



Yellowstone National Park

Junior Ranger

Activity paper for ages 5-7



Explore Learn Protect

To The Adults!

Look at the back page for a complete list of what children need to do to become Junior Rangers.

You can be a Junior Ranger in the oldest national park in the world. Yellowstone National Park was created in 1872, so it is the world's first national park. The idea was to preserve this special place, with its incredible geysers, hot springs, wildlife, and natural beauty, so people could enjoy it forever.

Now, more than 140 years later, you are here to explore it, learn about it, and have fun. Read the Junior Ranger pledge below and learn what it means for **YOU** to be a Junior Ranger!

When you complete the necessary activities in the Junior Ranger program, you will receive a patch that has the track of Yellowstone's wild wolves on it.

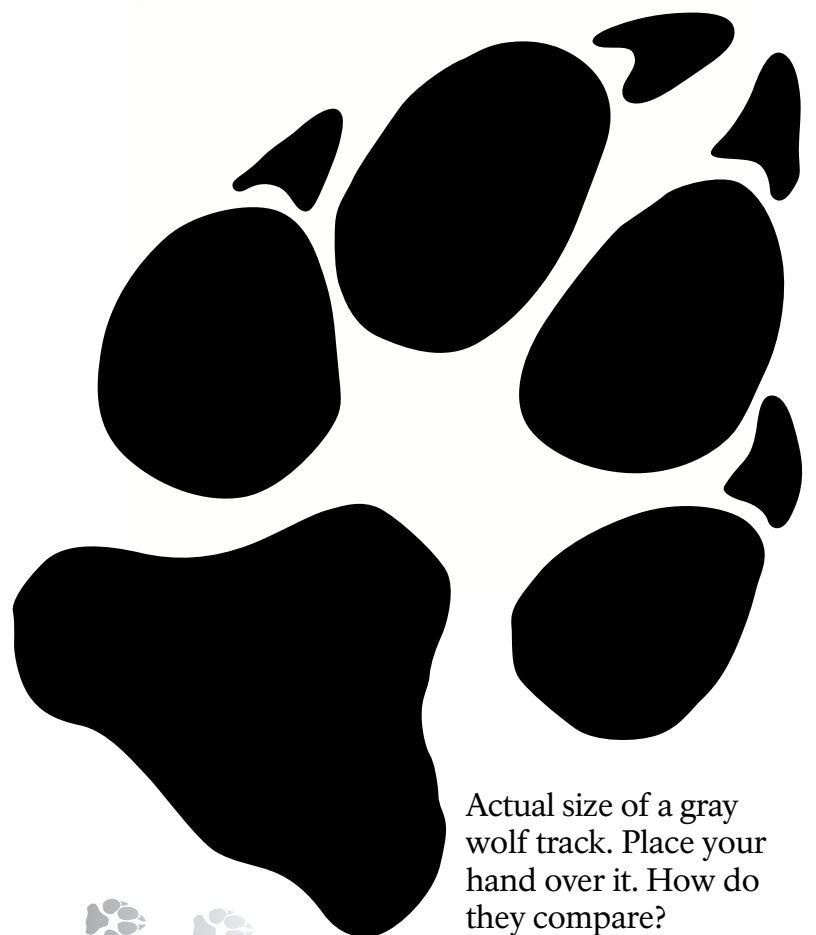
When you are finished, just take this Activity Paper to one of the visitor centers and a ranger will review your work and award you the patch.

Then you can be proud that you are a **Yellowstone Junior Ranger!**

Yellowstone Junior RANGER Pledge

As a Junior Ranger, I promise to learn all I can about Yellowstone and to teach others to love and respect its beauty, its plants, and its animals.

(name)



Actual size of a gray wolf track. Place your hand over it. How do they compare?





Welcome To Yellowstone

Yellowstone's wonders have attracted people for thousands of years. They came from all over to see Yellowstone and all of its many wonders. Today you too can discover Yellowstone's wonders—its geysers, hot springs, mudpots and fumaroles, waterfalls and wildlife. Follow the trail below to discover these wonders with fun activities.

There are several different ways to go through the maze. You can choose your own path and then choose some of the activities to do along the way.

You need to complete at least five to become a Junior Ranger. Have fun as you discover Yellowstone!

1 Start here and wind your way down the path.

2 Color in the circle of each activity you do (remember to do at least five).

Listen to a bird's song. What do you think it's saying?

Catch a raindrop, snowflake, or sunbeam on your tongue. Is it cold or hot today? (Circle one)

Listen to a waterfall! What song could it be singing?

Meet a park ranger. If you were a ranger, what would be your favorite part of the job? _____

Look closely at a wildflower (and remember not to pick it!). How many petals does it have?

Count the bison you see in Lamar or Hayden Valley. _____

Dance like an aspen leaf blowing in the wind.

