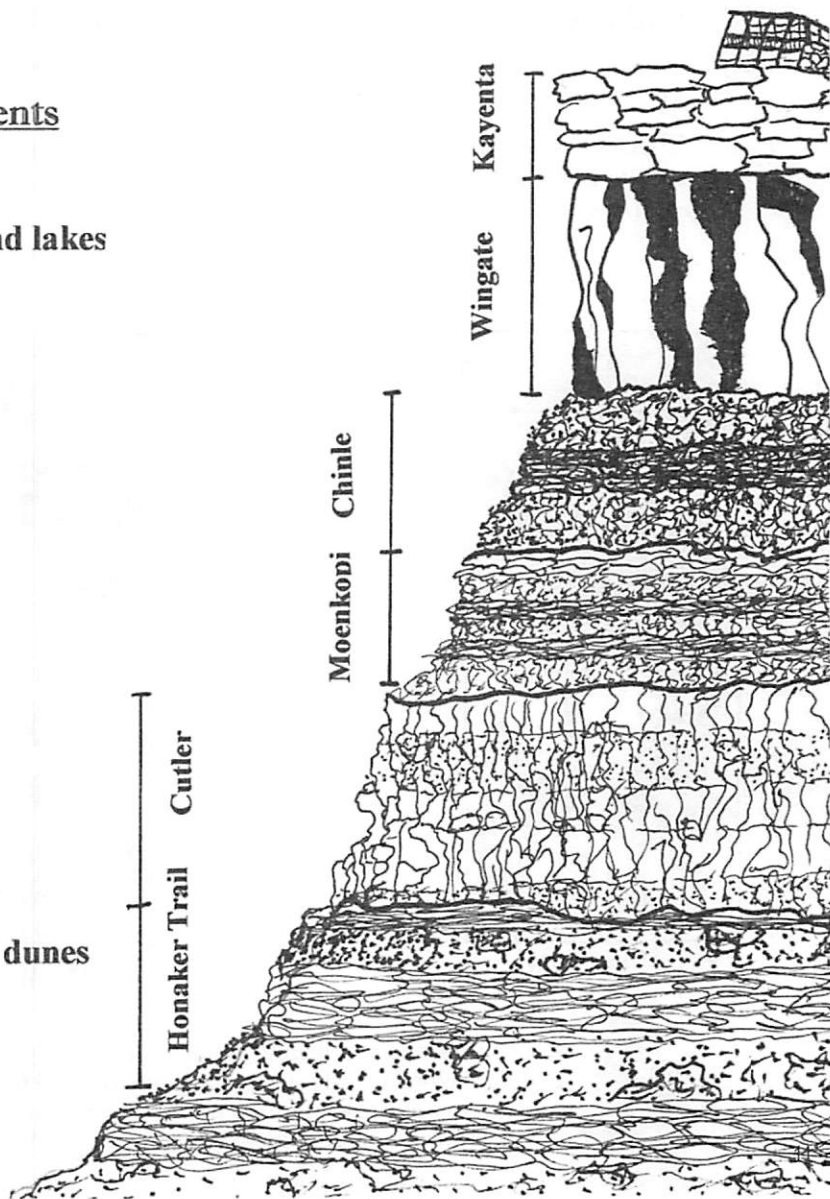
Tidal flats

Rivers & flood plains

Desert sand dunes

Shallow sea

Rivers & coastal sand dunes



# Take a Hike!

The desert can be a hot, dry place, but that doesn't mean plants can't survive here. You've already seen how Biological Soil Crust helps plants grow...so now let's see what kinds of plants grow here! The short nature trail near the visitor, or the paved trail at the Point are great, easy places to observe desert plants.

Check off each plant as you see it, and describe what it feels like, looks like, or smells like in the space provided. Happy Hiking!! (remember to stay on the trail at all times)



Utah Juniper

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Pinyon Pine

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

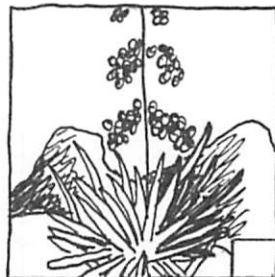
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



big Sagebrush

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Narrowleaf Yucca

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Are you here in the spring, summer or fall? If you are, be sure to look for colorful wildflowers during your visit! (please don't pick or eat any of these plants. They are protected inside the park and some are even poisonous!!)



