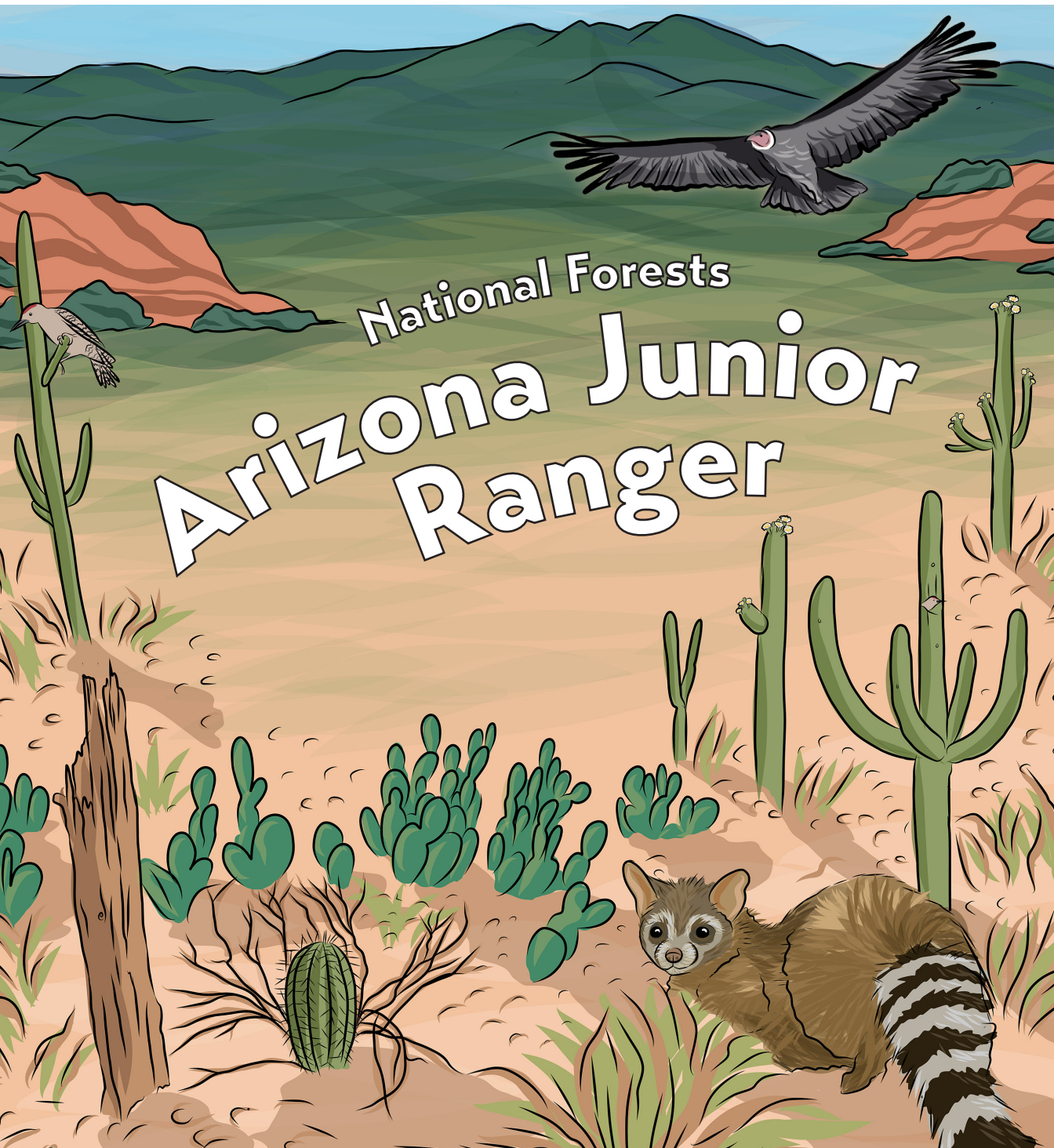




Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



National Forests  
**Arizona Junior  
Ranger**

# Welcome to the National Forests in Arizona!

Many communities and individuals play important roles caring for our nation's forests. Long before the Forest Service, and to this day, Native Americans care for these lands. 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 Arizona Junior Ranger Pledge on the back page.

