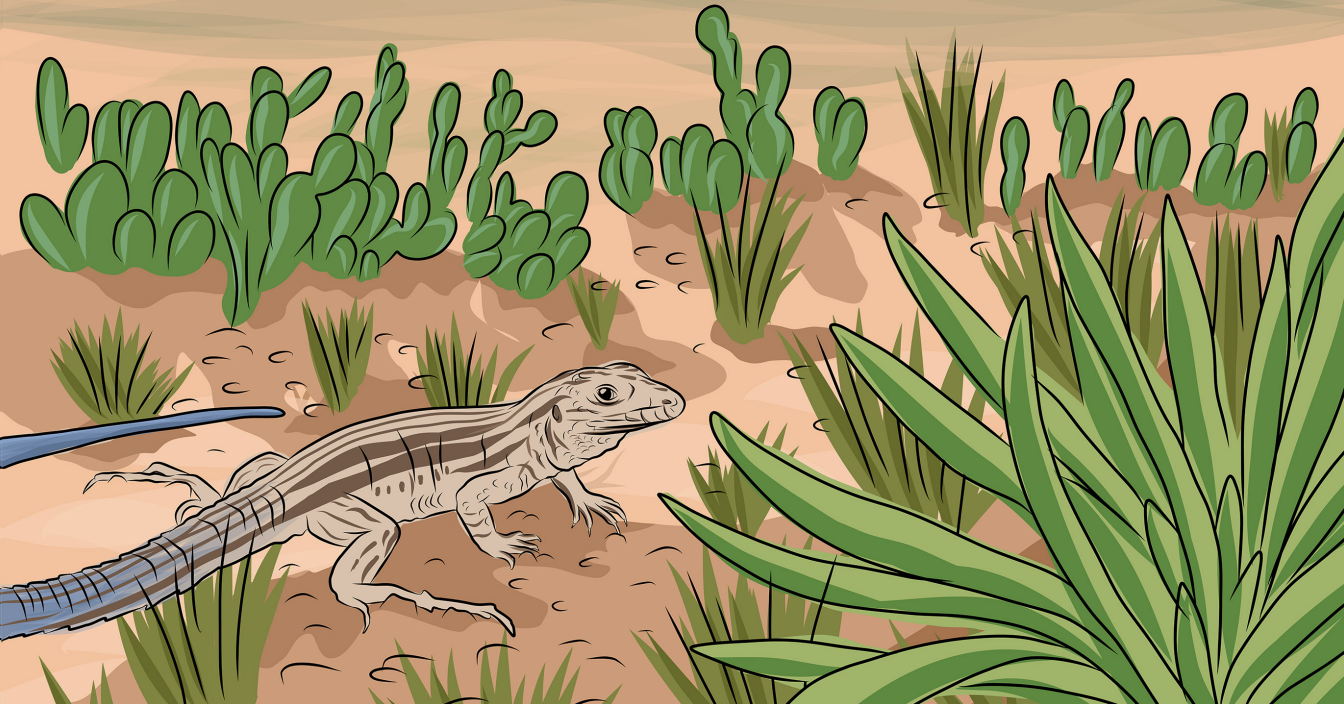




Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



National Forests and Grasslands New Mexico Junior Ranger



Welcome!

There are five national forests in New Mexico and four nearby grasslands in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

These lands have been cared for by Native Americans, Hispanic communities, and many other people before the Forest Service. Today, these communities, and many others, continue to care for forests and grasslands. What do you do to help take care of the land?

How to Become a Junior Ranger

STEP 1: Complete at least four activities.

STEP 2: Read and sign the New Mexico Junior Ranger Pledge on the back page.

STEP 3: Celebrate! Congratulations, you are a Junior Ranger!



Can you find the state reptile, tree, flower, gem, and mammal in the book?

(Zia sun symbol used with permission of the Pueblo of Zia.)

Where Are the Nearby National Forests and National Grasslands?

Use the map to explore each forest and complete the matching activity page. If you live in the map area, label your hometown on the map.



