

ROCKIN

Jr. Ranger Activity Book



Snow Canyon State Park



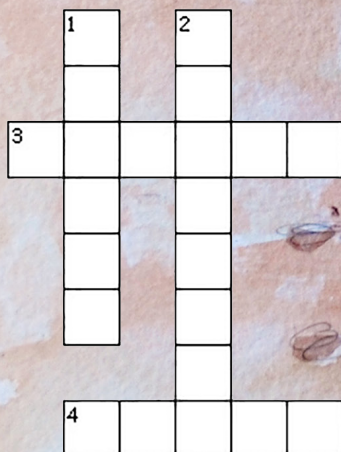
Become a ROCKIN' Jr. Ranger

Welcome to Snow Canyon State Park. As you begin your journey to becoming a ROCKIN' Jr. Ranger please:

1. Stay on park trails and designated routes. Off trail travel can crush animal burrows or plants, create social trails that lead other visitor's off-trail, and damage sensitive soils.
2. Pack it in, Pack it out. Be sure to pack out everything you carry into the park. Put all trash in the nearest garbage can or recycling bin.
3. Take only pictures, leave only foot prints. Leave rocks, flowers and all park features how you find them for other visitors to enjoy.

How to earn your badge and certificate:

1. If you are ages 6-8 complete at least six activities. Older than 9? Complete at least ten activities.
2. Pick up one bag of litter (rangers can give you a plastic bag if needed).
3. When you're done, take your booklet to a park ranger at Park Headquarters.



ACROSS

3. I live underground in a _____.
4. I hide inside my _____ to protect myself.

DOWN

1. I lay a group of 1-12 eggs in a _____.
2. I am a desert _____.





It's Up to YOU

Snow Canyon State Park is home to amazing plants, animals, rocks, and historical sites. As a ROCKIN' Jr. Ranger you can make a huge difference caring for this special place. Look at the picture below. Circle the visitors that are helping to protect and preserve Snow Canyon. Draw an "X" through visitors that need to learn the rules.



Stories in Stone

People have been using Snow Canyon State Park for thousands of years. Some of these people told their stories by drawing on the rocks. Today drawing on rocks is considered vandalism and is against the law. However, you can use these pages to share your story.



Ancestral Puebloan People

More than 1,800 years ago, Native Americans used the canyon to hunt rabbits, gather seeds for food, and harvest plants to make sandals, rope and baskets. These people chipped pictures into the rocks, known as petroglyphs, to tell stories, share ideas, or express themselves. Use the “rock” above to draw your own “petroglyph” that represents you and the story of your day at the park.





Pioneer Settlers

Beginning in 1854, Mormon pioneers began to establish nearby towns. Story has it that they discovered Snow Canyon (long before it was a State Park) while searching for lost cattle. Pioneers used the area for cattle grazing as well as recreation. You can hike the short Pioneer Names Trail and view historical names written on the canyon walls in axle grease. Imagine yourself as a pioneer discovering Snow Canyon for the first time. Draw a picture of what you might have seen.

GEOLOGY BINGO

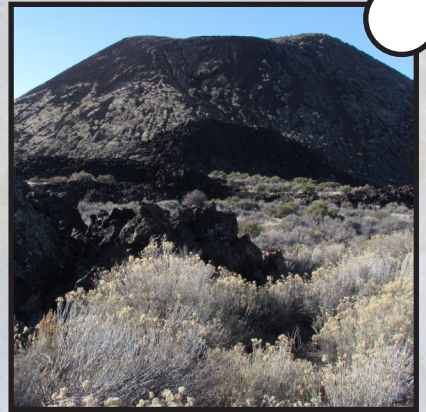
As you look around Snow Canyon State Park, you will see all sorts of colorful rocks, landforms and features. The geologic features of the canyon range from thousands to millions of years old. As you explore the park, check off each feature you see. Can you get three across or three down for bingo? Try to find them all.