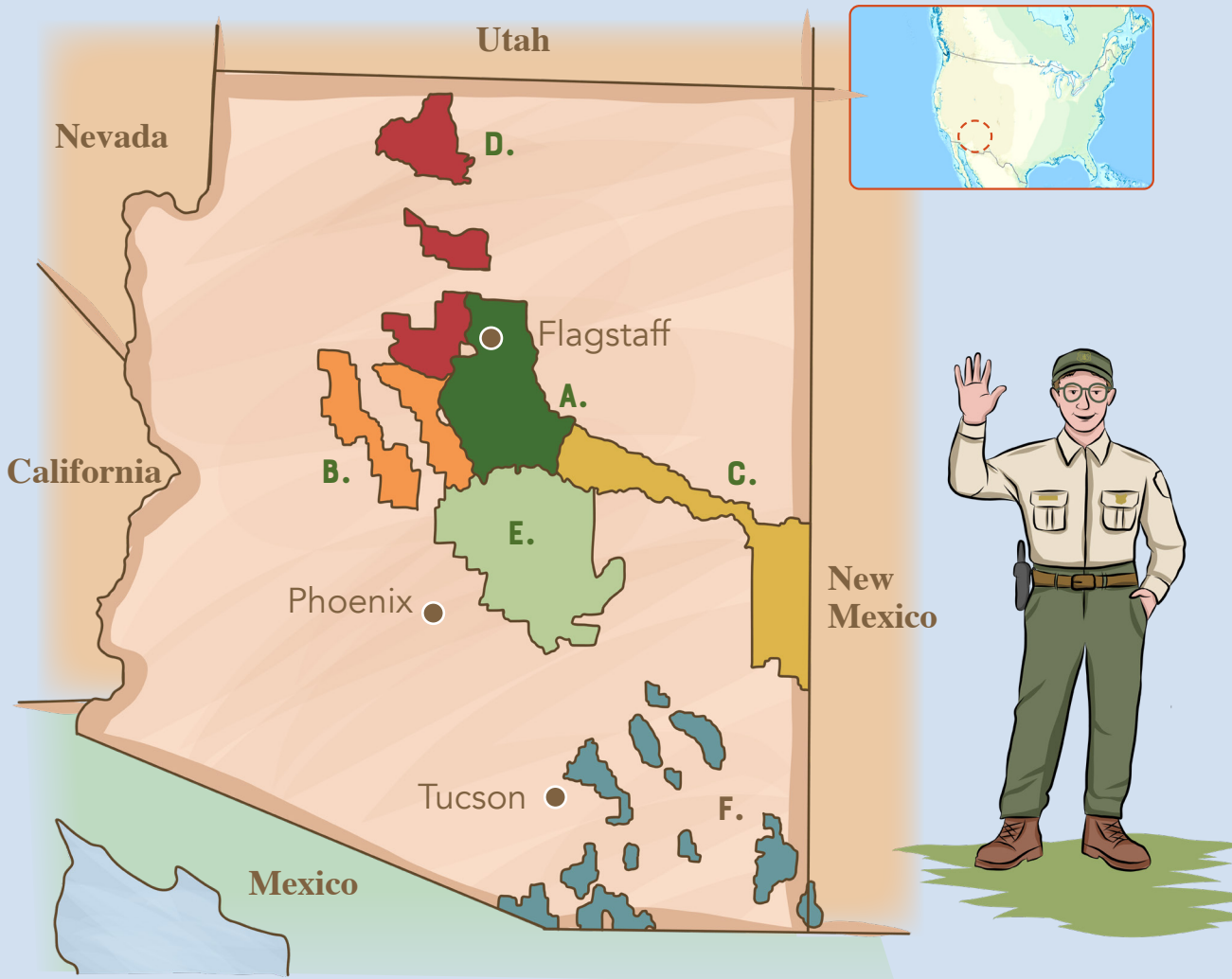
**STEP 3:** Celebrate! Congratulations, you are a Junior Ranger!



