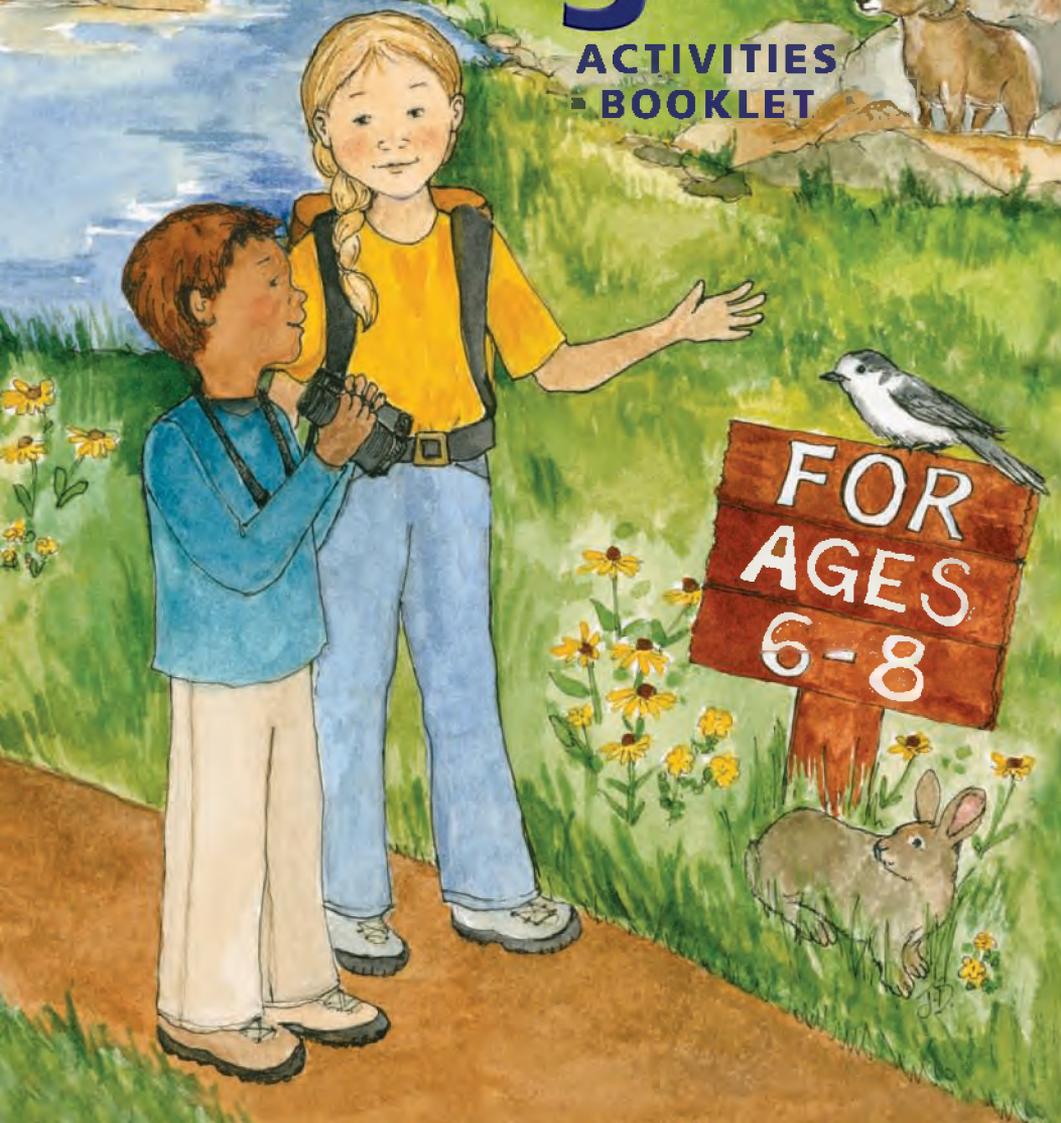


ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
NATIONAL PARK



OFFICIAL  
**Junior  
Ranger**

ACTIVITIES  
- BOOKLET



# Your Adventure Begins

Rocky Mountain National Park is an amazing place. It has beautiful mountains, ice-cold lakes, rivers, waterfalls, forests and fascinating wild animals. You are about to become an important part of the park – a Junior Ranger! Junior Rangers help protect the special treasures found in their national parks and back home in their own communities.