Hunt for colors. Point out something yellow, then red, then blue. Can you see something purple? (yes or no)

Touch the bark of a tree. Is it rough or is it smooth? (Circle one)

Listen to the wind in the trees. If this wind had a color, what color would it be?

Stand quietly on a trail in the geyser basins. Close your eyes. What do you hear?

Walk barefoot in the sand along Yellowstone Lake. Can you see the track you leave behind? If you find the track of another animal, draw it here.

Smell the air everywhere you go. What does it smell like near the hot springs and mudpots?

3 END HERE!

2



National Park Bingo

1 Visit all of the sites in any one row – across or up and down – to complete this page.

See the sights of Yellowstone and play **National Park Bingo!**

P A R K

North Entrance

Northeast Entrance

B

 Minerva Terrace at Mammoth Hot Springs	 Fort Yellowstone historic U.S. Cavalry fort	 Wraith Falls near Lava Creek	 Tower Fall from overlook
 Steamboat Geyser Norris Geyser Basin	 Virginia Cascade on the Gibbon River	 Fire Trail on the road between Norris + Canyon	 Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
 Gibbon Falls on the Gibbon River	 Yellowstone River in Hayden Valley	 Black Dragon's Caldron at Mud Volcano	 LeHardy Rapids between Mud Volcano + the lake
 Firehole Falls along Firehole Canyon Dr.	 Fountain Paint Pot in Lower Geyser Basin	 CONTINENTAL DIVIDE ELEVATION 10,880' Continental Divide between Old Faithful and West Thumb	 Fishing Bridge over the Yellowstone River
 Grand Prismatic Spring in Midway Geyser Basin	 Old Faithful in Upper Geyser Basin	 West Thumb Geyser Basin	 Yellowstone Lake from Grant Village

