

# BESSEY RANGER DISTRICT

**JUNIOR RANGER  
ACTIVITY BOOK**



This book belongs to:

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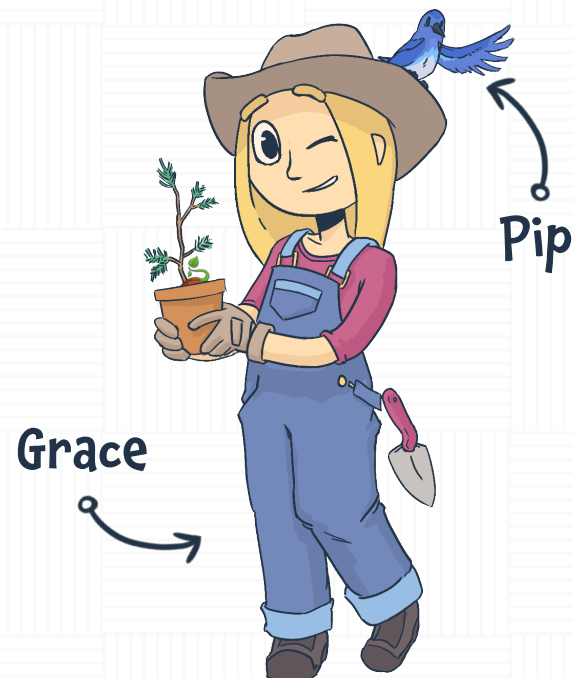


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# WELCOME TO BESSEY!



**My name's Grace, and the Mountain Bluebird  
on my hat is my friend Pip!**

We're here to show you around and help you become a Bessey Junior Ranger. All you'll need is your field notebook (*that's this!*), a good pair of shoes, and a little imagination!

Do your best to complete **all the activities** in this book. When you're finished, bring it to the Bessey front desk so a ranger can sign your certificate. Then you are officially a Bessey Junior Ranger!

**Come on, let's get started!**



**Doesn't fall far from the tree!**

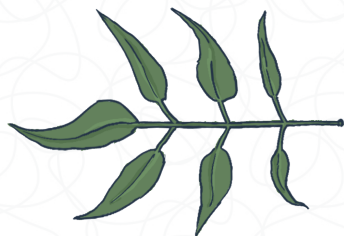
As you walk through the Bessey Arboretum, take a close look at all the leaves. Can you draw a line to match each of these leaves to the name of the tree it fell from?



## GREEN ASH



# COTTONWOOD



## ELM

## BIRCH



## What's a tree nursery?

A tree nursery is a place where plants are grown to be used in gardens, for agriculture, for forestry and for conservation. The trees grown at The Charles E. Bessey Tree Nursery are mostly used by the U.S. Forest Service for reforestation after fires or disease.

## Endless Fun at Bessey

Unscramble the letters below to discover some of the most popular activities.

# KING HI

# BUG TIN

## HIS NICE FIG

## GONNA ICE

## Need a little hint?



## ART DIVING

# BRIGAND WITCH



We love fishing here at Bessey.  
Can you hook all the fish below?

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

## Sunfish

Bluegill

Bluegills can thrive in many habitats including lakes, ponds, and slow-moving rivers.

## Catfish

Channel Catfish

Their whiskers allow them to hunt in dark and murky places.

## Herring

Gizzard Shad

Herrings are filter feeders. They swim with a wide-open mouth and swallow water with plankton.

## Trout

Rainbow Trout

Trout spend about 80% of their day looking for food.

## Stickleback

Brook Stickleback

Male sticklebacks are great fathers. They guard the eggs until they hatch.

## Bass

Largemouth Bass

Bass don't have eyelids. They like to swim in dark waters without much sunlight.

## Crappie

Black Crappie

The world record black crappie is over 5 pounds!

## Minnow

Red Shiner

Breeding males are a beautiful metallic blue with bright red on their head and fins.

## Silverside

Brook Silverside

Silversides thrive in calm, slow-moving waters.

## Perch

Yellow Perch

Yellow perch can reach a maximum length of about 16 inches.

## Driftwood

So, it's not a fish? Bummer!

## Fun Fact!

Nebraska has more river miles than any other state in the country.

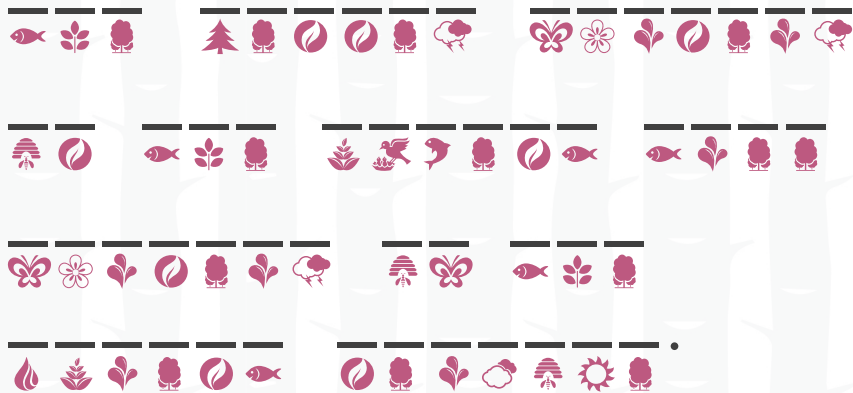
The Bessey Ranger district contains 4 different major rivers. They are the Middle Loup, Dismal, Snake, and Niobrara.

These rivers and the wetlands around them contain a wide range of both warm and cool water fish species ranging from trout to bass to more rare species like the plains topminnow.

