

Antelope Island State Park



Junior Ranger Activity Guide

So You Want to Be a Junior Ranger?

To become an Antelope Island State Park Junior Ranger, complete the following steps.

Step One:

- ☐ Attend a ranger program.

Name of program I attended: _____

One thing I learned: _____

Ranger Signature: _____

OR

- ☐ Watch the Visitor Center video.

One thing I learned from the video: _____

Step Two:

- ☐ For ages **4–6**, complete at least **3** activities.
- ☐ For ages **7–9**, complete at least **5** activities.
- ☐ For ages **10 and up**, complete at least **8** activities.

Step Three:

- ☐ Return your booklet to the Visitor Center or Ranch for review and recite the Junior Ranger Pledge.

DID YOU KNOW?

Pronghorn can sprint at 70 miles per hour, making them the second fastest land animal!

Naming an Island

Ever wonder why we call this place Antelope Island?
It was named by a famous explorer in 1845.

Use the words at the bottom to fill in the blanks and learn how Antelope Island got its name.

John C. Fremont was a great _____. When he came to Great Salt Lake, the Native Americans told him he could ride his _____ out into the lake and reach a great island. Fremont and his guide Kit _____ rode across the shallows to the island. On the island, they saw lots of _____, which they believed were antelope. (Pronghorn are not really antelope at all! They are more closely related to an ancient _____-like animal.) Fremont's men drank from the freshwater springs. They _____ one of the pronghorn to bring it back for food.

On his way back across the _____, Fremont was stopped by an angry Native American who said that the _____ belonged to him. Fremont did not want the man to be angry, so he gave him some cloth, tobacco, and a _____ to make up for killing the pronghorn. He also promised to name the _____ after the "antelope" as a tribute.

knife – shot – deer – island – explorer – antelope

Carson – horse – pronghorn – shallows – animal

Trail Journal

Record Your Antelope Island Adventures!

Today's Date: ____/____/____

I am: ☐ Hiking ☐ Biking ☐ Horseback Riding ☐ Driving

The name of the trail or route I am taking: _____

The length of the trail or route: _____

The weather: _____

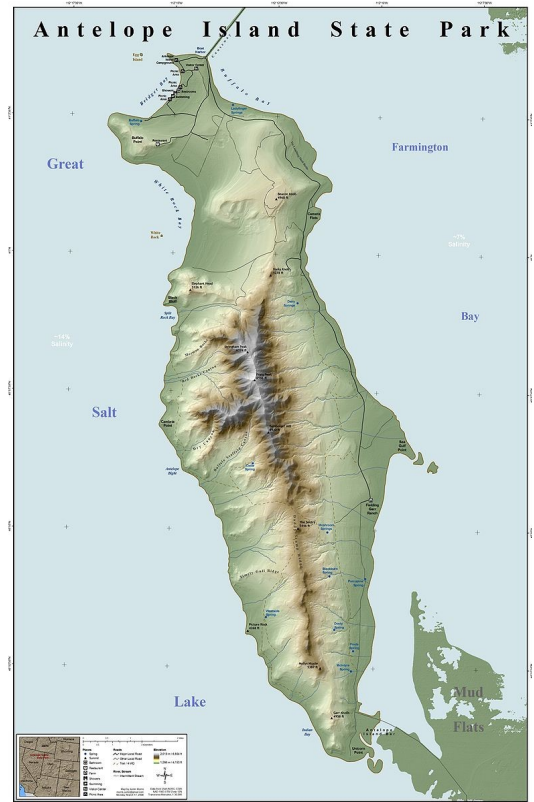
The best thing I did today : _____

Something I learned today: _____

The most UNUSUAL thing I saw today: _____

☐ Happy ☐ Excited ☐ Thirsty ☐ Grumpy ☐ Tired
☐ Silly ☐ Hungry ☐ Strong

- ☐ Always carry water and snacks.
- ☐ Always hike with a buddy or family member. Carry a map!
- ☐ Stay on marked trails and do not approach wildlife.
- ☐ Be kind to other visitors.
- ☐ Leave what you find where it is. Take pictures instead!
- ☐ Look up, look down, look ALL around!