West Entrance

I

N

G

O

East Entrance

South Entrance

2 You'll find that each location is marked on your park map. Can you find them?

3 Color in the drawing of each sight you visit. Which is your favorite? _____
Why? _____



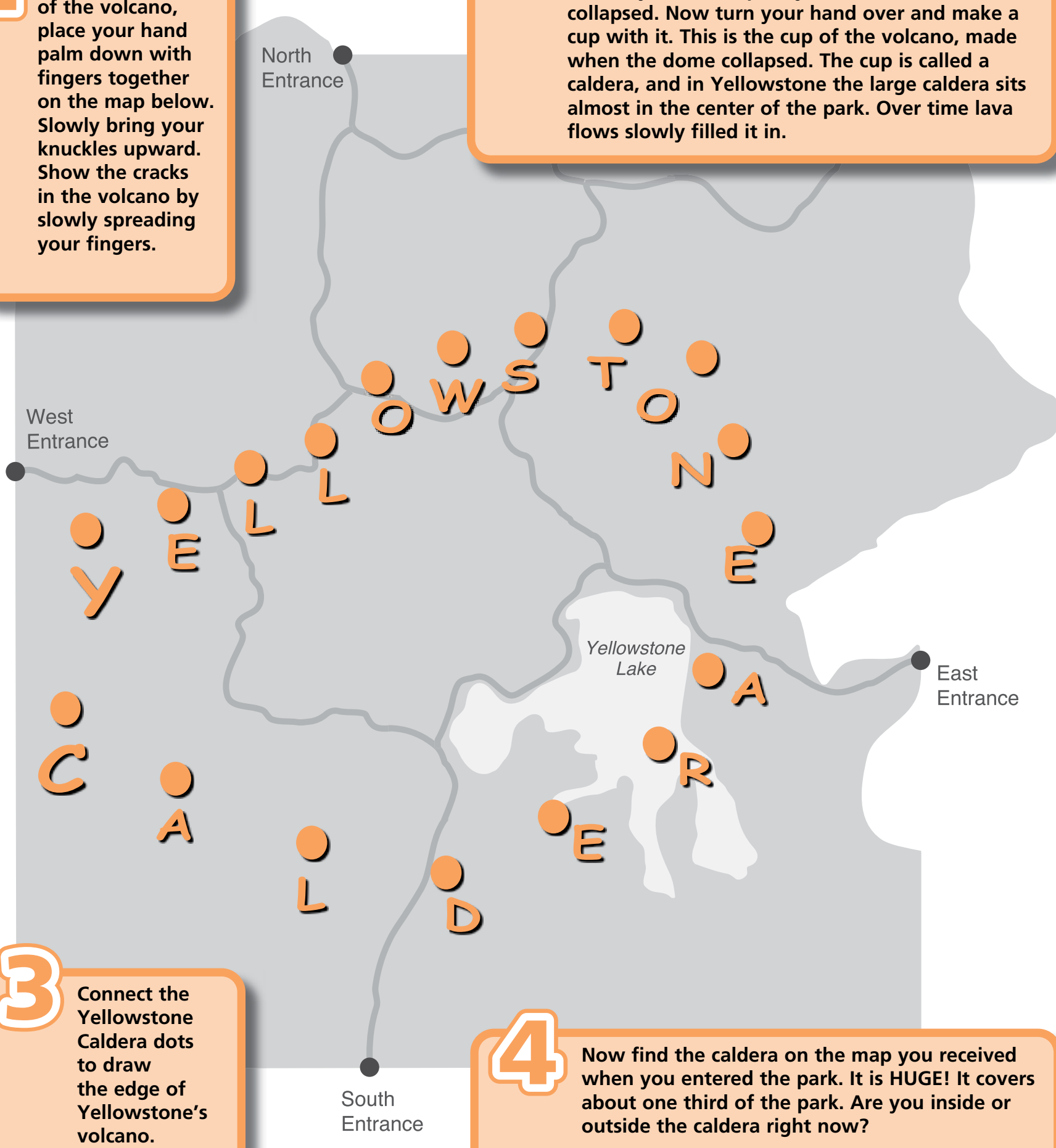


The Volcano's Cup

In Yellowstone about 640,000 years ago, a volcano pushed upward from deep in the earth. It formed a huge dome, and as the earth was pushed higher and higher, cracks began to form around the edges of the dome. Soon fire, smoke, lava, and ash started to flow out of the cracks in the volcano.

1 To make the dome of the volcano, place your hand palm down with fingers together on the map below. Slowly bring your knuckles upward. Show the cracks in the volcano by slowly spreading your fingers.

2 The eruption went on for days, emptying the volcanic chamber. Finally, the dome collapsed. Flatten your hand quickly to show how the dome collapsed. Now turn your hand over and make a cup with it. This is the cup of the volcano, made when the dome collapsed. The cup is called a caldera, and in Yellowstone the large caldera sits almost in the center of the park. Over time lava flows slowly filled it in.



3 Connect the Yellowstone Caldera dots to draw the edge of Yellowstone's volcano.

4 Now find the caldera on the map you received when you entered the park. It is HUGE! It covers about one third of the park. Are you inside or outside the caldera right now?

Today magma (hot volcanic rock) continues to heat all of the water in Yellowstone's geysers, hot springs, mudpots and fumeroles (steam vents).





Great Geysers!

