Welcome to the Tongass National Forest!

Did you know that the Tongass is...

- #1 the largest National Forest in the United States.
- 17 million acres.
- 14,000 miles of ocean shoreline.
- 5 home to all five species of Pacific salmon.
- 3 home to three Indigenous Nations – Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian.

How to Become a Junior Ranger

1. Complete 4 activities in this booklet AND the ‘Ask a Forest Service Ranger’ activity below.
2. Find a ranger and take the Junior Ranger Pledge.

Ask a Forest Service Ranger

Find a ranger on your visit and ask them a question about the forest.

Ranger’s Name __________________________

Question ______________________________

Answer ________________________________
Active Glaciers

Did you know that glaciers carved most of the Tongass National Forest landforms? Some of these glaciers are called tidewater glaciers because they end in the ocean. Pretend you are a harbor seal that needs to get from one side of the fjord to the other.

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Start Here

The main ingredients of a glacier are time, snow, and ____.

Cold Temperatures

Near the North Pole

True or False:
Glaciers are known as "rivers of ice" because they move.

False

True

Fjord

Moraine

A ____ is a u-shaped valley carved by a glacier and filled with sea water.

True or False:
Glaciers can carve mountains.

False

True
Find the answers by following the coordinates on the map. Example: A. 2 is Yakutat.

1. The Tongass National Forest was created in 1907 by President (G, 11).

2. The Tlingit name for the Tongass is (F, 8).

3. The names of the two icefields in the Tongass are (D, 6).

4. The Tlingit name for the town means “Shelter from the North Wind.”

5. I am in (name town or village).

6. I want to go to (at coordinates).
Salmon Sketches

All five species of Pacific salmon breed in the rivers and streams in the Tongass. Learn how to draw a spawning sockeye salmon by following these six steps.

1. With a pencil, lightly draw a long oval. Then draw a triangle on the left and tilted oval on the right.

2. On the right end, draw an open mouth. Then trace the three shapes together to form the fish.

3. Erase the shapes you made in Step 1.

4. Add five fins - two on the top, two on the bottom, and one on the side.

Species of Pacific Salmon

- Chum (dog) téél’
- Sockeye (red) gaat
- King (Chinook) t’á
- Coho (silver) l’ook
- Pink (humpy) cháas’
5 Add details like an eye, scales, and teeth.

6 Color the tail, side fin, and head green. Color the rest of the body red.

Congrats! You just made a salmon!
Temperate Rainforest

Did you know that you are in a rainforest? We get a lot of rain here! Rain is important for plants and animals. It’s also a lot of fun to be in the rain.

Keepin’ an Eye on the Sky

Some areas of the Tongass National Forest get drenched by over 100 inches of rain each year! That is over eight feet of rain. What is the weather like today? Today it is...

Smellin’ in the Rain

Rain helps unlock smells that we can’t smell when it’s dry. Smell the following things and describe what you smell.

- The air _____________________
- A tree trunk ___________________
- A smooth leaf ___________________
Mosses need to live in wet areas. Check out the ground and tree branches around you. Look at the colors, shapes, forms, and patterns of the moss. Find a moss and circle the words that describe it.

- dry
- moist
- cool
- fragile
- soft
- hard
- sharp

Rain Lovers
Each of these living things depend on rain for their survival. How many can you find?

- Mushrooms
- Slugs
- Ferns
- Skunk Cabbage

Singin’ in the Rain...
... or dancing, hiking, exploring, or fishing in the rain. What is your favorite thing to do in the rain? Write or draw.
Mammal Motions

Pretend to be some of the creatures that spend time in the Tongass. Remember to be safe while doing these activities.

Northern Flying Squirrel
This nocturnal rodent can glide over 150 feet from one tree to another tree.

Try a standing long-jump and see how far you can go.

Gray Wolf
Unlike other animals that walk with their feet spread apart, wolves walk in a narrow line. This stride uses less energy.

Try to “walk like a wolf” ten steps forward and back.

Little Brown Bat
A little brown bat can flap its wings over 10 times per second. That’s over 300 flaps in 30 seconds.