Junior Ranger Quests

Antelope Island State Park is full of unique areas for you to explore! Choose one of the places listed below to visit. Answer the questions about that location. You only need to visit one to complete the quest, but feel free to venture out to all three!

1. **Buffalo Point.** Enjoy the view from the top of a very large hill. Find a good spot and explore using your senses.
2. **Visitor Center Trail.** Learn about the amazing rocks found on the island.
3. **Beach.** Get an up-close look at the critters that call Great Salt Lake home.

JUNIOR RANGER QUEST:

Buffalo Point

Discover Your Senses

Use your five senses to explore your environment. **Look, listen, smell, touch,** and **taste** the area around you. Hike up the hill and find a good place to explore.

What colors do you see? Where did you find them? _____

The air smells _____

The weather feels _____

Sit quietly. What do you hear? _____

JUNIOR RANGER QUEST:

The Beach

Discover Lake Life

The beach is a great place to get right up to the water of Great Salt Lake. The lake may be too salty for fish, but many other living things do well in the salty habitat! Brine shrimp, algae, brine flies and their larvae all love the salty water. Brine shrimp and brine flies are a very important food source for birds.

DIP your finger in the lake. What does it feel like? _____

TASTE your finger. What does it taste like? _____

SCOOP up a handful of water. Look closely at your sample. What do you see? _____

JUNIOR RANGER QUEST:

Visitor Center Trail

Antelope Island Rocks

Geologists study rocks to learn how the earth formed and how it has changed over time.

DID YOU KNOW?

The green crusty stuff you see on the rocks is alive! It's called **lichen**, and it helps scientists tell if an environment is healthy.

Use the trail behind the visitor center to explore the island's rocks. Choose a rock and see if you can identify it!

Tufa – A white sedimentary rock made of calcium from the lake. It looks a lot like cement covering other rocks.

Tintic Quartzite – This rock looks like it is made from a bunch of sand or gravel pressed together. It is a metamorphic rock, made from heat and pressure deep underground.

Banded Gneiss – This rock has swirling stripes of white, pink, and grey and is one of the oldest rocks in the West (almost 2 billion years old). It is also a metamorphic rock, and has been changed by heat and pressure deep underground.