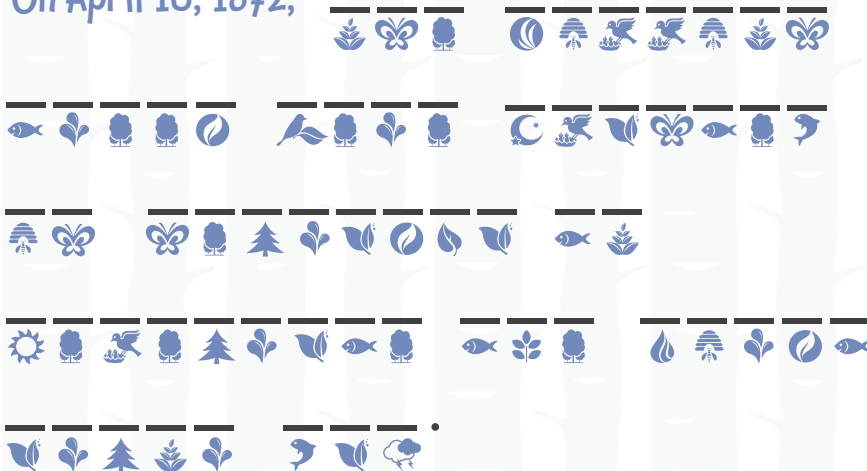




## Use the code to solve the secret messages!



On April 10, 1872,



## Get along little seeds!

Many plant offspring move as seeds, which have a variety of ways to spread and scatter. The ways that seeds move from place to place is called "seed dispersal."

Draw a line across to match the plant species with its means of seed dispersal.



Colorful petals attract insects.



Seeds have silky white parachutes.



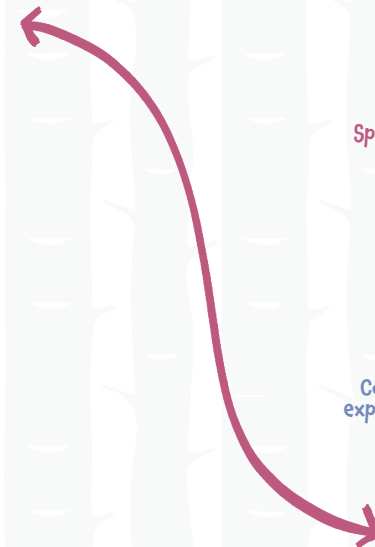
Spines easily stick to hair and fur.



Cones won't release seeds unless exposed to VERY high temperatures.

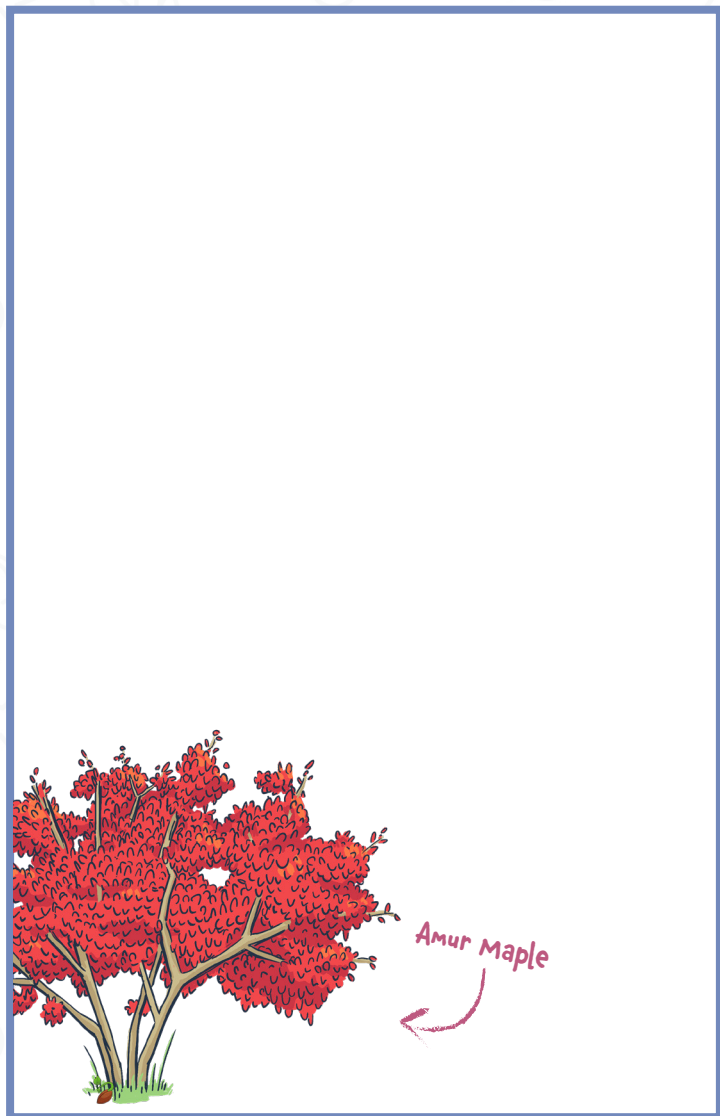


Seeds are light enough to float.



Have you spotted anything interesting during your adventures?

Draw a picture in the space provided below



Help Pip find the missing seeds from the Bessey Tree Nursery! Circle all 5 seeds in this book.

The Bessey Tree Nursery was created to grow the tree seedlings used to create the world's largest hand-planted forest.

The Nursery and Ranger District were named in honor of Charles E. Bessey, a professor of botany at the University of Nebraska who envisioned a forest growing in the wide open Sandhills of Nebraska.



Wow, that was a lot of hard work!

Now that you've finished, bring this booklet to the Bessey front desk during regular hours and a ranger will sign your certificate.





# Certificate of Achievement



awarded to

\_\_\_\_\_ for successful completion of all of the required activities to be a

**Bessey Junior Ranger**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



*You did it!*