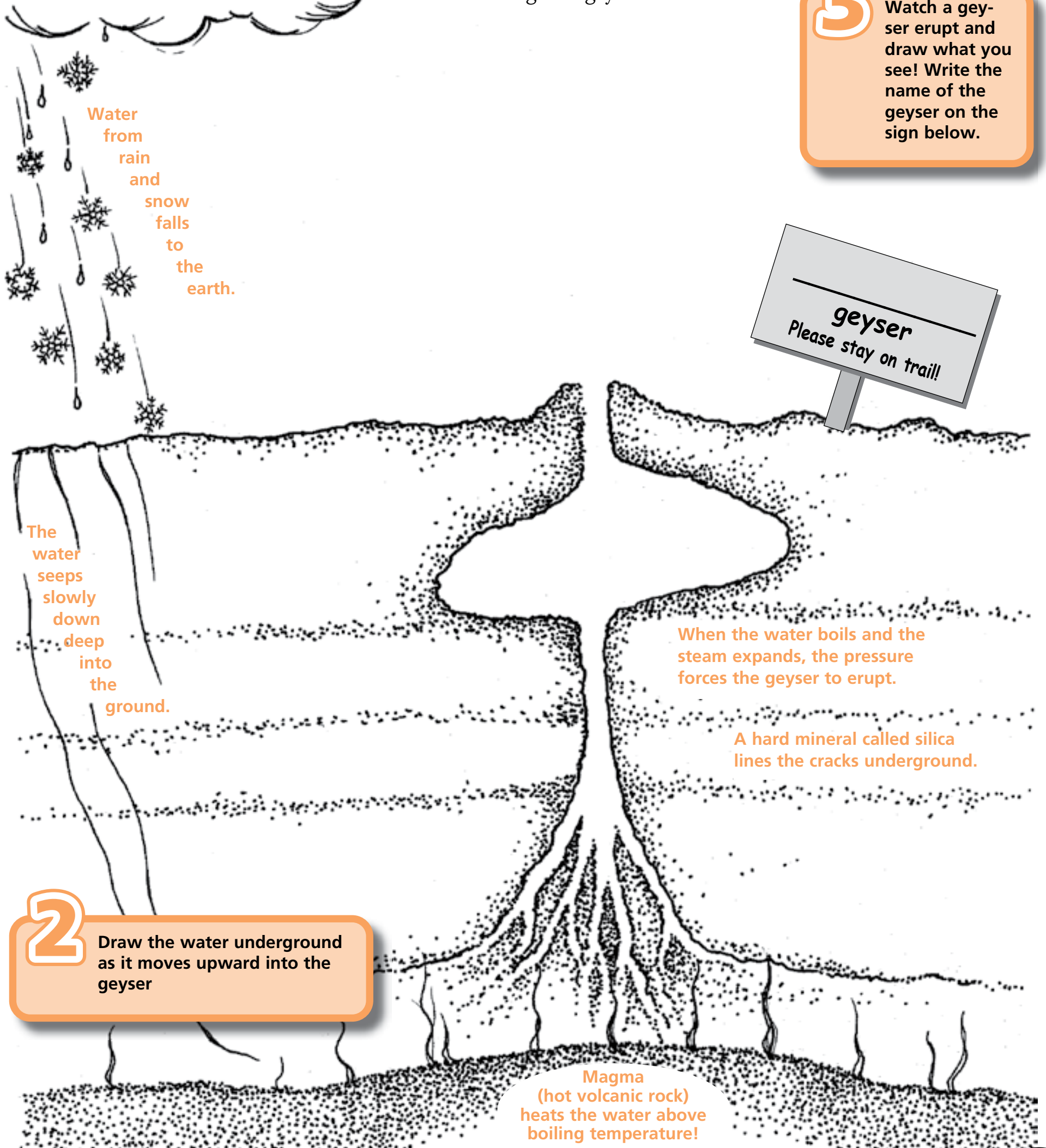
1

The water begins here high in the clouds. Draw the water as it falls to the earth and seeps deep into the ground.

Yellowstone has more than 300 great geysers. Watch any geyser erupt, blasting hot water and steam into the air, and show how it works by drawing the water as it moves through the geyser.

3

Watch a geyser erupt and draw what you see! Write the name of the geyser on the sign below.