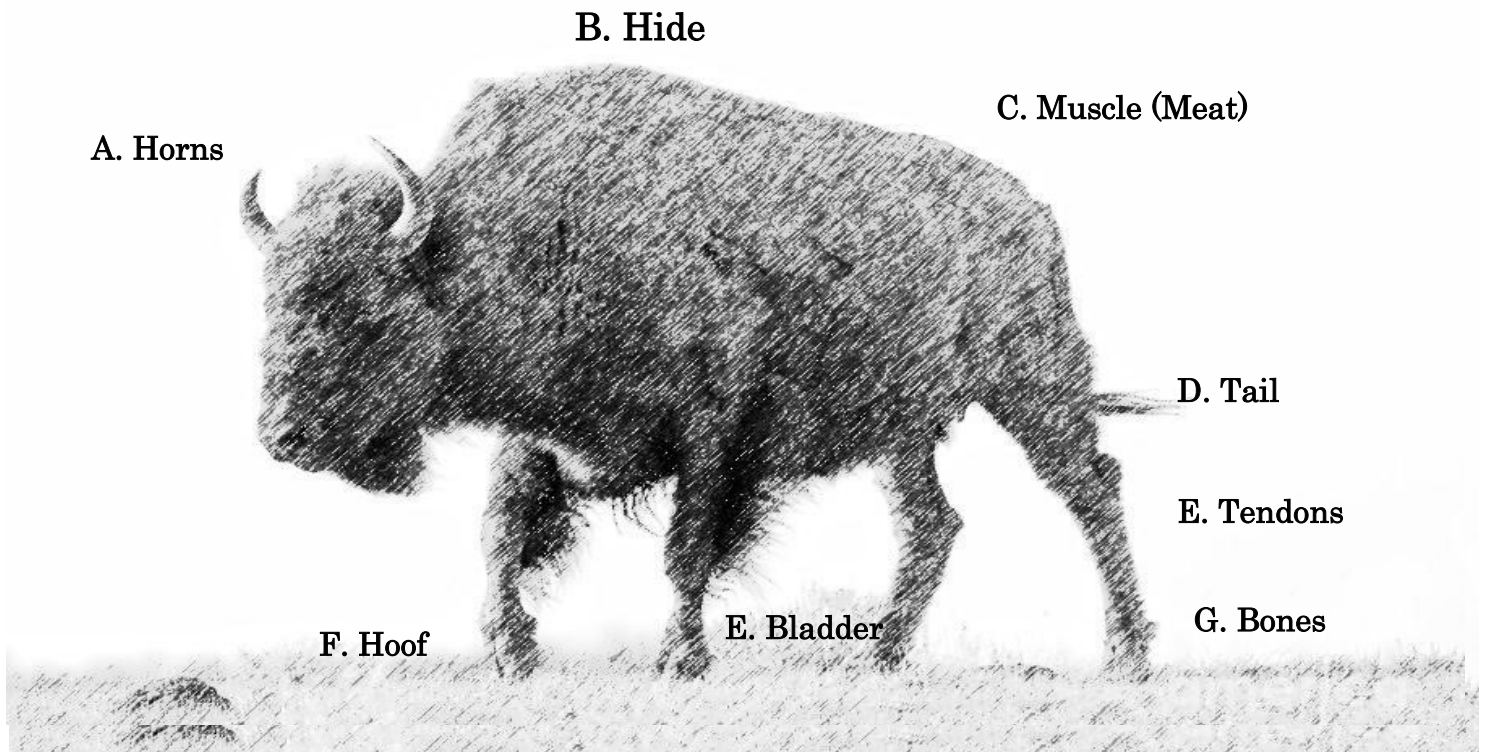
Describe your rock: _____

Can you identify your rock as one of those listed above? _____

Bison Roundup!

In many Native American myths, bison gave themselves up willingly as a food source for humans, so they have a special position of honor and respect. Every part of the animal was used! One bison could feed and provide clothing and materials for an entire family.

Match each part of the bison listed below with its historical use to find out more about the American Bison.



- _____ Food
- _____ Spoon, Ladle, Cup
- _____ Clothing
- _____ Water container
- _____ Glue
- _____ Fly Swatter
- _____ Sewing Sinew, Bowstring

DID YOU KNOW?

The American Bison is only found in North America. Its official scientific name is *Bison bison*.

BE SAFE! Never approach a bison! They charge if annoyed and can run up to 40 miles per hour!