# Prehistoric People

Hundreds of years ago, prehistoric people known as the Ancestral Puebloan have called this whole area (*the Colorado Plateau*) home. They did not have air conditioning, running water, cars or grocery stores. They hunted for their meat, gathered plants, made their tools and built their houses by hand. They even made their own clothing, shoes, jewelry and dishes.

This is your chance to see if you could have survived back then! Write down what you would have used for the items listed below:



For Clothing & Shoes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



For Artwork: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



For Water: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



For Hunting: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



For a House: \_\_\_\_\_

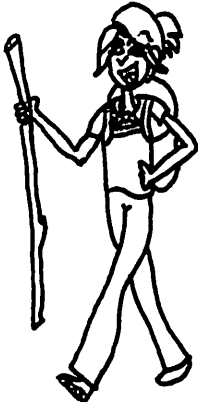
\_\_\_\_\_

Any artifacts you find inside or outside of the park should be left in place for others to enjoy (*it's also against the law in most cases*). Please view rock art from a distance. Oils from our skin can cause the art to fade quickly!

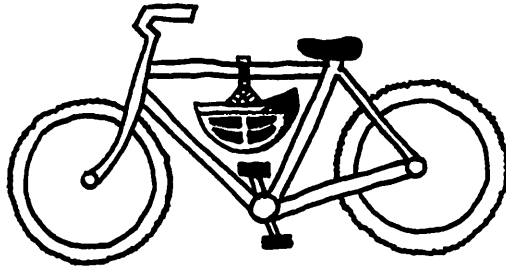
# What Do Rangers Do?

Park rangers do everything!

Circle any of the following activities  
you see a park ranger doing.



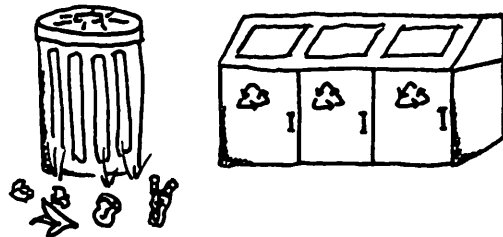
They Hike  
(and take groups hiking)



They Bike  
(never forget your helmet!)



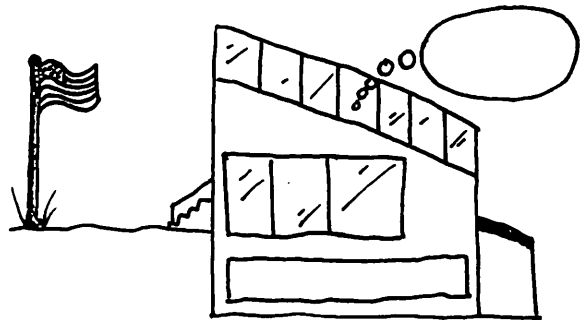
They Collect Fees  
(at the entrance gate or in the visitor center)



They Clean Up Litter & Recycle



They Give Programs  
(and teach Junior Rangers,  
like you!)



They Work at the Ranger Station  
(where they also talk a LOT,  
and answer questions)

# Do YOU Have What it Takes?

**Junior Rangers can be just like Park Rangers!**

Check off the activities you've already done in the park!!

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rode Your Bike   | <input type="checkbox"/> Went to a Program            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Went for a Hike  | <input type="checkbox"/> Saw the Museum               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picked Up Litter | <input type="checkbox"/> Learned a new Plant          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recycled         | <input type="checkbox"/> Learned About Desert Animals |

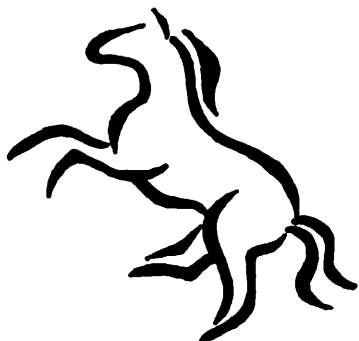
Use the space below to describe your favorite part of  
Dead Horse Point State Park!!!

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## Junior Ranger Identification

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Park Ranger: \_\_\_\_\_

**Congratulations!! You are a Junior  
Ranger at Dead Horse Point State  
Park!!**