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

# Where Are the National Forests in Arizona?

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.** Coconino National Forest



**D.** Kaibab National Forest



**B.** Prescott National Forest



**E.** Tonto National Forest



**C.** Apache-Sitgeaves National Forests



**F.** Coronado National Forest



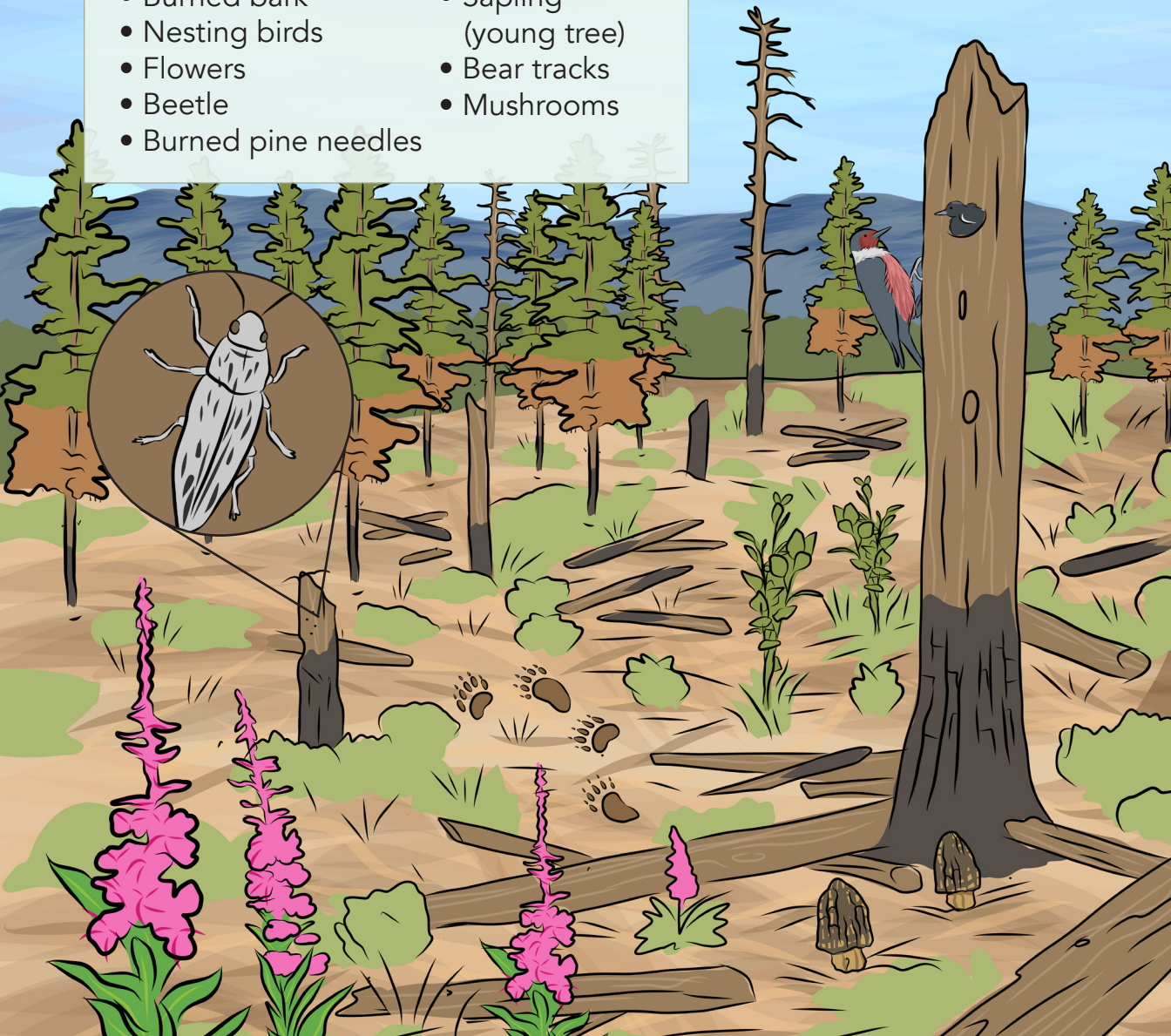
# Wildland Fire Ecology

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

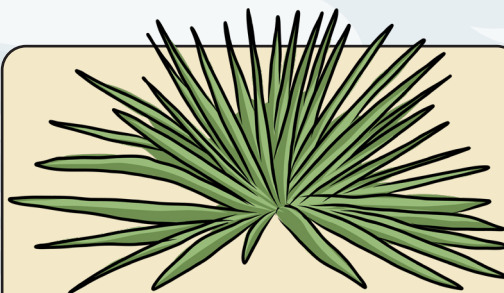
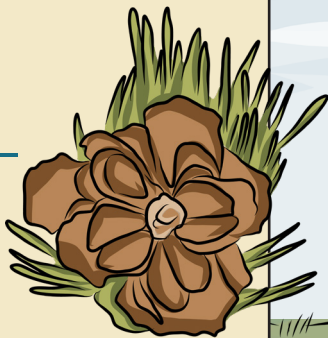
Plants across the Southwest have been used for thousands of years for many purposes. Knowledge about safely and respectfully gathering plants is passed down from generation to generation.

**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.



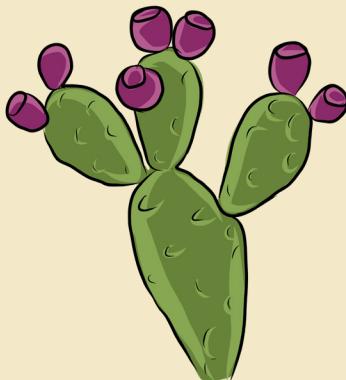
**Yucca** The root of the yucca is used as shampoo and soap. It contains saponins, a natural compound that makes it YMOFA.

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## Prickly Pear Cactus

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