2

Draw the water underground as it moves upward into the geyser

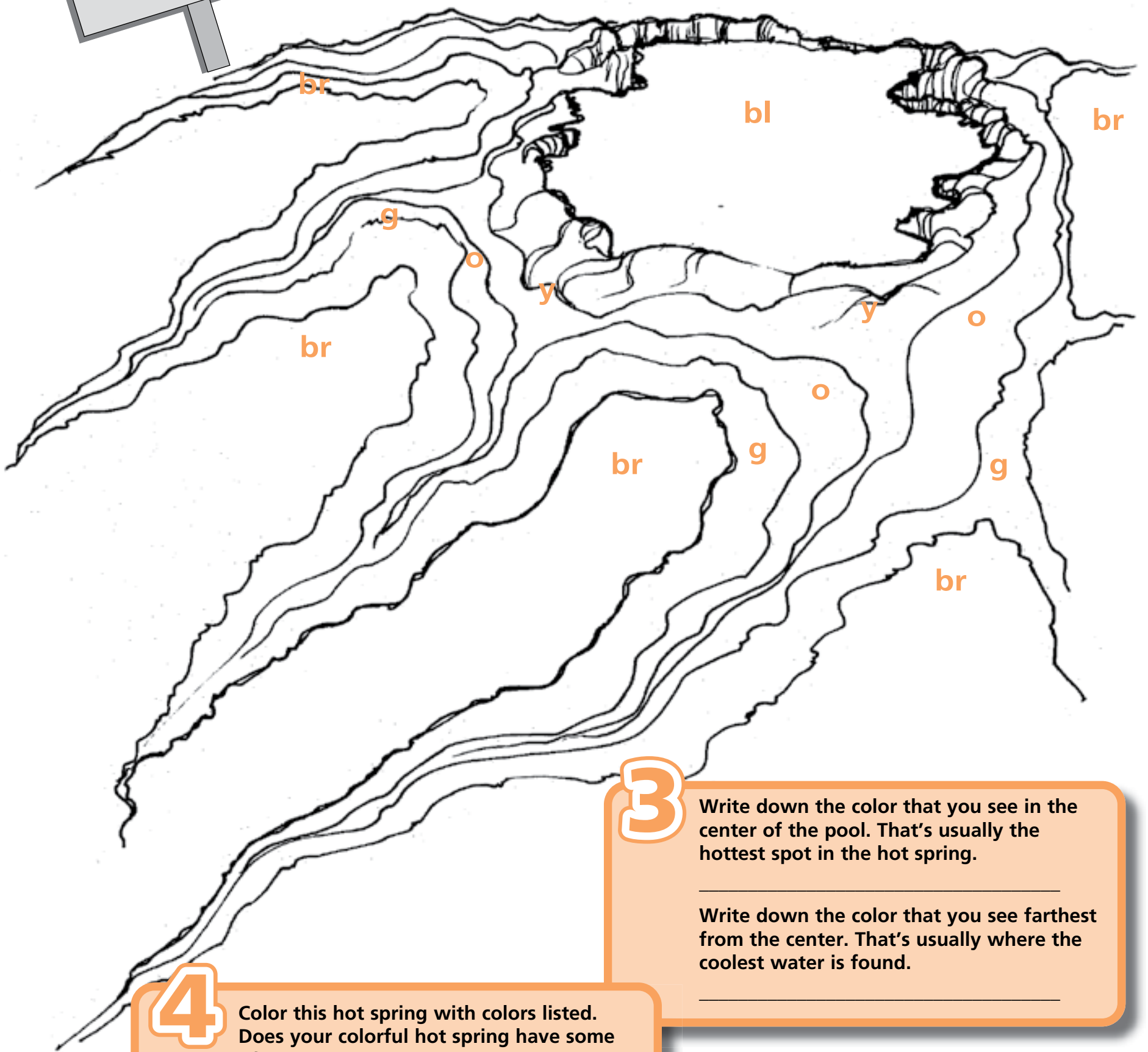




Living Color

1 Visit a hot spring. How many different colors do you see in the water? _____

2 The colors are made by micro-organisms (tiny creatures too small to be seen individually). Huge numbers of them live in very hot water. Each color is made by a different micro-organism, such as bacteria. What colors do you see? _____



3 Write down the color that you see in the center of the pool. That's usually the hottest spot in the hot spring.

Write down the color that you see farthest from the center. That's usually where the coolest water is found.

4 Color this hot spring with colors listed. Does your colorful hot spring have some of the same colors as the one you visited?
bl—blue y—yellow o—orange
g—green br—brown





Yellowstone Is Habitat

Look around you—habitat is everywhere. It's the trees, grasses, flowers, and even the rocks and dirt. It's where all the animals find food, water, and shelter. For Yellowstone's animals, habitat is another name for home.

1 In Yellowstone you can see at least four different types of habitats. Look below and find each one.

2 Where are you? Circle the name of the habitat you're visiting right now.

3 Sit quietly for a few minutes. What do you see around you? Do you see trees? Grasses? Flowers? Do you see any animals? Look carefully at the plants and animals in the habitat you're visiting and then draw them into your habitat picture below.