## Become a Junior Ranger! Here's How

- STEP 1** Complete as many of the activities in this booklet as you can with your family and friends.
- STEP 2** Take your booklet to any Rocky Mountain National Park visitor center and discuss it with a ranger.
- STEP 3** The ranger will sign the certificate of achievement on the back cover and you will receive your official Junior Ranger badge.



## ACTIVITY 1 Junior Rangers Rock!

Junior Rangers help protect national parks so everyone can enjoy them. See if you can figure out how to handle the tricky situations below. Circle the correct answers.



At a Trail Ridge Road scenic overlook, a ground squirrel begs you for a food handout. You:

1. Feed it your peanut butter and jelly sandwich.
2. Put the cute little animal in your backpack and take it home.
3. Leave it alone. Wildlife stays healthy by finding its own food.

After eating lunch at the Harbison Meadows picnic area, you and your friends collect the trash and talk about what you should do with it. You:

1. Help keep the park clean by putting your trash in a trash can or recycling bin.
2. Mail the trash home to your best friend.
3. Throw it on the ground.



The flowers around Lily Lake are bright and colorful. You:

1. Get busy with the weed whacker.
2. Look at all the pretty flowers and leave them for others to enjoy.
3. Eat them.

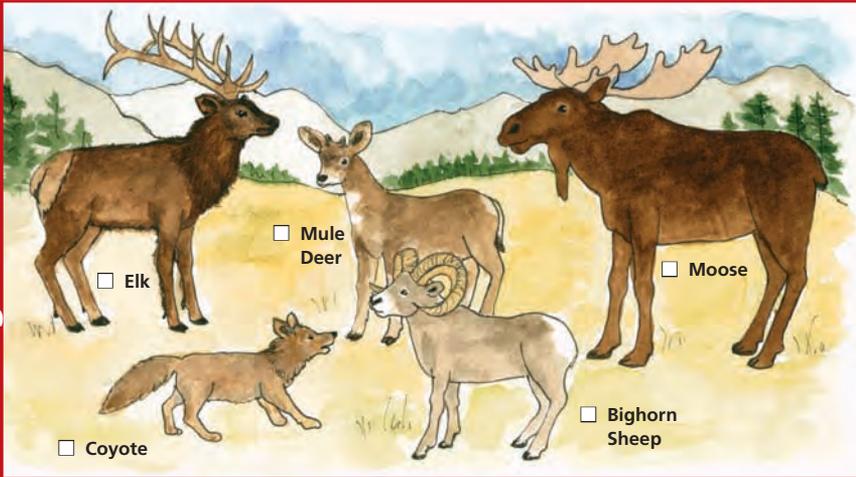


ACTIVITY 2

# Nature Checklist

**Look. Listen.** They're everywhere! Rocky Mountain National Park is home to interesting mammals, beautiful birds, colorful wildflowers, tall trees and cool bugs. Here are some of them. See how many you can find when you are out in the park and check them off.