Sand Dune



Lava Tube



Cinder Cone



Moki Marbles



Crossbedding



White Navajo Sandstone



Alcove



Pothole

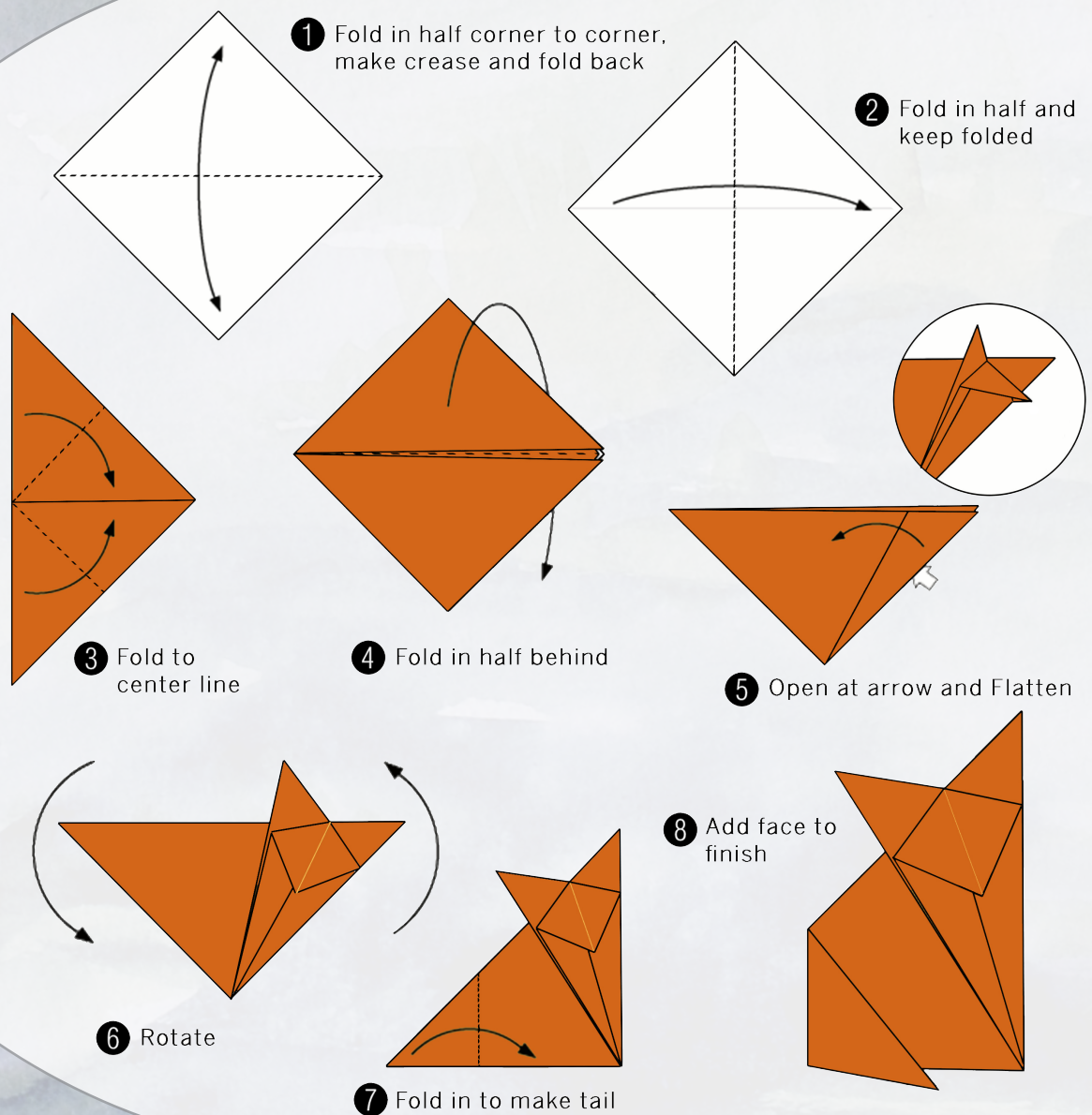


Banded Sandstone

CREATURE FEATURE – The Kit Fox

The size of a house cat, the dainty looking kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*) is tougher than it appears. A member of the dog family, the kit fox is well adapted for life in the desert, where annual rainfall averages only 7.5 inches and summer temperatures can soar to over 100 degrees! The kit fox uses its super-sized ears not only for hearing but to help radiate heat and keep its body cool. Even more amazing the kit fox rarely needs to drink water, getting most hydration from the food it eats. Mostly active at night it is sometimes possible to see this creature out hunting for rats and other rodents in the early morning or evening hours; so keep a close eye as you explore Snow Canyon State Park.

Follow the pattern below to make your own origami kit fox. If you would like to make a fox family just use different sizes of square-shaped paper.



Plant Match-Up

The plants of Snow Canyon State Park have many uses. They provide food for insects, birds, and mammals; many have colorful flowers that are pretty to look at in the spring or fall; and some even provide wildlife a place to live or hide. The plants of Snow Canyon State Park are also important to people. As you explore the park check off as many of these plants as you can. Then, reading the descriptions, see if you can match the plant with the description of how people have used these plants through time. Be sure to write the plant name next to each picture.