See how many times you can flap your arms in 30 seconds.
This story took place long, long ago before the great flood.

It is said that the tree people were plenty on the side of this one mountain not too far from here. This one winter it snowed and snowed and snowed.

In the spring there was rain, wind, and just miserable weather that the tree people had to endure. Then one day there was a great avalanche that started tearing down all the trees that were in its path. The powerful wind going before it was loud as it thundered down the mountain side.

It is said that all the trees were ripped down and that all the tree people perished except for one tree at the top.

One day the tree started to call out to see if there were any other trees that survived the great snow slide. He yelled out, “Can you hear me out there? Can anybody hear me?”

He did this every day for a long time until one day he heard a still, small voice say, “I can hear you!”

The tree at the top called out, “Do you know what happened to us?” The little tree yelled back, “No! What happened?”

The tree at the top replied, “A great snow slide wiped almost all of us out!” The tree at the top then asked the other tree, “Do you know why this happened?”

“No,” said the little tree.

“It is because we thought we could stand by ourselves. We thought we did not need each other’s help and that we could stand tall and alone all by ourselves. So when this snow slide came it killed off almost all of us on this mountain. We need to stand together, support each other with our roots and hold each other up. This is the way we will survive…by helping one another.”

Questions

Tlingit values are passed from one generation to the next through stories. What is one lesson this story teaches?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

How can you use this lesson in your life?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Please see the back page for more information about the story.
In Berry Bear Country

Test your knowledge about how to act in bear country.

1. Read the question and then circle the matching berry in the bush that has the correct answer.

2. Check to see if your answers are right by solving the math puzzle in the white box.

Questions

A. You go for a walk in the woods with friends. Do you stay quiet or make noise on the hike?

B. You stop for a picnic and then play in a stream nearby. Do you leave the food out while playing or pack it up before playing?

C. You see a bear in the distance. Do you run away or stay calm?

1. Run away as quickly as you can.

3. Pack all of the food, including trash, in my backpack and keep it near me.

5. Stay calm. Talk in a calm voice, don’t turn your back from the bear, and keep your distance.

8. Make noise. I don’t want to surprise a bear.

13. Leave the food out while playing in the stream. I’ll get to it later.

12. Leave the food out while playing in the stream. I’ll get to it later.
Both black bears and brown bears vary in color. Black bears and brown bears have fur that ranges from blonde to brown to black.

Check Your Answers

A bear has ...

- __________ - __________ = __________

...toes on each paw.

Stay quiet. I don’t want animals to know I’m here.
Plant Uses

The plants in this forest have been used by generations of people for many purposes. People use plants for food, medicine, tools, clothing, and more. Check the box if you see the plant and describe a plant you use below.

WARNING: Do NOT pick or eat anything without an expert’s permission. Some plants in the forest are poisonous.

- **Western Redcedar (tree)**
  - Use: Traditional hats and canoes

- **Devil’s Club (shrub)**
  - *S’áxt’*
  - Use: Medicine used as teas and tinctures

- **Sitka Spruce (tree)**
  - *Sheiyi*
  - Use: Flavor food like Spruce tip jelly

What plant do you use from the forest? How?
Wilderness Riddle

Much of the Tongass National Forest is made up of seldom-traveled lands called wilderness. Write a riddle about something that is wild in the Tongass, like a wolf, moss, or a glacier. Check out the other pages of the booklet for ideas. Read your riddle to a friend or family member and see if they can guess the answer.

What's your riddle?

Riddle example:
I am an untamed land
Where people visit, plants grow wild and
Animals roam. What am I?

Answer: wilderness

You can show respect for the land by following these principles.

Leave No Trace

1. Plan ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on hard surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimize campfire impacts
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors

Questions about how to do any of these? Ask a ranger.
Junior Ranger Pledge

Wherever | Go.
and discover other cultures
and the earth.

Tongass National Forest, my community,
I will explore the natural world,

As a Junior Ranger,
I promise to help protect the earth.

(date)

(Ranger)