A. Santa Fe National Forest



B. Carson National Forest



C. Cibola National Forest



D. Cibola National Grasslands



E. Gila National Forest



F. Lincoln National Forest



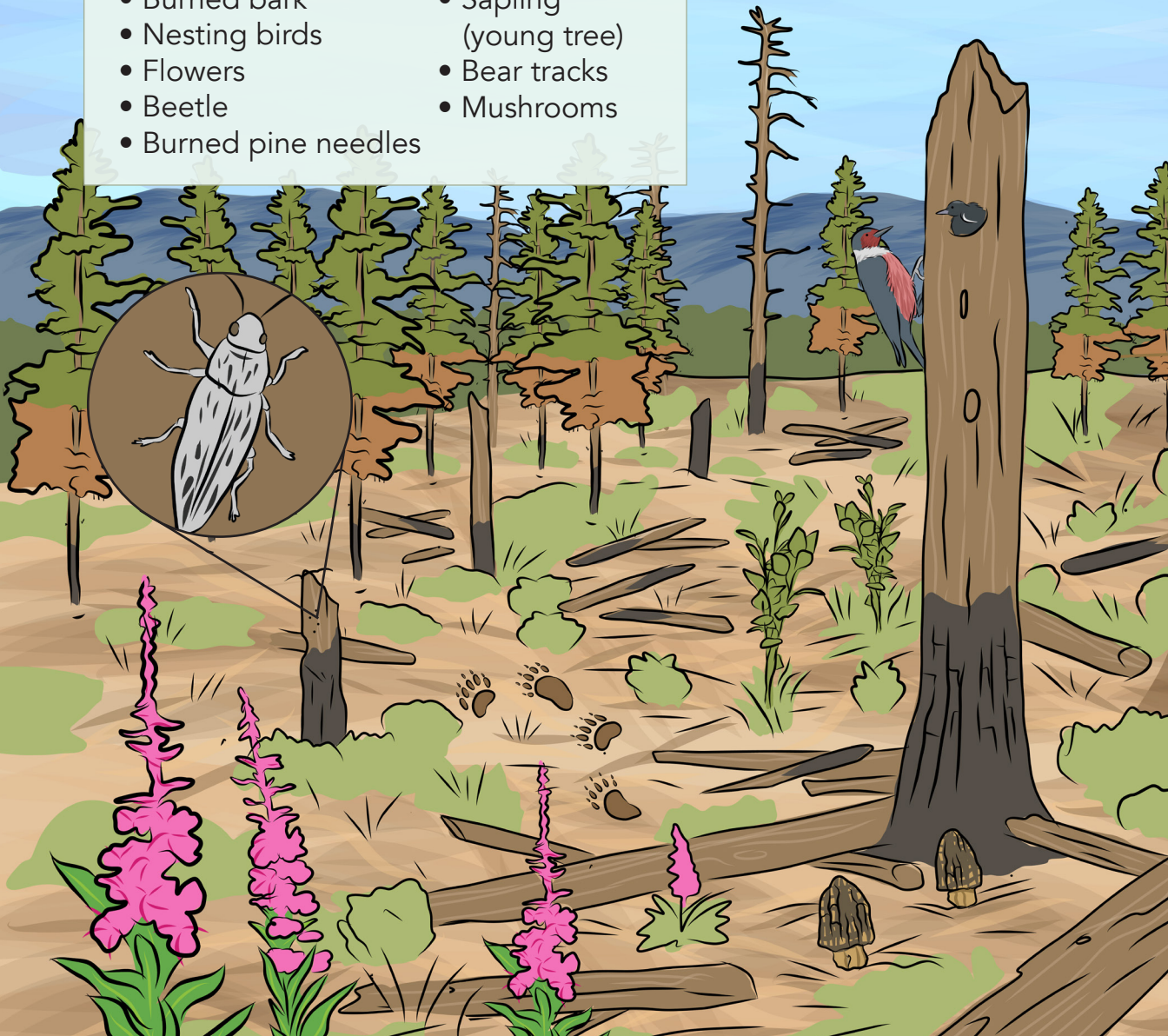
Wildland Fire Ecology

Wildland fire has an important role in nature in the Southwest. Many of our forests evolved with frequent fire. After a fire, they can be full of life.

DIRECTIONS: Circle the clues that this area burned in a recent fire.

CAN YOU FIND?