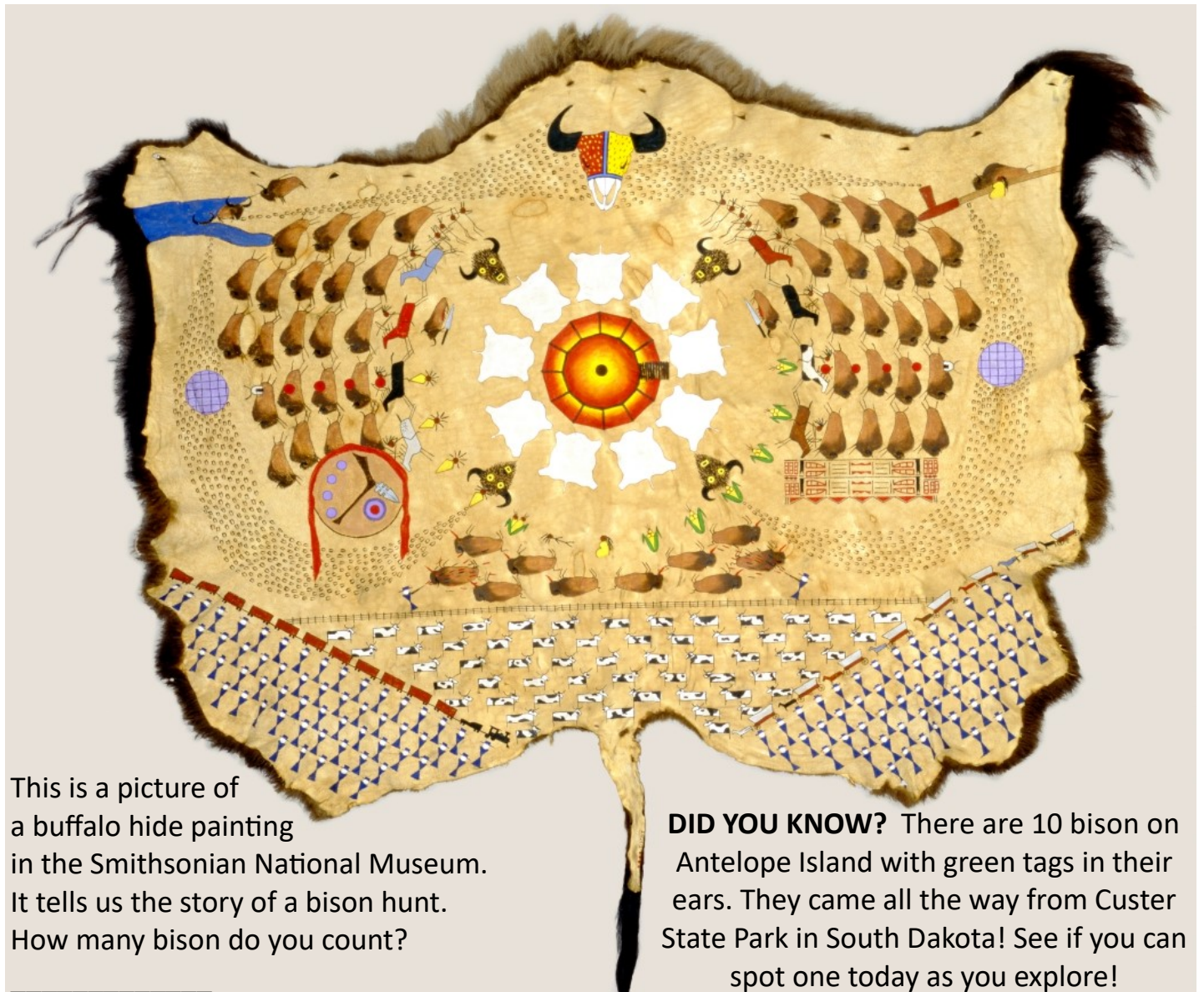
Once, tens of millions of bison roamed North America. However, in the 1800s, hunting brought them close to extinction, In 1893, a group of 12 bison were taken by boat to Antelope Island for preservation and protection. When Antelope Island became a state park, the bison herd was in very poor health.

Today, the Antelope Island bison population is in the hundreds. In 1987, the annual Bison Roundup began in order to manage the herd. Bison are herded by cowboys into corrals to be checked for health and treated for disease.

There is only enough food and water on the island for 500 bison, so each year dozens are auctioned at the roundup. The auctioned animals are sent to other herds around the country to increase genetic diversity. The money raised from the auction helps fund conservation efforts on Antelope Island.

Today, there are over 350,000 bison in North America.

The herd on Antelope Island is one of the largest and oldest herds in the world.



This is a picture of a buffalo hide painting in the Smithsonian National Museum. It tells us the story of a bison hunt. How many bison do you count?

DID YOU KNOW? There are 10 bison on Antelope Island with green tags in their ears. They came all the way from Custer State Park in South Dakota! See if you can spot one today as you explore!

That's a Lot of Water!



Antelope Island used to be under a lot of water. About 32,000 years ago Lake Bonneville covered almost a quarter of what is now the state of Utah.

The dark area on the picture is the size of Great Salt Lake; the light area is historic Lake Bonneville.

To learn more about Lake Bonneville, check out the displays in the Visitor Center!



Use the **BOLD CAPITAL** letters below to find the animal name!

Great Salt Lake is very salty! The ocean is a**B**out 3.5% salt, while GSL is 13% on average, and can be as much as 26%!

Water**R** evaporates In the desert su**N**, but the salt stays b**E**hind. This makes it the perfect habitat for _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _ , which are an important food **S**ource for migrating birds.