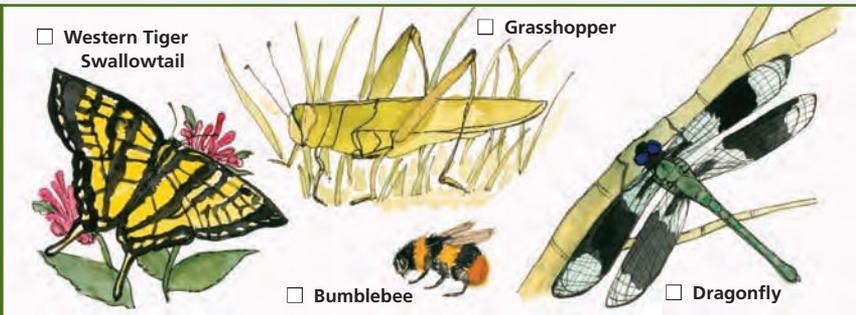
Large Mammals



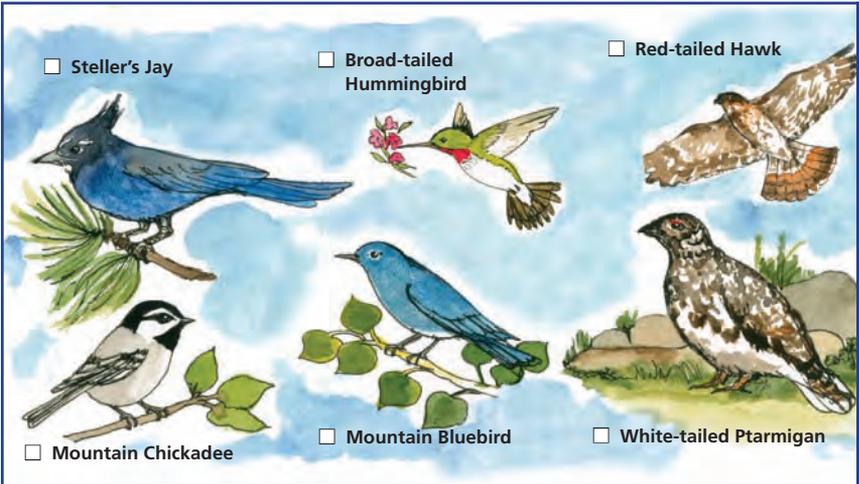
Small Mammals



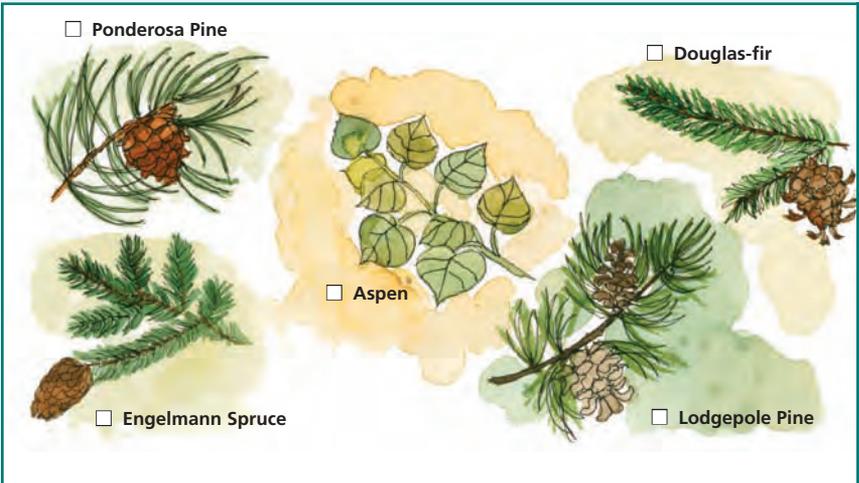
Insects



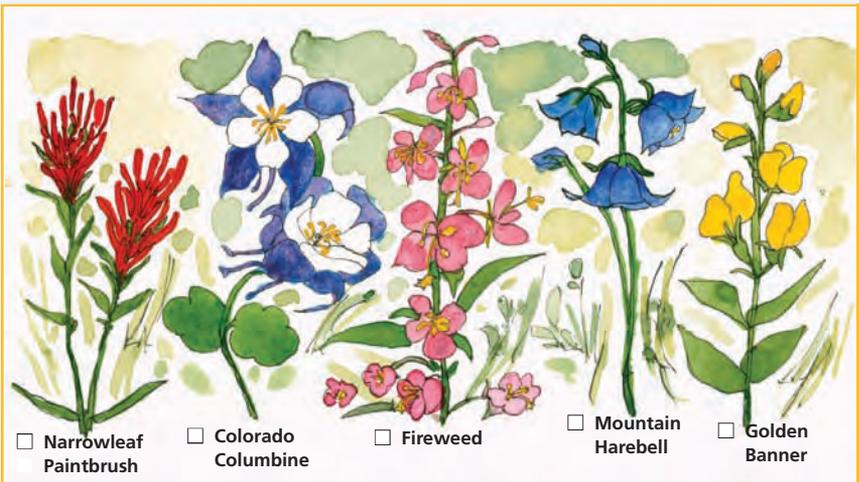
# Birds



# Trees



# Flowers



## ACTIVITY 3 Human History

People have come to the Rocky Mountain National Park area for thousands of years. Early Native Americans came here to hunt for food. Later, homesteaders worked hard on their ranches and farms, and miners looked for gold and silver. Fishing and camping trips were popular when the park was created in 1915. Today, people also have fun hiking, horseback riding, watching wild animals and

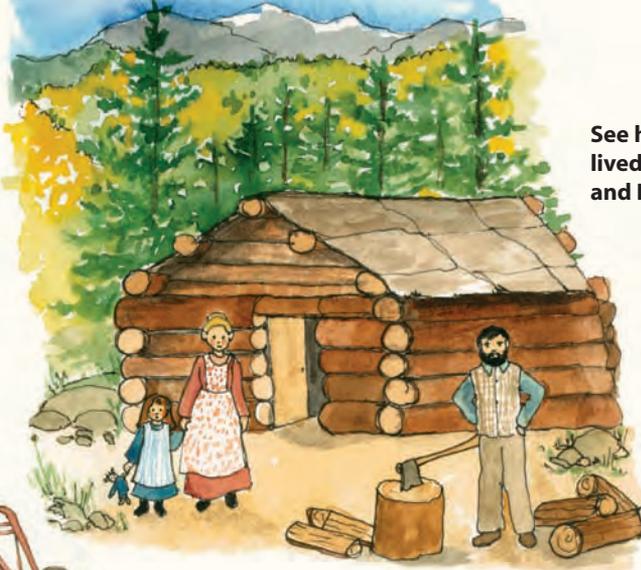


Learn about early Native Americans at Alpine Visitor Center and Fall River Visitor Center.



Check out all the people having fun in the park today.

enjoying the beautiful mountain scenery. Draw lines from the people on these pages to the tools or other items they used when they came to the Rocky Mountains.



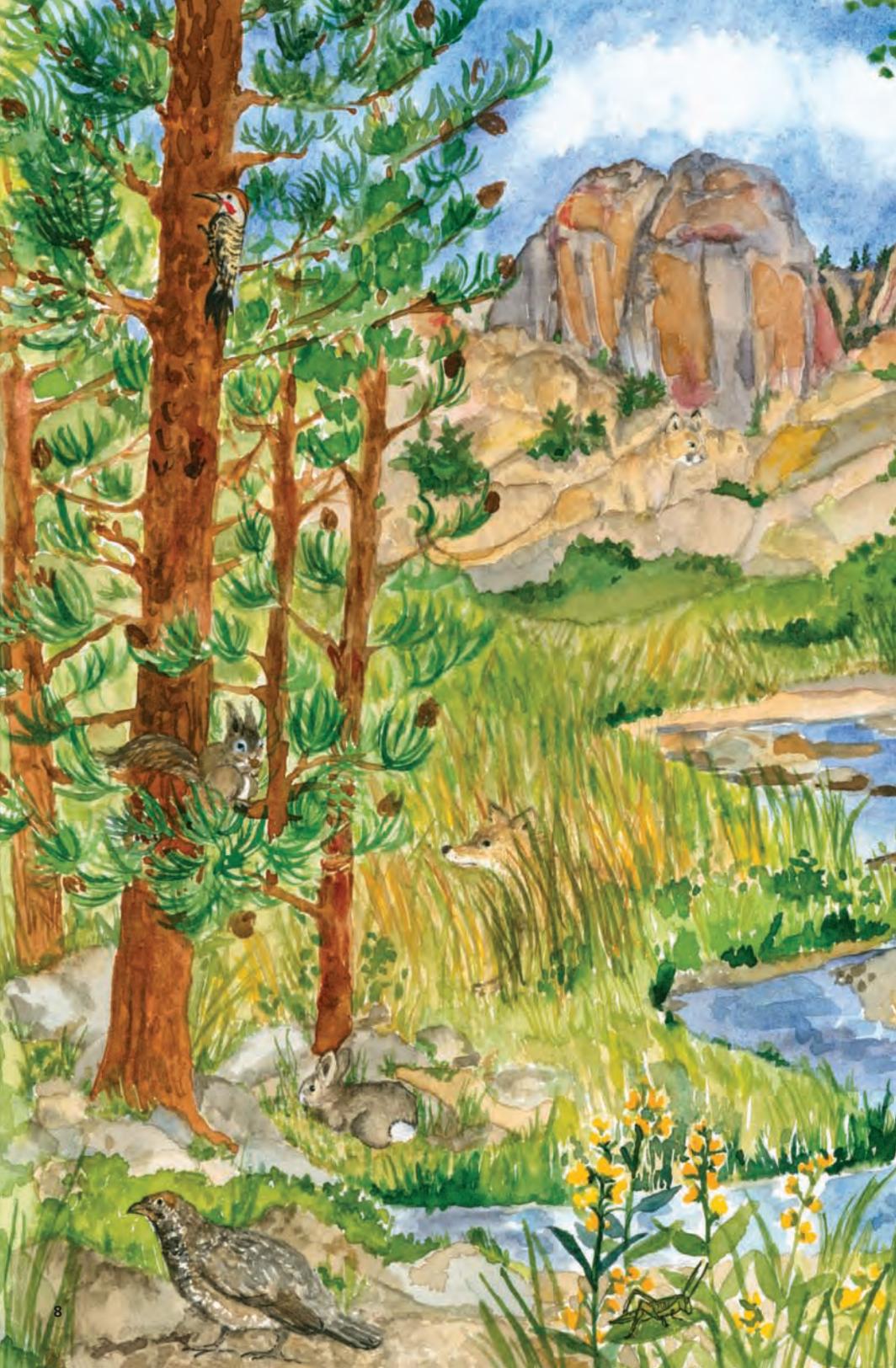
**See how the pioneers lived at MacGregor Ranch and Estes Park Museum.**

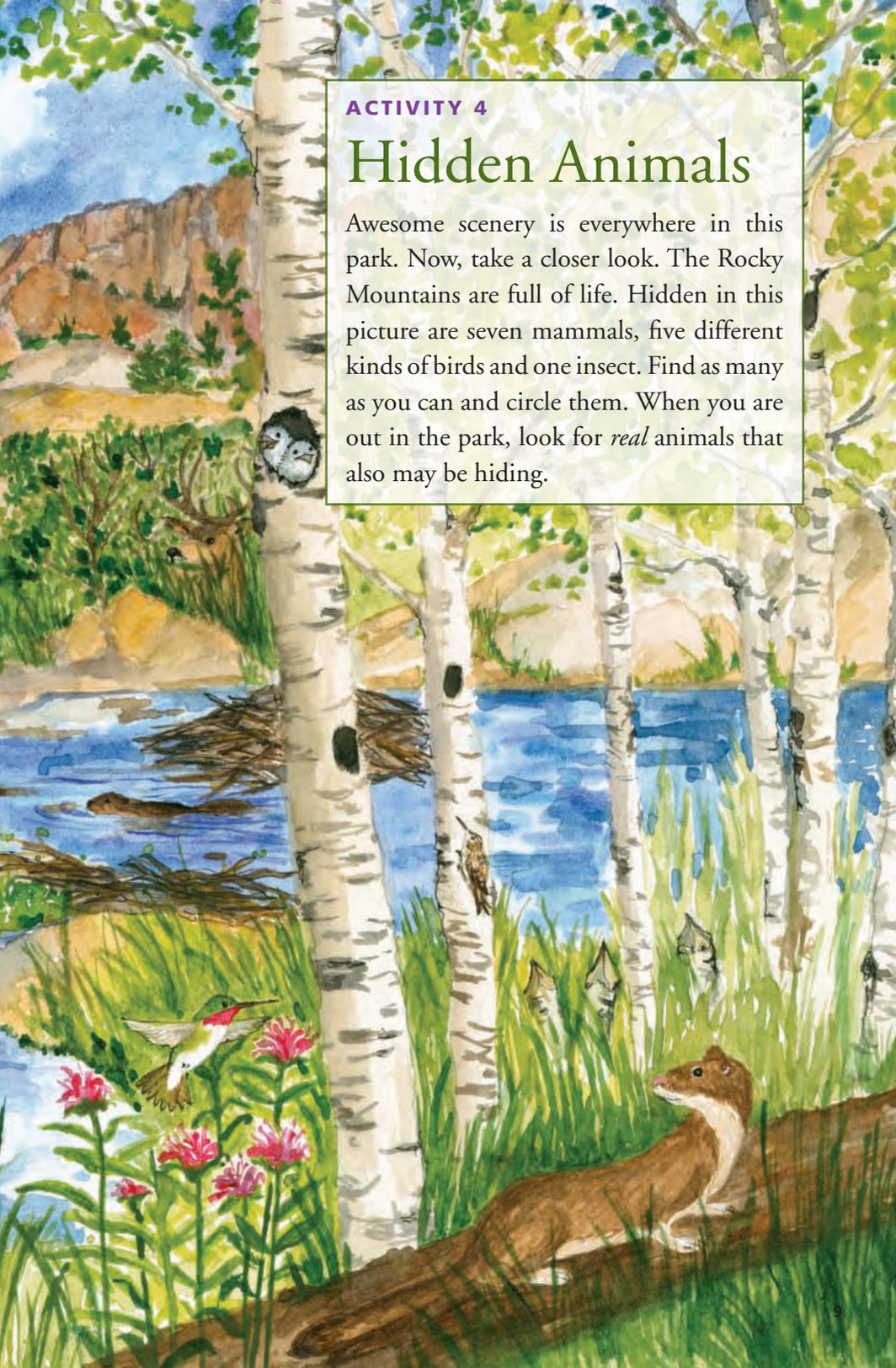
**Explore the remains of a mining camp at Eugenia Mine and Shipler Mine and Cabin.**



**Travel back to the days of early tourism at Moraine Park Visitor Center and Holzwarth Historic Site.**







#### ACTIVITY 4

## Hidden Animals

Awesome scenery is everywhere in this park. Now, take a closer look. The Rocky Mountains are full of life. Hidden in this picture are seven mammals, five different kinds of birds and one insect. Find as many as you can and circle them. When you are out in the park, look for *real* animals that also may be hiding.

# ACTIVITY 5 Animal Riddles

Answering these riddles will help you learn a few things about the animals at the bottom of the page. Write the names of the animals on the answer lines below.

Wily and smart, I'm said to be.  
My life is one big hunting spree.  
The meadows and fields I like to roam,  
Where tasty mice are right at home.

**Who am I?** \_\_\_\_\_

My home is made of mud and sticks.  
I can dam a stream – it's quite a trick!  
My teeth are strong to chew down trees.  
I swim in ponds with the greatest ease.

**Who am I?** \_\_\_\_\_

The waving grasses and groves of trees  
Make an excellent mountain home for me.  
My ears are large to catch every sound.  
A lion or coyote will make me bound!

**Who am I?** \_\_\_\_\_

The berries of summer are a tasty treat.  
I'll munch on grubs and dine on meat.  
I'm hungry after I hibernate.  
By spring, it's time to fill my plate!

**Who am I?** \_\_\_\_\_

I'm the biggest animal in the park.  
Look for me before it's dark.  
I love to wade through lakes and streams,  
Chomping away on tasty greens.

**Who am I?** \_\_\_\_\_

Hear my bugling in the fall.  
It's a very haunting kind of call.  
My antlers are pointy and very impressive.  
I use them to fight when I feel aggressive.

**Who am I?** \_\_\_\_\_



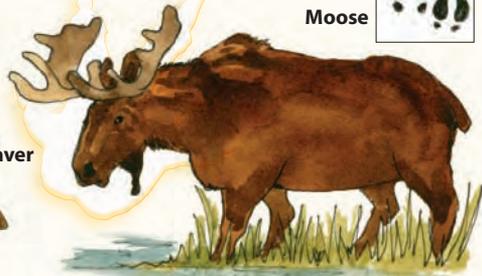
Elk



Beaver



Moose



Black Bear



Mule Deer



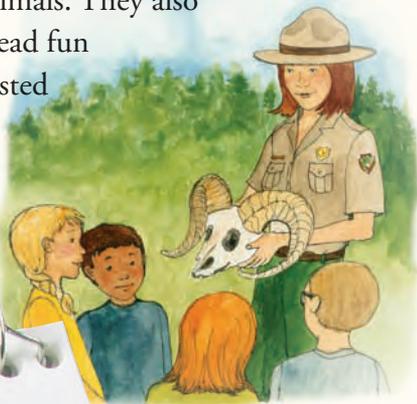
Coyote



## ACTIVITY 6

# Attend a Ranger Program

Rangers protect the park's plants and animals. They also keep the park safe for visitors. Rangers lead fun nature walks and programs, which are listed in the official park newspaper. Pick a program that your whole family will enjoy, and go. When it's over, get the ranger's signature and write a few of the cool things you learned in the notebook below.



**Program I attended:**

**Stuff I learned:**

**Ranger  
signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVITY 7

# Nature Hike Scavenger Hunt



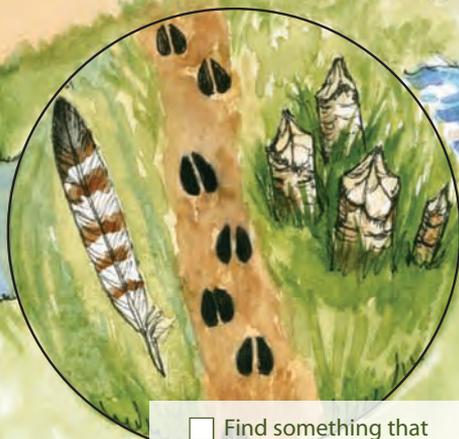
Find something small that walks or flies and is food for birds and animals.

**I found a** \_\_\_\_\_



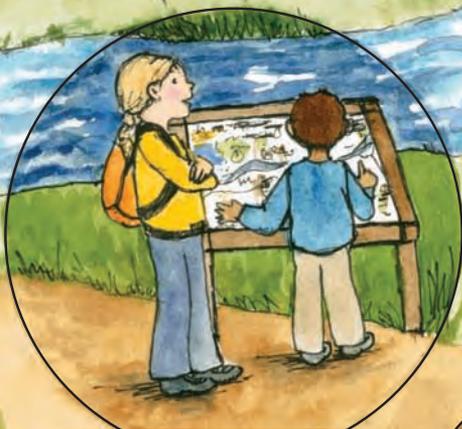
Find something spiny that grows in pine trees and may be full of seeds that squirrels love to eat.

**I found a** \_\_\_\_\_



Find something that shows an animal was there.

**I found a** \_\_\_\_\_



Find something that tells a story or shows you something interesting.

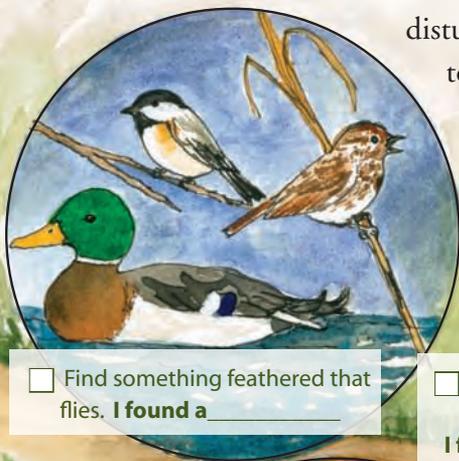
**I found a** \_\_\_\_\_



Find something that invites you to stop, rest and enjoy the view.

**I found a** \_\_\_\_\_

**Now, let's take a hike.** Walk the Coyote Valley Trail, the trail around Lily Lake or the Sprague Lake Trail and search for the items on these pages. When you see one of any kind, check it off and write what you discover on the answer line. Please don't pick or disturb anything you find. Leave it for others to enjoy.



Find something feathered that flies. **I found a** \_\_\_\_\_

Find something furry and four-legged. **I found a** \_\_\_\_\_



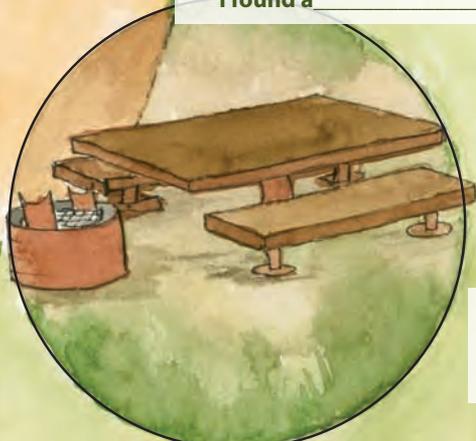
Find something that helps people cross a stream. **I found a** \_\_\_\_\_

Find something that once stood tall, but fell to the ground and now helps enrich the soil. **I found a** \_\_\_\_\_



Find something colorful that blooms in spring or summer and may smell nice. **I found a** \_\_\_\_\_

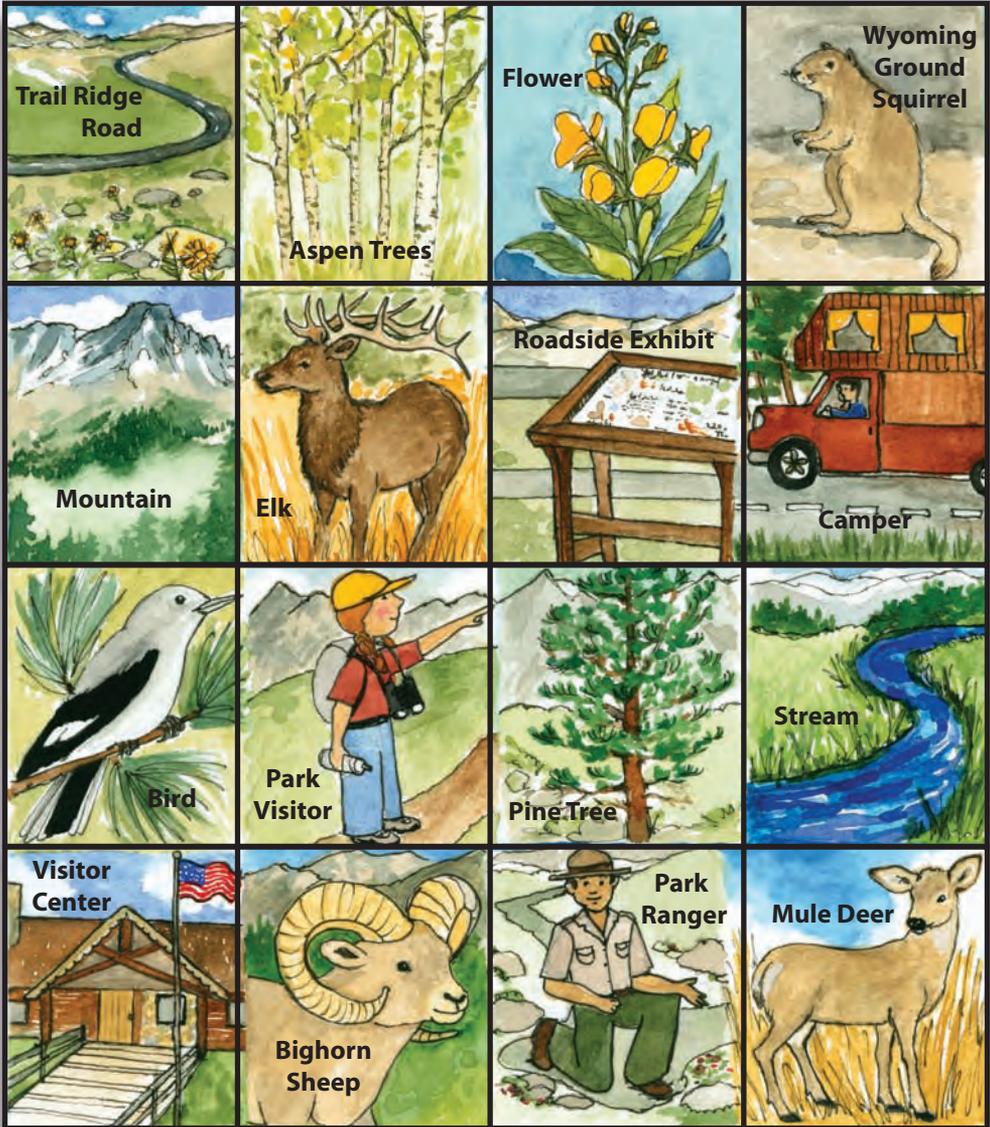
Find a place where people gather to enjoy a snack or meal. **I found a** \_\_\_\_\_



**ACTIVITY 8**

# Trail Ridge Road Bingo

**Whoa!** There is a lot to see as you drive up and down Trail Ridge Road. When you spot these items, put big Xs on the squares. You win every time you complete a row (up, down or diagonally). See how many rows you can finish. Play by yourself or with a friend or family member.



## ACTIVITY 9

# Journal/Nature Sketchbook

Many park rangers are naturalists. They observe nature so they can help protect it. Find a safe, quiet place along a hiking trail. Sit down and look closely at everything around you. Look, listen, touch and smell. In the notebook below, write what you see, or draw any plants, animals or natural objects you observe.



# Junior Ranger Pledge

As a Junior Ranger, I promise to help protect Rocky Mountain National Park, my neighborhood parks and all other natural areas by taking care of the environment.

- I will help keep wildlife wild by not feeding animals.
- I will help protect plants by not picking them.
- I will help keep parks beautiful by placing trash in recycling bins or trash cans.
- I will enjoy nature safely and be a good example to others.

## *Congratulations*

### JUNIOR RANGER!

You are an important part of this park.  
Stay in touch. Contact us anytime at  
[romo\\_junior\\_ranger@nps.gov](mailto:romo_junior_ranger@nps.gov)



Look for Junior Ranger  
products at [rmna.org](http://rmna.org)



# *Certificate of Achievement*

This certifies that

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has met the requirements of a  
Rocky Mountain National Park Junior Ranger

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Ranger Signature

Date