Utah Yucca
Scrub Oak
Mormon Tea
Indian Rice Grass
Englemann Prickly Pear
Sego Lily
Juniper

Imagine collecting enough of my tiny black seeds to add to soups or to grind into flour for cooking. You would need to work long and hard.

I'm more than just a pretty plant. I am also the Utah State flower, and my soft, bulbous root can be dug up and roasted or boiled for eating.

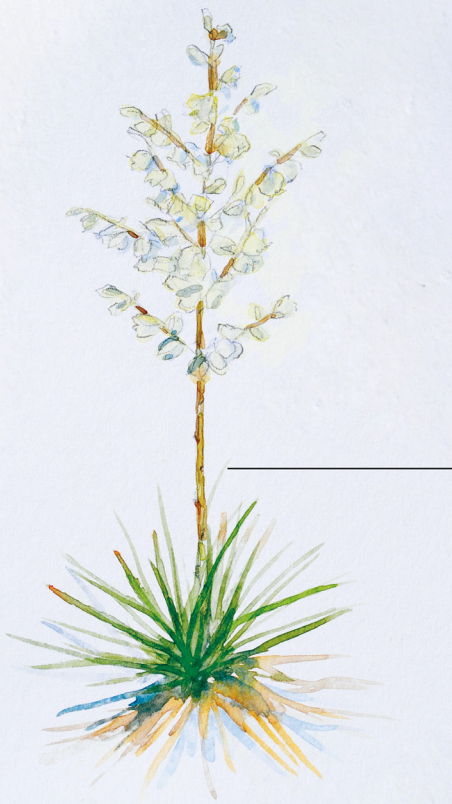
Birds, squirrels and other animals love to eat my nutritious acorns and hide among my thick branches and spiny leaves.

In spite of my spiny appearance my pads can be cooked and eaten. However, most people prefer to pick my pink fruit for making jelly.

My blue berries can be used to flavor meat during cooking. Look for my berries in the spice aisle the next time you go grocery shopping with your family.

Fibers from my sharp tipped leaves can be used to make rope, baskets, and even sandals. My roots can be used to make soap.

I may be spindly looking, but my dried branches can be boiled in water to make a bitter tea that can help relieve a stuffy head and other cold symptoms.





Wildlife Detective

While you are exploring Snow Canyon State Park, look for tracks, scat or other clues left by park inhabitants. Every clue you discover tells a story. A series of tracks across the sand may be a lizard running from a hungry roadrunner. A nibbled branch or pile of scat may be from a jackrabbit. Searching for clues can be as exciting as seeing an animal itself.

Using the drawings on these pages, identify some of the animals of Snow Canyon State Park. Write in the name of each animal and then draw a line to its tracks.