There is also a lot of bacte**R**ia that lives In the water, someti**M**es resulting in a rotten egg smell. If you smell something today, just remember it's because GSL is a great **P**lace to live... if you're bacteria!

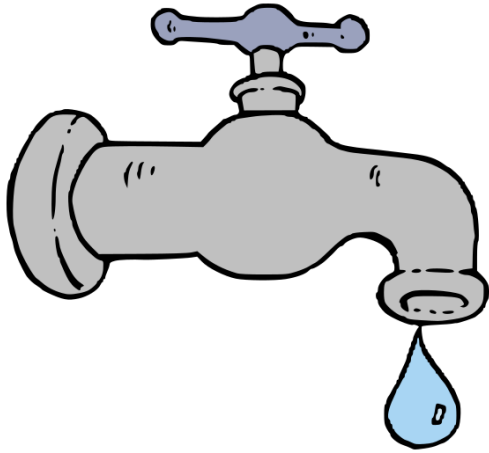


DID YOU KNOW?

In 1870, the local newspaper reported a sea monster lived in the lake!



Water, Water Everywhere?



Most of Utah is a desert. That means water conservation is very important.

Conservation means using only what you need, in order to make sure there is enough for everyone.

Do you know how much water you and your family use? Use the worksheet below to learn more!

Gallons of water used	Times per day	Gallons per day
Shower: 2 gallons per minute	(Minutes showering per day)	
Wash face or hands: 4 gallons		
Load of laundry: 30 gallons		
Flushing the toilet: 5 gallons		Total Used: _____

DID YOU KNOW?

The average family of four uses **400** gallons of water a day!
2,000,000 (two million) people live in the Wasatch Valley. That's **500,000** families!

How many gallons of water are used in Wasatch Valley per **week**?

Answer: _____

Write **ONE** thing your family can change today to save more water:

Plant Find

Botanists study plants and their uses. You can be a botanist today! While you are walking around Antelope Island State Park, find the plants in the photos below. Investigate them, and see if you can match each plant to its description. Draw a line to connect each plant description to its picture.



Cheat Grass

This plant is an invasive species. The seeds are **sharp** and get caught in animals' fur. There is a lot of cheat grass on the island. It is only green in the early summer.

Desert Sage

This plant is a small shrub with **fuzzy** leaves. It has a strong smell that Native Americans would use in ceremonies.

Phragmites

This plant is very tall (15ft) and has **fluffy seed heads**. It is an aggressive invasive plant outcompeting native plants, and displaces native animals.

Rabbitbrush

This plant has **skinny** leaves. Its stem is fuzzy to protect it from sun and wind. It is very common on Antelope Island. Rabbits love to eat it and hide under it.

Why Are Invasive Plants a Concern?

Invasive plants are plants that came from another area and are now growing where native plants would normally grow. They grow bigger and faster than native plants.

This means there is less water, soil, and sunlight for the native plants to grow. On Antelope Island, native plants are the food sources for the animals that live here.

When invasive plants crowd out native ones, animals on the island may not have enough food.

Biology Bingo

Animals use their amazing senses to find food and learn about their surroundings.
Let's go on a scavenger hunt to test your powers of observation!

Find everything in one row (down, across, or diagonally) to get a bingo!

A PLANT TALLER THAN YOU	A SPIDER	SOMETHING ROUND	GRASS
A FEATHER	SOMETHING UNUSUAL	A ROCK WITH LICHEN	SOMETHING SOFT
SOMETHING WHITE	OOLITIC SAND (ROUND SAND GRAINS)	AN ANIMAL TRACK	A PLANT SEED
SCAT (ANIMAL DROPPINGS)	A BISON	A BRINE SHRIMP	SOMETHING THAT MAKES NOISE

DID YOU KNOW?

A hawk can see four times as far as you can!

It's For The Birds

Great Salt Lake is a very important place for many different kinds of birds. Thousands of birds use the lake to rest during their long migrations. While they are here, they eat many brine shrimp and brine flies. Some birds build nests along the shore and raise their young. Great Salt Lake is one of the most important places for migratory birds in the world!

Can you match the bird names with the pictures below?