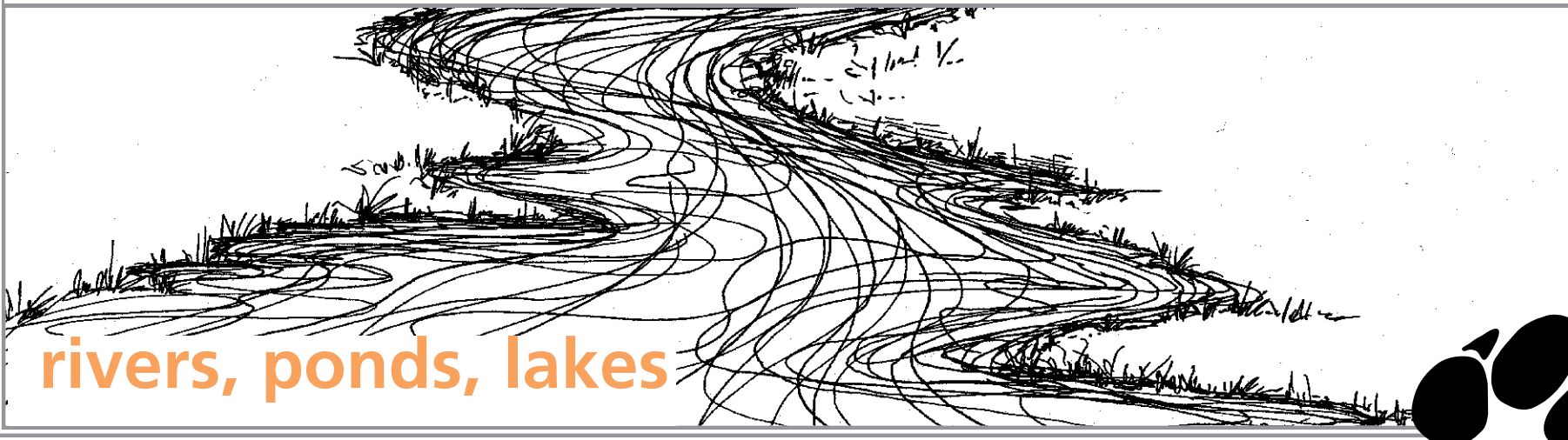
mountain slopes



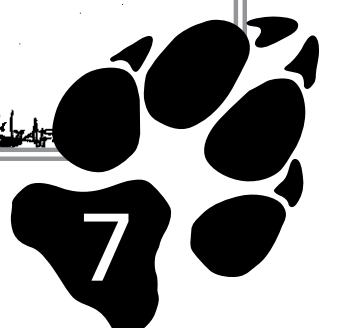
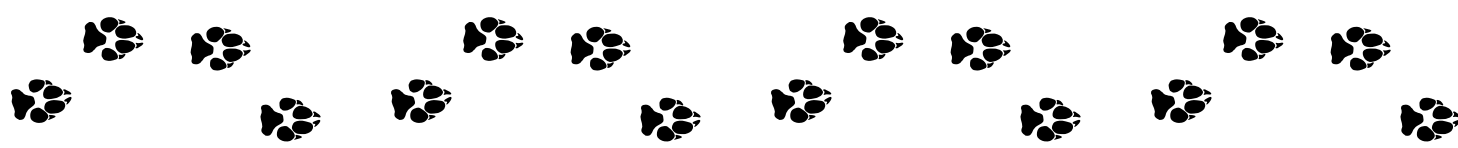
forests



grasslands



rivers, ponds, lakes



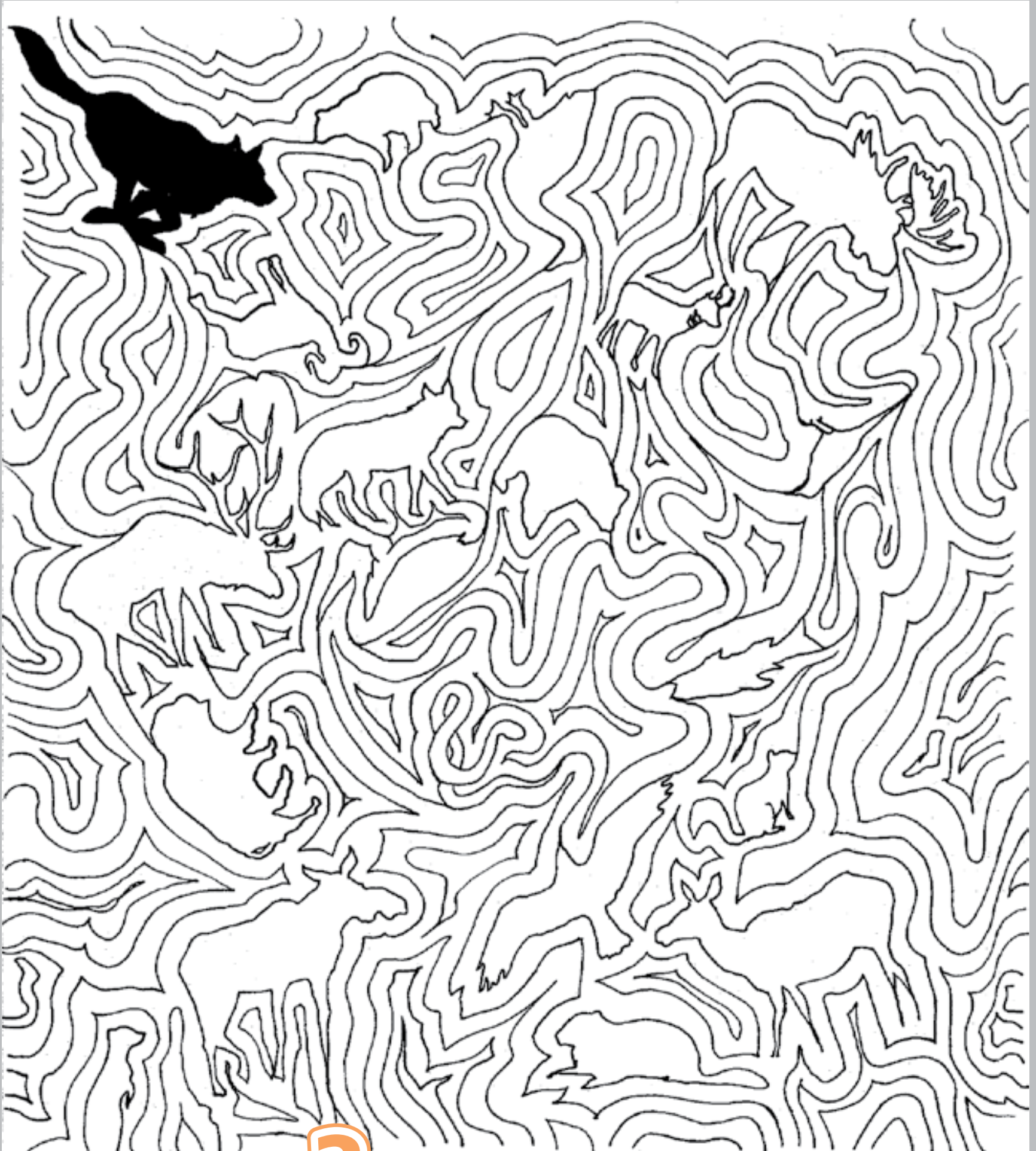


Animals Everywhere

1

Some of Yellowstone's animals are hidden in the puzzle below. Jump into the puzzle with the wolf and color each animal you find.