Coyote
Roadrunner
Mountain Lion
California Kingsnake

Striped Skunk
Jackrabbit
Kangaro Rat
Lizard

Desert Dweller Match Up

Match each dweller with its description. Then do the activities and see how you match up to the creatures that call Snow Canyon State Park home.

Black-Tailed Jackrabbit
Great Basin Spadefoot Toad
Antelope Ground Squirrel
Side-Blotched Lizard
Gila Monster

Ringtail Cat
Big Brown Bat
Prickly Pear Cactus
Turkey Vulture
Cryptobiotic Soil

1. I am a scavenger. I eat dead animals. YUM! You might see me circling the sky with my wingspan of about 66 inches or 5.5 feet. I am a _____. How big is your wingspan? Spread your arms straight out to the side and have someone measure fingertip to fingertip. _____ inches.
2. Tortoises, quail, kangaroo rats and jackrabbits feed on my fruit, seeds, and stems. I was also used by Native Americans for food. I have sharp spines for protection. I am a _____.
3. I am a flying mammal and use echolocation to find insects for dinner. I can flap my wings about 110 to 120 times in ten seconds. I am a _____. How many times can you “flap your wings” in ten seconds? _____.
4. I can be seen hopping from sagebrush to sagebrush. I have really long ears and legs and will eat almost anything green (including cactus). I can broadjump twenty feet. I am a _____. How far can you jump? _____ No running starts.



5. If you look at my armpit, you will see dark blotches. Although scientists are not sure why we have dark spots, they do know why I do push-ups. It's so I can see better. I am a _____. See if you can do five push-ups

6. I am born in water but live only on dry land. I have a special bump on my hind feet for digging. I can stay underground for up to 12 months at a time. While underground I stop breathing and begin absorbing oxygen through my skin. I am a _____. See how long you could last underground. Take a deep breath and hold it for as long as you can. _____ seconds.

7. My "living" crust is made of algae, lichens, fungi and mosses. I am so fragile that one footstep on my black crust can kill it, so ALWAYS stay on the trails. I am _____.

8. I spend 90-95% of my life underground, catching a glimpse of me is a real treat. I am poisonous so look but DON'T TOUCH. I am a _____.

9. Active mostly at night, I look like a cross between a fox and a cat, but I have a long black and white tail like a raccoon. In order for me to get out of small tight spaces, I do cartwheels. Amazing! I am a _____. On a grassy area, see if you can do a cartwheel. Can you do more? How many can you do?

10. On hot days I can stay cool in the shade of my own white tail, which I carry over my back. After eating, or stuffing food into my cheek pouches for later, I crawl into my burrow and press my body against the cool soil to cool off. I am a _____.



Listen Up

First, find a comfortable place to sit quietly. Next, close your eyes and listen for two or three minutes. Finally, open your eyes and write down the sounds you heard.

Human made sounds:

Sounds from nature:

Which group of sounds was bigger? Now draw a picture of something you heard:

Safety Word Search

Safely exploring nature is a big part of being a ROCKIN' Jr. Ranger. Be sure to stick to the trail and always tell someone where you are going. Listed below are a few of the things you and your family should carry with you in order to have a fun and safe park visit. Search the puzzle below and circle each word when you find it. The words are hidden up, down, sideways, backwards, and diagonally.