Hint: Bird pictures and names can be found in the visitor center.

A: California Gull

B: Eared Grebe

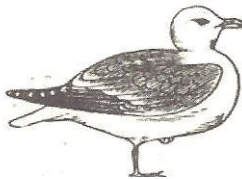
C: American Avocet

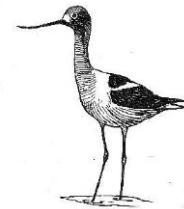
D: White Pelican

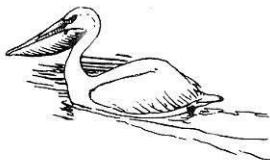
E: Black-Neck Stilt

F: Wilson's Phalarope













Home Sweet Habitat

Draw a line to match each desert animal with its habitat (home in nature).

COYOTE



Lives in grasslands, where there is lots of food to catch.

BURROWING OWL



Lives in a burrow in the dirt, where it's nice and cool in the summer.

MULE DEER



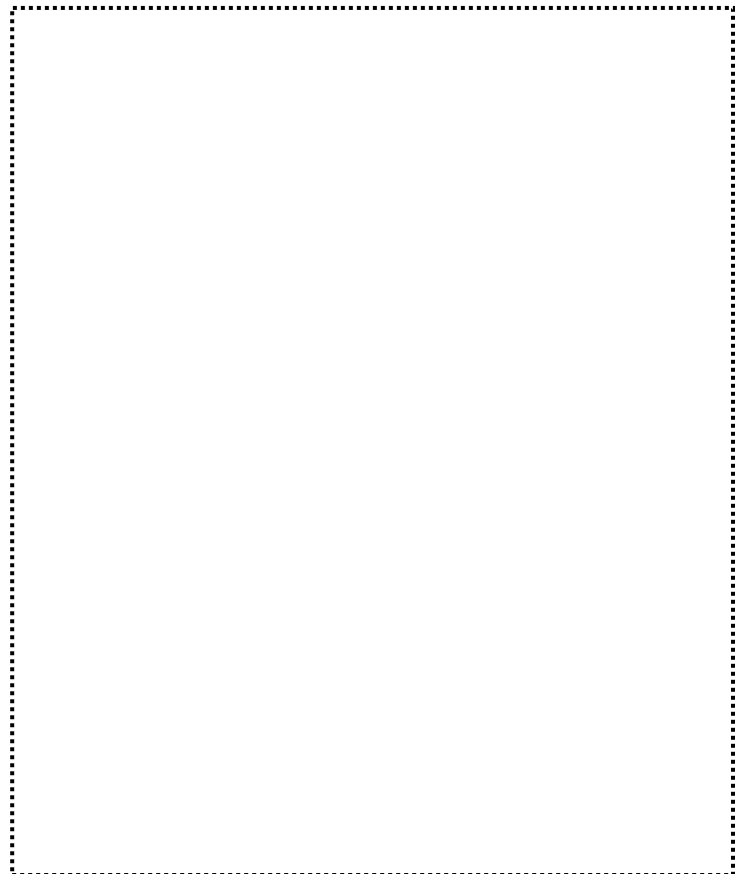
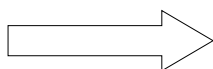
Lives near rocky hillsides for protection from predators.



If you were an animal on Antelope Island, which habitat would you live in?

- A. Great Salt Lake**
- B. Sand**
- C. Mountains/Cliffs**
- D. In a Shrub**

Draw a picture of you as an animal in your habitat. Include what you need to survive!



Wintertime Animal Adaptations

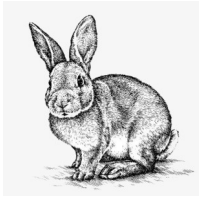
An **adaptation** is a special behavior or body part that helps an animal survive in its environment. Every winter, animals on Antelope Island have to adapt to colder weather, frozen water and less food. How do they survive?

Match the picture to the animal description to learn about each animal's unique way of getting through the winter.



Porcupine

What can I do to stay warm while looking for food?
I grow a **winter coat** of longer, thick fur!



Cottontail rabbit

I fly south with my flock in **migration**
to avoid the cold temperatures.