Yellowstone has lots of wild animals. Many live here all year. Others visit, just like you do, for only part of the year. The park has more than 60 types of mammals (like bears, deer, and squirrels); more than 320 kinds of birds; 16 different fish; 4 kinds of frogs, toads and salamanders; and 6 kinds of snakes and lizards.



2

There are 20 animals in this puzzle! Count the animals you have found (remember to count the wolf that is already colored) and write the number here in this box. To become a Junior Ranger, you only need to find 10 animals.



What Did You See?



osprey

Clark's
nutcracker



Canada
goose



bison



elk



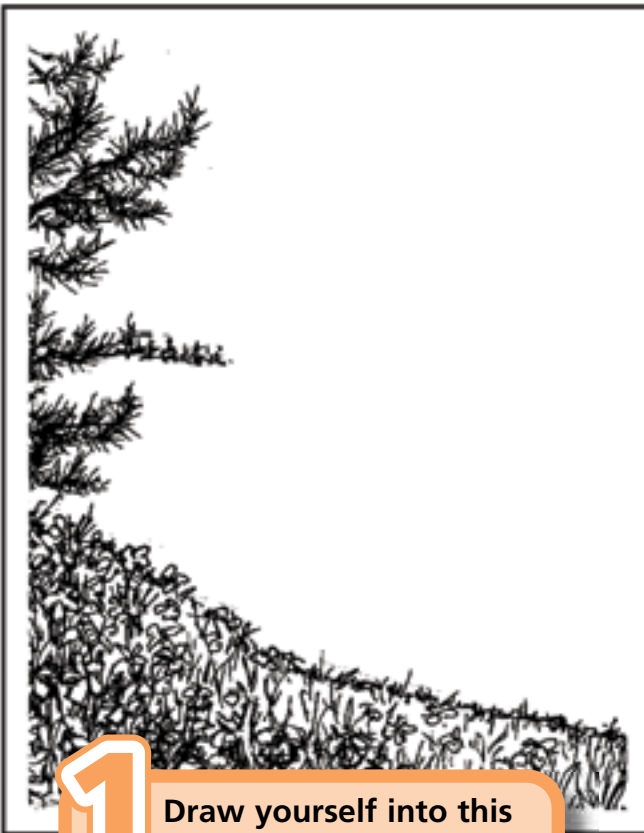
red squirrel



black bear

BE SAFE!
Stay 100 yards away from bears and wolves, and 25 yards away from all other animals. Ask your parents or a ranger to show you how far that is.

golden mantled
ground squirrel



1 Draw yourself into this picture of Yellowstone. Now draw a line from you to each animal that you see as you travel through the park.