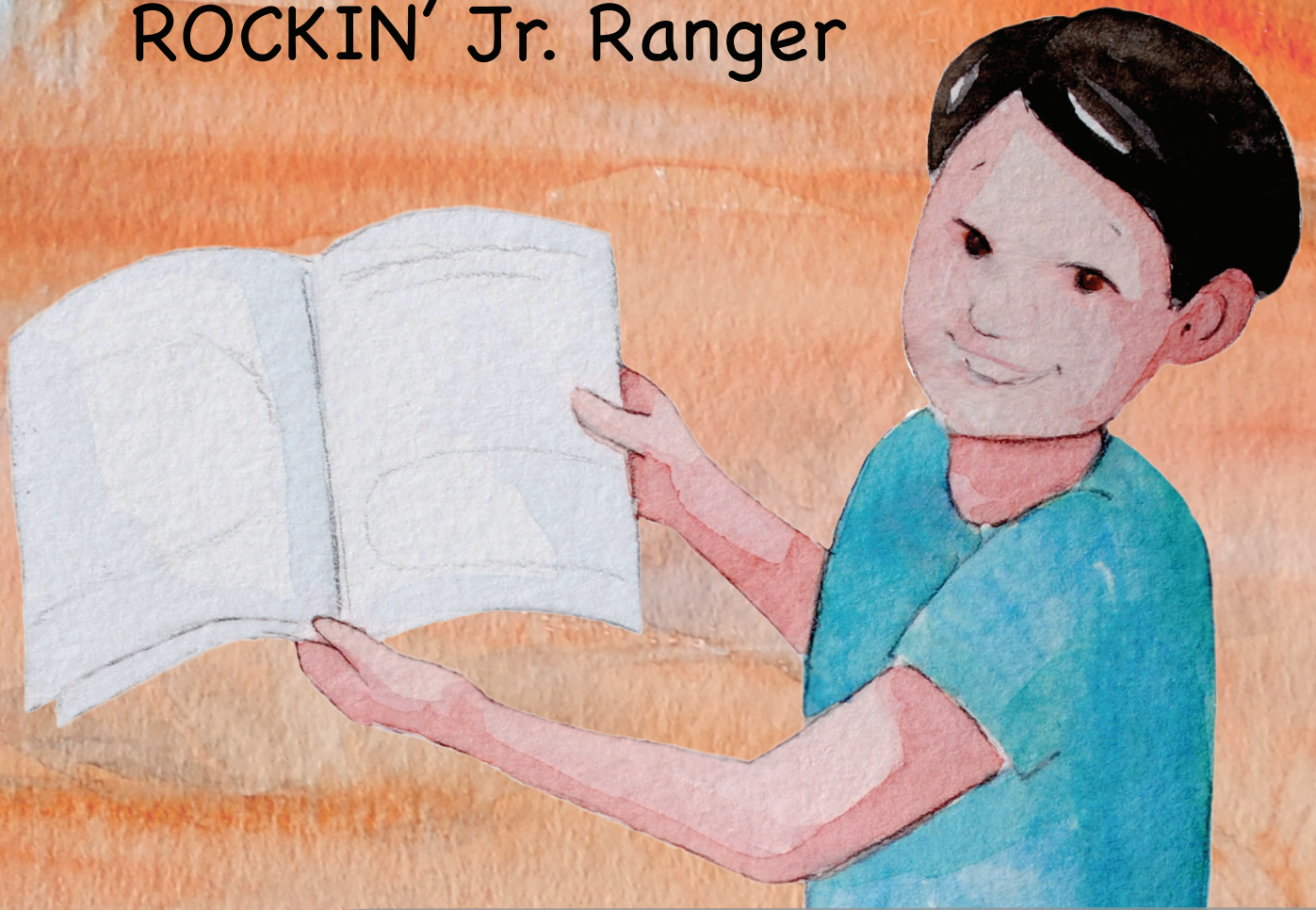
BACKPACK
CELLPHONE
COMPASS
CLOTHES
FIRST AID KIT
FLASHLIGHT
FOOD
HAT
JACKET
MAP
SOCKS
SUNGLASSES
SUNSCREEN
WATER

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

ROCKIN' Jr. Ranger Field Notes:

Write a short story or poem about your visit to Snow Canyon State Park.

Snow Canyon State Park ROCKIN' Jr. Ranger



As a ROCKIN' Junior Ranger, I promise to help preserve and protect Snow Canyon's wildlife, history, and natural features. I will be an example to others and teach them to care for the natural world. I will continue to explore, learn about, and respect nature wherever I go.

Write your name here

Age

Ranger's Signature

Date



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Special Thanks to: Friends of Snow Canyon State Park