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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).

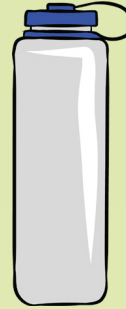


First aid kit,  
4 lbs

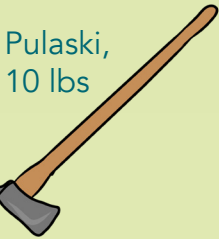


Fire shelter,  
3 lbs

Map, compass  
and signal mirror,  
1 lb



Canteen,  
3 lbs



Pulaski,  
10 lbs

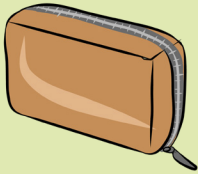


Lunch,  
2 lbs



Radio,  
2 lbs

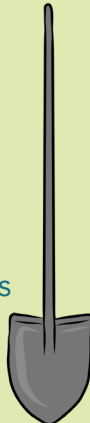
Tool pouch, 1 lb



Flagging to mark  
hazards, 1 lb



Shovel, 9 lbs



McLeod, 10 lbs



Object	Number	Weight
Total=		

# Animal Motions

**DIRECTIONS:** Pretend to be some of the creatures that call the forest home. Stay safe while doing these activities.

## Chiricahua Leopard Frog

When there is enough water, the Chiricahua leopard frog can travel up to five miles!

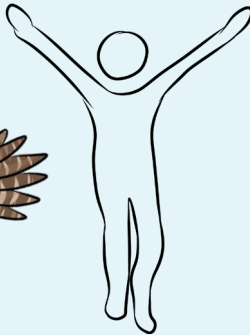


Hop like a frog three times. Which hop was your longest?



## Mexican Spotted Owl

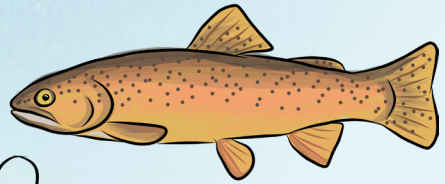
With large wings and special feathers, owls glide silently through the forest while hunting for food.



How long does it take you to flap 20 times?