- Burned bark
- Nesting birds
- Flowers
- Beetle
- Burned pine needles
- Sapling (young tree)
- Bear tracks
- Mushrooms



Helpful Plants

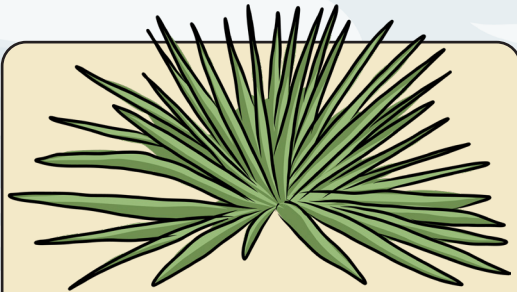
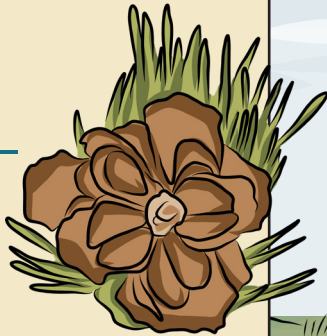
Plants across the Southwest have been used for thousands of years for many purposes. Knowledge about safely and respectfully gathering plants is passed down from generation to generation.

DIRECTIONS: Unscramble the CAPITALIZED letters below to learn about each plant.

Warning: Do not pick or eat anything without an expert's permission. Some plants are poisonous.

Piñon Pine Tree

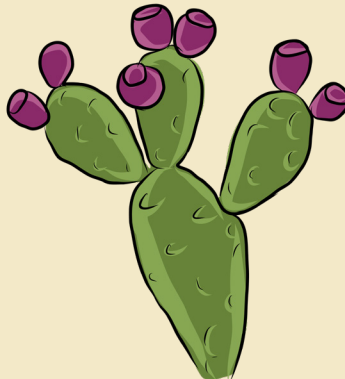
Piñon nuts from the cone of the piñon pine tree are a tasty treat in the fall. You can eat them raw, bake them into foods, or SORAT them.



Yucca The root of the yucca is used as shampoo and soap. It contains saponins, a natural compound that makes it YMOFA.

Prickly Pear Cactus

The fruit of the prickly pear can be turned into bright KPNI dye to add color to food, wool, and paint.



What are other ways people use and appreciate plants?

A Day Working at a National Forest

DIRECTIONS: Help the forest specialist navigate a day at work! Start in the Forest Service truck and choose what to do next.



You didn't bring enough water. What's the best choice?

Keep going and hope you'll be okay.

Go back to the truck and grab your water bottle.

You get out of the truck at a trailhead. Someone asks for directions. What do you do?

Help them find the right trail.

Ignore them.



You see a stone tool or pottery sherd.



Leave it and take a picture for the forest archaeologist.

Bring it back to the ranger station to display on your desk.

The trail sign is damaged, but you know the right way.

Ignore it and keep hiking.

Repair the sign to help others stay on the trail.

GREAT JOB
caring for the land and serving people!

Wildland Fire Packing Challenge

Wildland fire jobs come in many types. Some people study fire. Some fight fire. Some even teach others about it. These jobs help keep our forests and communities safe and healthy.

DIRECTIONS: Pack your bag with everything you'll need for today's journey. Keep it under 35 pounds (lbs).

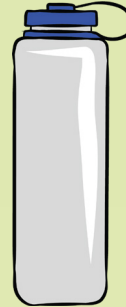


First aid kit,
4 lbs

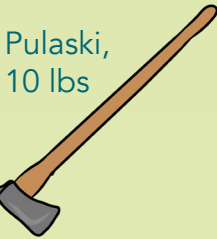


Fire shelter,
3 lbs

Map, compass
and signal mirror,
1 lb



Canteen,
3 lbs



Pulaski,
10 lbs

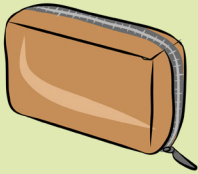


Lunch,
2 lbs



Radio,
2 lbs

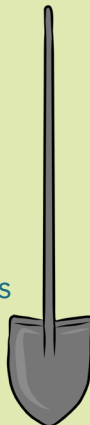
Tool pouch, 1 lb



Flagging to mark
hazards, 1 lb



Shovel, 9 lbs



McLeod, 10 lbs



Object	Number	Weight
Total=		

My Nature Notes

C

DIRECTIONS: Find a place to sit quietly outside. Use your senses to explore your special place and record your experiences below. Write or draw.

Date: _____ Time: _____

Clouds:

Wind:

Temperature:

What do you see, smell, feel, or hear?