Mouse/small rodents

In the summer, my fur is brown to help me **camouflage**.
In the winter, it turns white to match the snow.



Coyote

My large back feet act as snowshoes and help me move quickly.
I can also **double-digest** my food to get more nutrients.



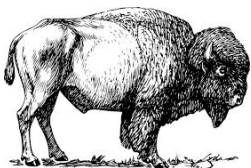
Bird

I keep warm by grouping with my friends in a **herd**.
It also helps us watch for predators.



Weasel

It's hard to stay warm when you're so small!
I **burrow** under the snow to find food, so I don't have to go
outside in the wind and cold.



Bison

I change what I eat from grasses to tree bark in the winter,
so it's easier to find food.
I also add a seasonal layer of **insulating fat** to keep warm.

Fielding Garr Ranch

In the 1850s, before Antelope Island was a State Park, it was owned by the Mormon Church and operated as a ranch for cattle and sheep. Fielding Garr Ranch is named after the ranch manager from that time. It is located on the southern end of the island, where there is a reliable freshwater spring.





















The ranch was isolated from Salt Lake City, so they had to make everything they needed. Blacksmiths were very important. They made tools, household items, horseshoes, nails and repaired broken equipment. Blacksmiths also created unique brands to mark the cattle on the ranch, which permanently identified their owners.

Reading a Brand

Rules:

1. Left to Right
2. Top to Bottom
3. Outside to Inside

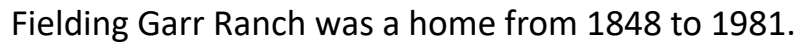
R "R"	 Quarter Circle R	 Circle R
 Tumbling R	 Half Diamond R	 Diamond R
 Lazy R	 Rafter R	 Box R
 Reverse R	 Bar R	
 Walking R		
 Flying R		
 Running R		

Name the Brand?	
1. 	_____
2. 	_____
3. 	_____
4. 	_____
5. 	_____

**Imagine you are a cattle rancher.
Design and draw your own brand!**

Up for a Challenge?

Pick out an interesting tool in the shed and find out what it was used for!



Children were an important part of day-to-day work on the ranch.

Imagine you lived a day as a child growing up on Antelope Island.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

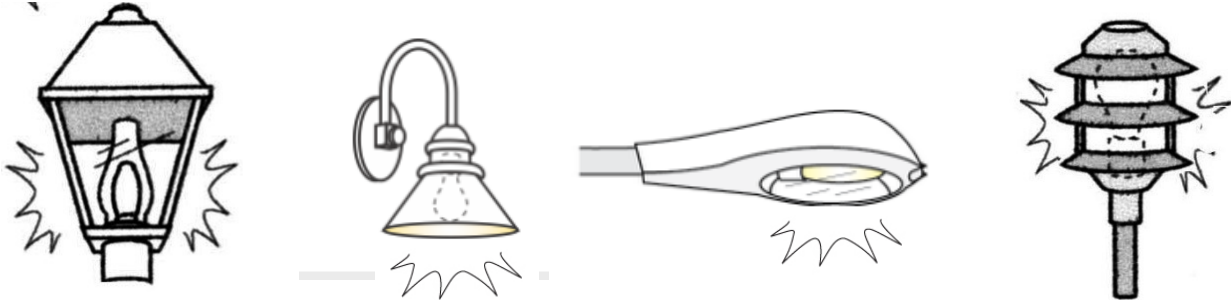
Can you find something being used in a different way than it was made for?

What did you find? _____

Dark Sky

Galileo said, "I love the stars too much to be afraid of the dark."

Humans need light to see when it's dark outside, but where should that light go? **Light Pollution** is a term used by scientists when light goes up in the dark sky instead of shining where it is needed. Light pollution keeps us from seeing the stars well, and can harm **nocturnal** animals and migrating birds.



Put an X through the wasteful lamps and circle the good ones!