## Gila Trout

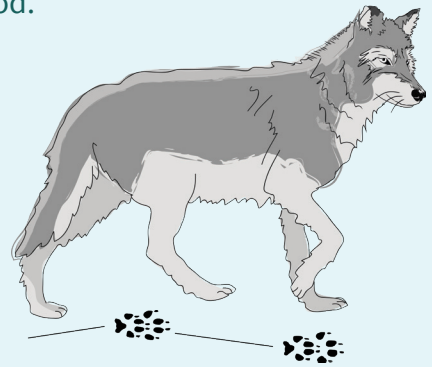
Gila trout are fast swimmers. They use their strong tails to dart through the water.



Stand or lay down and “swim” like a fish for 1 minute.

## Mexican Gray Wolf

Mexican gray wolves walk quietly and travel in packs. They work together to find food.



Try to walk like a wolf. Take 10 steps forward and 10 steps back in a straight line.





# My Nature Notes

D

**DIRECTIONS:** Find a place to sit quietly outside. Chose a sense to focus on while you experience your special place. Write or draw.

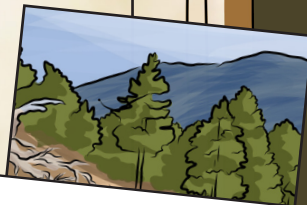
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Clouds:

Wind:

Temperature:

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



*Bonus! Try this activity again at a different time or place. What is different? What is the same?*

# Eagle's River Journey

In this game you are a bald eagle, growing from a chick to an adult. Discover how important water is as you travel along the river.

**MATERIALS:** 1 coin and 1 small item per person to use as a game piece.

**DIRECTIONS:** Flip the coin to see how many spaces you move. Heads - move 2 spaces. Tails - move 1 space.



**Start**

*A biologist bands you for research—you are important!*

*You wobble, and catch yourself—first time flying!*

*You get tired and rest. Skip a turn.*

*Follow the river to find winter food.*

*Steal a fish from a bird called an osprey—yum!*

*Scientists spot your band—your journey helps research!*

*Fish are plentiful thanks to healthy rivers. Go forward one space.*

*You get tangled in discarded fishing line. Go back one space.*

*You fly over to a big city—where will you find food?*

*You rest in a tall tree, watching the city below. Skip a turn.*

*You spot fish in an urban pond—happy belly!*



**Finish!**

*You are an adult eagle! Time to go home and find a mate.*

# Sky Island Match-Up

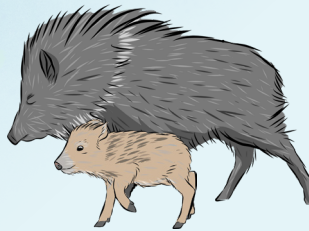
Arizona's sky islands are tall mountains surrounded by desert. The weather changes as you go up the mountains, supporting special plants and animals to live there. Biologists have found eight ecosystems - we will explore four. **DIRECTIONS:** Step 1 – Draw a line from each quote to the correct animal. Step 2 - Draw a line from the animal to its habitat.

“I silently stalk through the shadows of tall pines, hunting for deer and other prey.”



Coatimundi

“I spend my days sniffing the grass for insects.”



Javelina

“My bright feathers stand out among the oak trees, where I search for insects to eat.”

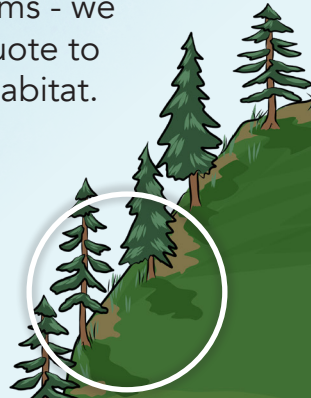


Cougar

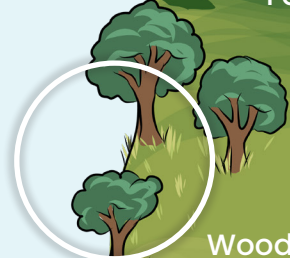
“I roam in family groups, searching for prickly pear cactus to munch on.”



Elegant trogon



Mixed Conifer Forest



Oak Woodland



Desert Grassland



Sonoran Desert



FOREST SERVICE

# Arizona 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 Arizona. I will do what I can to have fun, stay safe, and be a good role model.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Junior Ranger Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature