

The Grand Adventure

A Young Naturalist's guide to Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway



Young Naturalists

Young Naturalists are special and important people! They help park rangers protect animals, plants, rocks and mountains. Young Naturalists watch moose, birds and other wildlife and look for animal tracks. They pick up litter and put it in a trash can. Young Naturalists never feed wild animals in a national park. Young Naturalists know that national parks are special places that need to be protected so that they will be just as special in the future.



Teton Science School photo

Becoming a Young Naturalist

For kids of ANY age!

Step 1 Read this newspaper and complete all of the fun activities. You can ask your family and friends for help.

Step 2 Go to any two ranger-led programs and have the ranger sign your newspaper OR go to one Young Naturalist program (for ages 8-12 only).

Step 3 Bring your completed newspaper and \$1 donation to the Colter Bay, Moose or Jenny Lake Visitor Center. A ranger will ask you to take the Young Naturalist's pledge and award you a Young Naturalist patch.

Mountains and Glaciers

Grand Teton National Park was protected as a national park because of the Teton Range, the spectacular, jagged mountains that form the west side of the park.

To discover how the mountains were formed and why the valley and mountains look the way they do, fill in the following blanks. Find your answers in the Geology Answers box to the right. Use each answer only once.

As the _____ rose on the west side of the valley, earthquakes occurred. At the same time, the valley

dropped down. This process began _____ million years ago and is still happening today.

The canyons between the jagged peaks of the Teton Range are U-shaped because rivers of ice, called _____, carved them. Where these rivers of ice flowed into the valley, they made bowls that today hold _____ named Jenny, Taggart, Bradley and Phelps. A big river of ice flowed south from Yellowstone and formed _____, the largest one in the park. Rivers of ice work like conveyor belts, carrying rocks and soil along, then dropping this debris

at the end. When temperatures warm and the ice melts, this debris, called a _____, is left behind. Today in Grand Teton National Park, _____ grow on these mounds of rock and soil.

Geology Answers

moraine	2-3
glaciers	Teton Mountains
Jackson Lake	lakes
conifer forests	

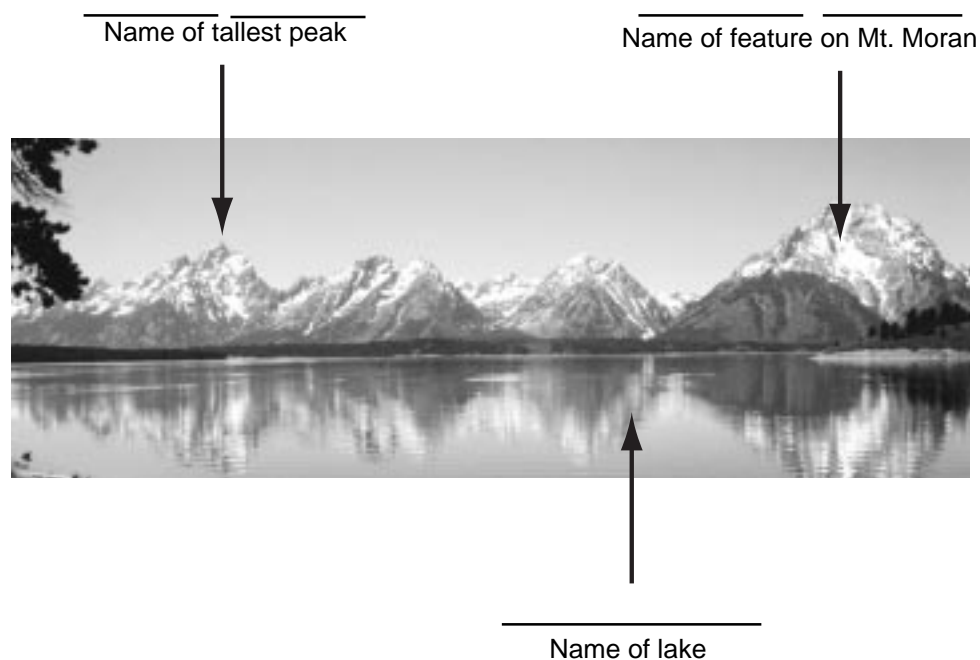
Geology Word Puzzle

Find the following words:

forest Teton moraine
Jackson glacier
lake conifer

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

Explore the park to discover what some neat geologic features look like. Then label the picture below.



People and Plants

Menor's Ferry



Visit this area and look around. See the old buildings, walk the trails and imagine what it would have been like to live here one hundred years ago. Then read the sentences and fill in the blanks. There is one blank for each letter of the answer.

Because there was no bridge here at the time, Bill Menor built a _____ across the Snake River to make it easier to travel from one side of the river to the other.

Bill Menor tried to grow crops around the cabin, but summers were too short and the soil had too many _____ for vegetables to grow well. Other homesteaders in Jackson Hole had the same problem when they tried to grow crops.

Bill Menor settled in Jackson Hole in the 1890s. Earlier in the same century, people came to Jackson Hole to trap _____ for hats.

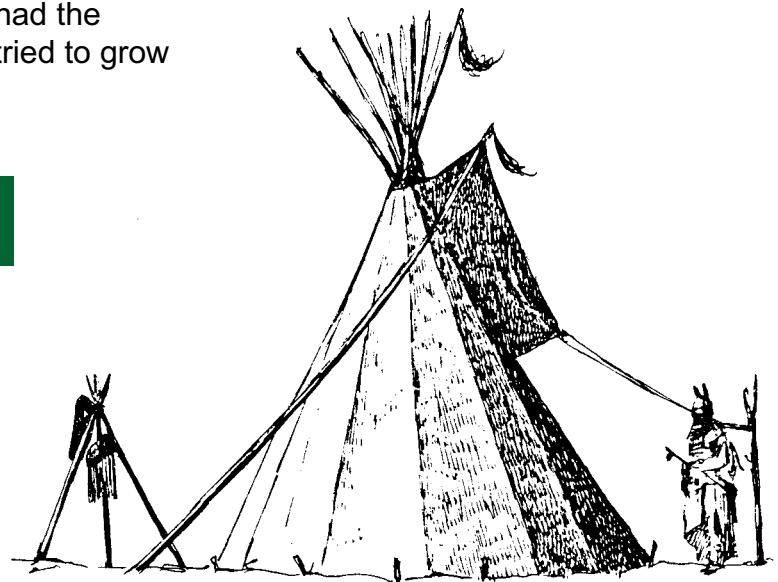
Colter Bay Indian Arts Museum

Visit the museum, look at the items in the exhibits and imagine what it was like to be an American Indian more than one hundred years ago. Then answer the questions.

Buffalo, which we call bison today, provided for the needs of Plains Indians in many ways. Name three ways that Plains Indians used buffalos.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Name another animal, one that Plains Indians used for transportation. _____



American Indians decorated clothes, jewelry, tools, pipes, containers and other objects that they made. List two things that American Indians often used to decorate their belongings.

- 1.
- 2.

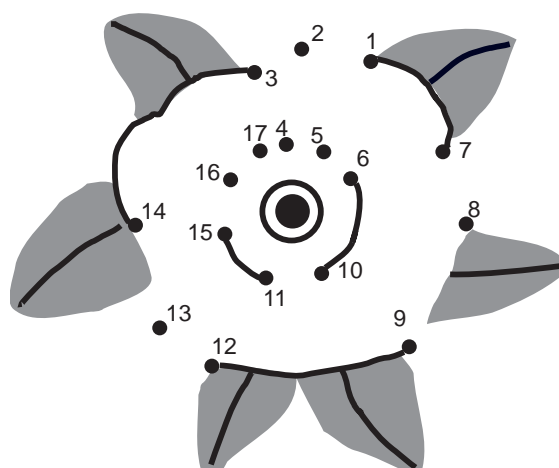
Plants

Go outside somewhere in Grand Teton and look around you. Do you see lots of trees?

Do most of the trees have needles for leaves? These evergreen trees are called conifers because their seeds are contained in cones. Find a conifer tree and look at its needles. Choose a conifer tree with needles in groups of two. This tree is the most common one in Grand Teton National Park. It is called a **lodgepole pine** because some American Indians used the tree trunks to make their lodges or tipis.

Where did you find a lodgepole pine?

Some plants have beautiful flowers. Connect the dots to see a wildflower that grows high up in the mountains. This blue flower is alpine forget-me-not, the official flower of Grand Teton National Park.



Alpine forget-me-not is really smaller than a dime! You can color it blue.

Look around you to discover many other kinds of wildflowers, large and small, of all different colors. Be sure not to pick any wildflowers. Instead, leave the wildflowers where they are for others to enjoy and for animals to eat. Draw or make a list of the wildflowers you have found.



Wildlife and Habitats


Where Do the Plants and Animals Live?

Just like you, animals have places they call home. We call an animal's home its **habitat**. Knowing about an animal's habitat makes it easier to spot that animal in the wild. Remember that each place in the park is some animal's home.

Use the pictures and the descriptions in this section to name the animals that live in different habitats. Draw a line from the habitat name to the correct habitat location on the center map. Once you figure out which habitat an animal calls home, you can look for that animal in its home in the park.

Sagebrush Flats

Sagebrush, a low, silvery-green bush, covers most of Jackson Hole. Sagebrush does not need much water to grow, so it thrives on the warm and dry valley floor. Can you name the two animals that prefer this habitat?


 I make tunnels in the rocky soil for my home. I am small and hibernate for about eight months every year.

I am the fastest land animal in North America. I roam the valley eating grasses, sagebrush and other bushes.



Alpine

The highest part of the mountains is called the alpine zone, the land above where trees can grow. Dwarf flowers hug the rocks and soil for warmth and protection from wind.


 I am a small rabbit-like animal that lives in rocky places.

I am an expert mountain climber. I eat grasses and wildflowers that grow at the tops of the Teton peaks.




Wetlands

Marshes, rivers and lakes provide homes for many kinds of plants and animals. The abundance of water allows life to flourish. Can you name three of the many species that prefer wetlands?

 I eat bushes and trees and use them to build lodges in which I live.

I munch on willows and other bushes. I may be seen standing in a pond with my long legs underwater and my head dipping under the surface as I look for underwater plants to eat.




 I make a large stick nest in a tree near water. My favorite food is fish that I catch with my powerful feet.

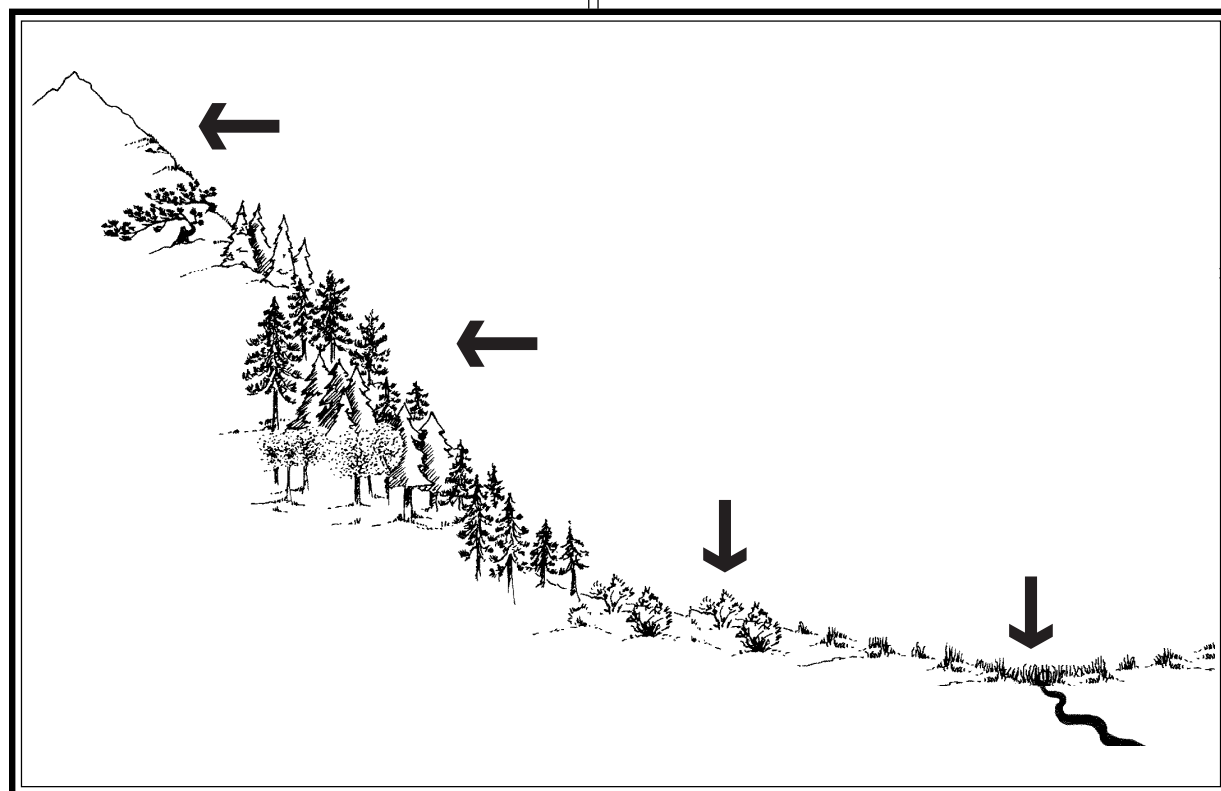
Forests

Dense forests of lodgepole pines and other conifers provide hiding places and shady spots during hot summer days. Forests grow in the Jackson Hole valley and

in the mountains. Can you name two species found here?

 I harvest pine cones and store them for winter food. I live in the trees and climb quickly to avoid predators.

I wander through the forest looking for berries to eat. Rustling bushes may be a sign that I am near.



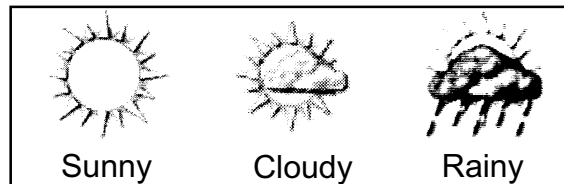
Being a Young Naturalist

A Naturalist's Notebook

You can keep a journal of the animals, plants and geologic features that you see. In the box below, draw or write

about your visit to Grand Teton. Poetry, pictures or facts are all good journal entries.

Young Naturalists pay attention to weather. What was the weather like today? Circle all the kinds of weather you saw today.



Young Naturalists use all of their senses. Name or draw something you discovered today with each of the following senses:

Sight (eyes)

Smell (nose)

Hearing (ears)

Touch (fingers)

Ranger-led Hikes and Talks

One of the best ways to learn about the park is to attend a program led by a ranger naturalist. Join a ranger for a hike, museum tour, campfire program or other activity. Look in the *Teewinot*, the park newspaper, for a list of programs. After the program is over, ask the ranger to sign here.

Activity name _____

Ranger's signature _____

Activity name _____

Ranger's signature _____

Your Young Naturalist Patch

When you have

- Finished answering the questions in this newspaper
- Attended two ranger-led programs

Then

Take this newspaper and \$1 donation to the Colter Bay, Jenny Lake or Moose Visitor Center. A ranger will have you read the pledge below and will award you a Young Naturalist patch.

The Young Naturalist Pledge

I am proud to be a Young Naturalist! I promise to appreciate, respect and protect all national parks. I also promise to learn about and protect the natural world wherever I go.

Young Naturalist's Code

Keep Animals Wild Feeding wild animals makes them tame. Young Naturalists do not feed wild animals. Instead, they enjoy all wildlife from a safe distance so the animals stay wild.

Stash Your Trash Trash belongs in a garbage can, not on the ground. Young Naturalists never litter and they pick up litter others have left behind.

Flowers and Rocks Young Naturalists enjoy wildflowers and rocks but leave them where they are for others to enjoy.

Save Energy Young Naturalists turn off the light when they leave a room.

Save Water Young Naturalists turn off the water while they are brushing their teeth and washing dishes.

Walk or Ride Your Bike When Young Naturalists need to go somewhere that isn't far away, they walk or bicycle. That way, they get some exercise and enjoy the outdoors.

Online Information

To discover more about the park on the Internet, visit the park's website: <http://www.nps.gov/grte/>