Ways to Conserve Light at Home

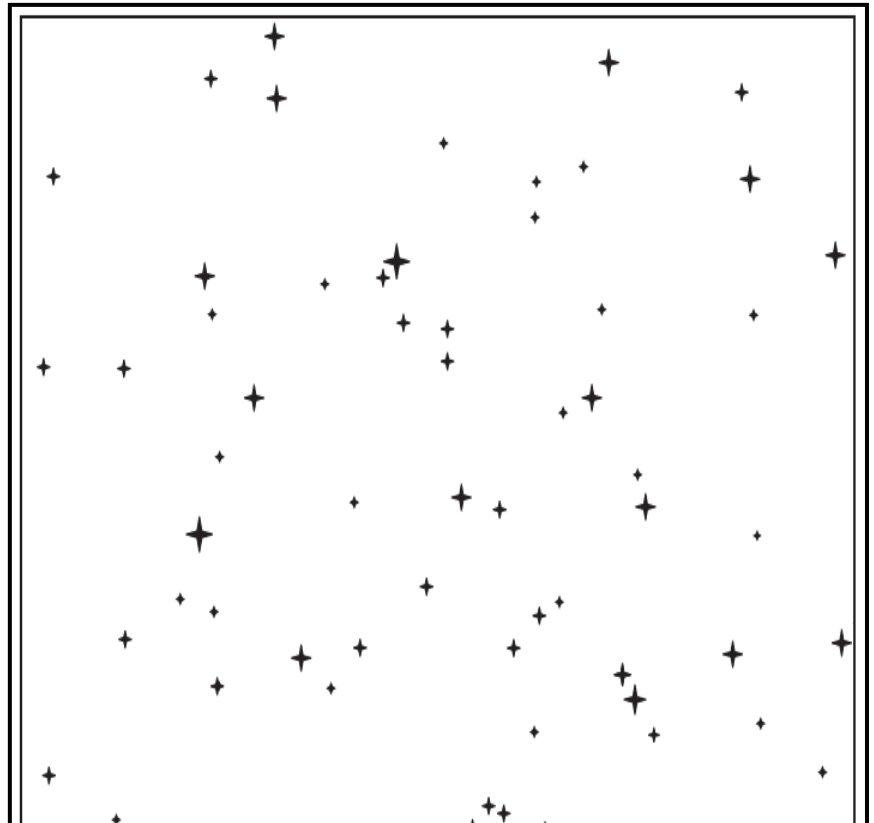
- * Use a yellow/amber light instead of bright white.
- * Turn lights off when not in use.
- * Point light down to the ground.
- * Install the light closer to the ground.
- * Only use the amount of brightness you need.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2017, Antelope Island became an International Dark Sky Park.

That means it's a great place to come watch meteor showers, stargaze, or even look at a full moon.

Star Stories: Use the space below to create your own constellation. Tell a friend the story about what it is!



What Does a Ranger Do?



Park rangers have many types of jobs. As a Junior Ranger, you can help park rangers to protect and preserve Antelope Island State Park and every other park you visit.

Rangers help educate the public (that's you and your friends) by teaching them about the park.

Rangers keep the park and visitors safe, help hurt or lost visitors, and protect the resources inside the park.

**Now that you are a Junior Ranger, we offer you a challenge.
We challenge you to protect the earth and its resources everywhere you go.
You can do things like...**

- Clean up an area at home, in your neighborhood, or at the park. Pick up litter you find and put it in the garbage can.
- Talk about Antelope Island State Park to your class at school. Tell your friends what a great place it is and teach them what you know!
- Become a Junior Ranger at other parks!
- Come back often to attend other Ranger Programs, so you can update your skills and learn new ones.
- Check out Utah's other state parks at: www.stateparks.utah.gov

Junior Ranger Pledge

**I pledge to help protect the plants and animals of Antelope Island State Park,
to share what I have learned with others,
and to be a friend to all the natural places I explore.**

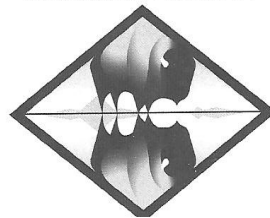
Certificate of Achievement
Awarded to:

For the completion of the Junior Ranger Program
at

Antelope Island State Park

Date

PROVIDED BY
Friends of
ANTELOPE ISLAND



Ranger/Naturalist