Bonus! Try this activity again in a different place. What is different? What is the same?

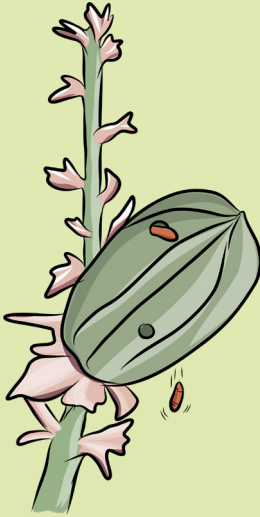
Life of the Yucca Moth

The yucca moth and the yucca plant depend on each other to survive and flourish. This story is about a moth's life cycle from egg to adult.

DIRECTIONS: Number each life phase in order: 1, 2, 3, and 4.

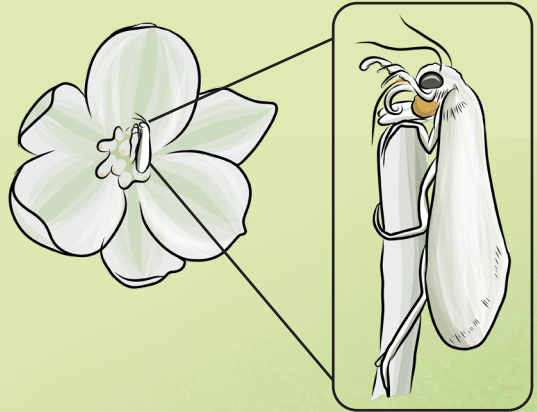
#

In late summer, the larva chews its way out of the pod, then falls to grow and change underground.



#1

In spring, adult moths emerge from the ground. A pair mates and then the female moth pollinates the yucca plant before laying her eggs.



#

In summer, a tiny larva hatches inside the seed pod. It munches yucca seeds and grows.



#

In fall, the pupa rests underground. It waits for rain to awaken it and for the cycle to begin again.



Animal Motions

DIRECTIONS: Pretend to be some of the creatures that come to life at night. Stay safe while doing these activities.

Bobcat

Bobcats walk quietly on soft paws and travel at night, winding through the shadows to hunt.

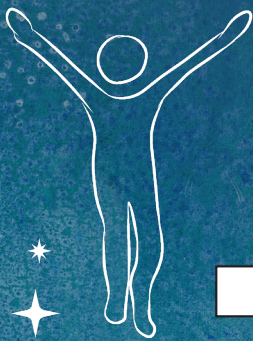


Pounce like a bobcat 3 times. Which pounce was most quiet?



Pallid Bat

Unlike most bats, pallid bats hunt for food on the ground instead of in the air. They even catch scorpions and centipedes!



How many times can you flap your arms in 30 seconds?

Tarantula

Tarantulas feel vibrations to find prey and quietly sneak up to catch food.



Crawl like a spider. Move 10 steps forward and 10 steps back.

The Real Smokey Bear

Did you know that Smokey Bear was a real bear? In 1950, a cub was rescued during a wildfire in the Lincoln National Forest. He became a symbol for preventing unwanted wildfires. **DIRECTIONS:** Draw a line to connect each quote to the correct image.



National Agricultural Library
Special Collections photo



Courtesy photo by Keshi, the
Zuni Connection



Bureau of Indian Affairs photo



“There were many fire crews who worked on the Los Tablos and Capitan Gap Fires where Smokey Bear was found, including Tribal and Pueblo wildland fire crews and an Army Reserve crew.”

- Smokey Bear Historical Park Manager

“Seeing my son buy his first firefighting boots was a milestone, because I know the importance of having a good pair of boots and because there are four generations of firefighting in our family.”

- Erica Enjady, Mescalero Apache Tribe


“My father, Jimmie, carved Smokey Bear figures using different stones and metals, including turquoise for the eyes and silver for the shovel. I started carving Smokey Bear figures as a tribute to my father.”

- Carlton Etsate, former Zuni carver



FOREST SERVICE

New Mexico Junior Ranger Pledge



As a Junior Ranger, I will stay curious and keep learning. I will explore how people, animals, and plants are connected to the lands and waters of New Mexico and beyond. I will do what I can to have fun, stay safe, and be a good role model.

Junior Ranger Signature

Date



Witness Signature