coyote



raven



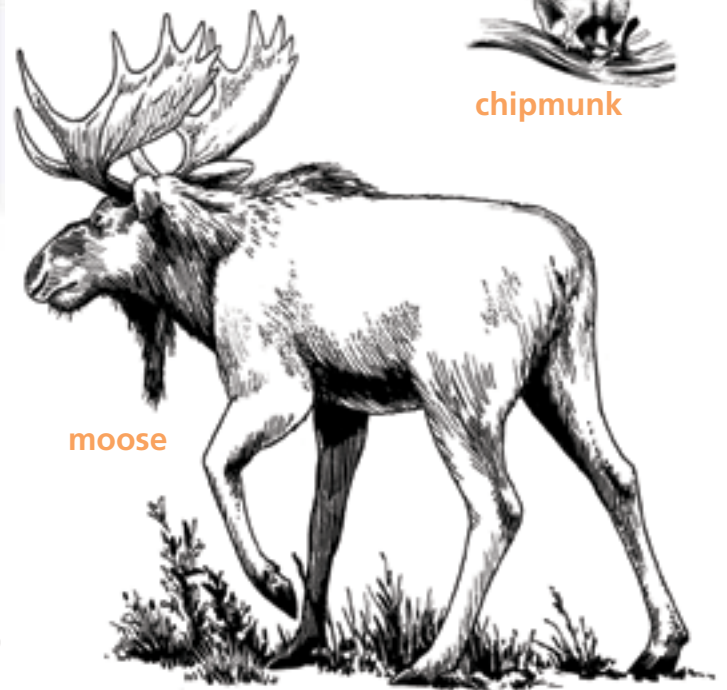
chipmunk



grizzly bear



marmot



moose



wolf

white pelican



3 Draw a square around the animals that you think are smaller than you.

2 Draw a circle around the animals that you think are bigger than you.





The Canyon's Edge

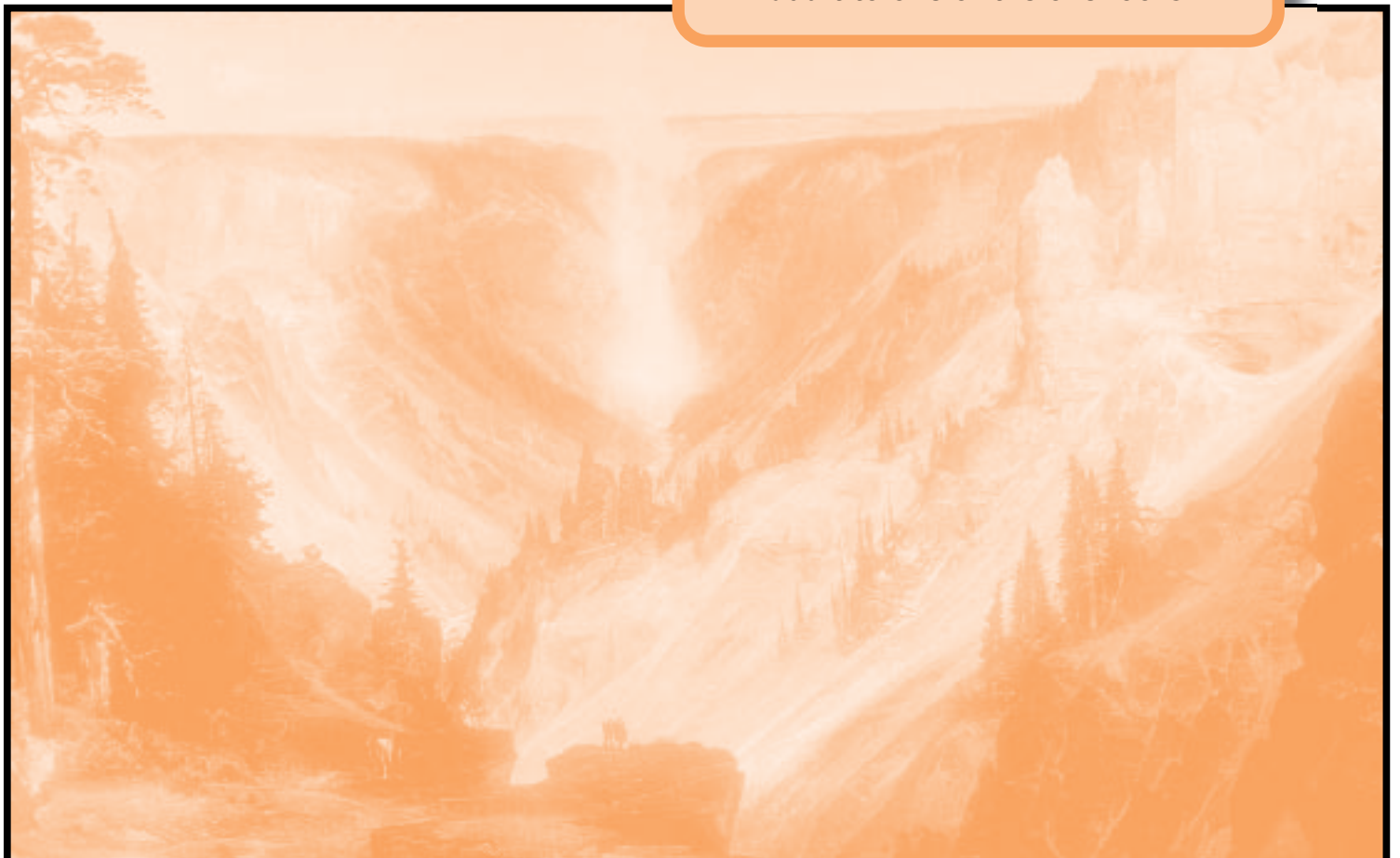
Is this the first time that you have seen this beautiful canyon? Are you surprised that it's so deep, has tall waterfalls, and seems to cut right through the forest?

Yellowstone's early explorers were also surprised to see this canyon. In 1869 some men were exploring the nearby forest on horseback. They didn't even know that the canyon was here. Suddenly their horses stopped! The men looked out to find that they stood at the canyon's edge!

What a surprise! One man wrote that five minutes passed before anyone could speak. Can you imagine what they said?

1

When you visit the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, walk with an adult to one of the overlooks.



This is a reproduction of a painting by Thomas Moran. He painted it in 1872. At the Mammoth Visitor Center you can see other paintings Moran created when he visited Yellowstone in 1871.

2

Stand quietly for at least one full minute and look all around the canyon.

3

Write a poem about this canyon. Watch your poem appear as you fill in the ovals.

Everywhere I look, I'm amazed by what I see!
When I look down deep into the canyon, I see

Four empty ovals for writing.

I see lots of colors, too, like

Three empty ovals for writing.

When I stand quietly, I hear different sounds. I hear

Two empty ovals for writing.

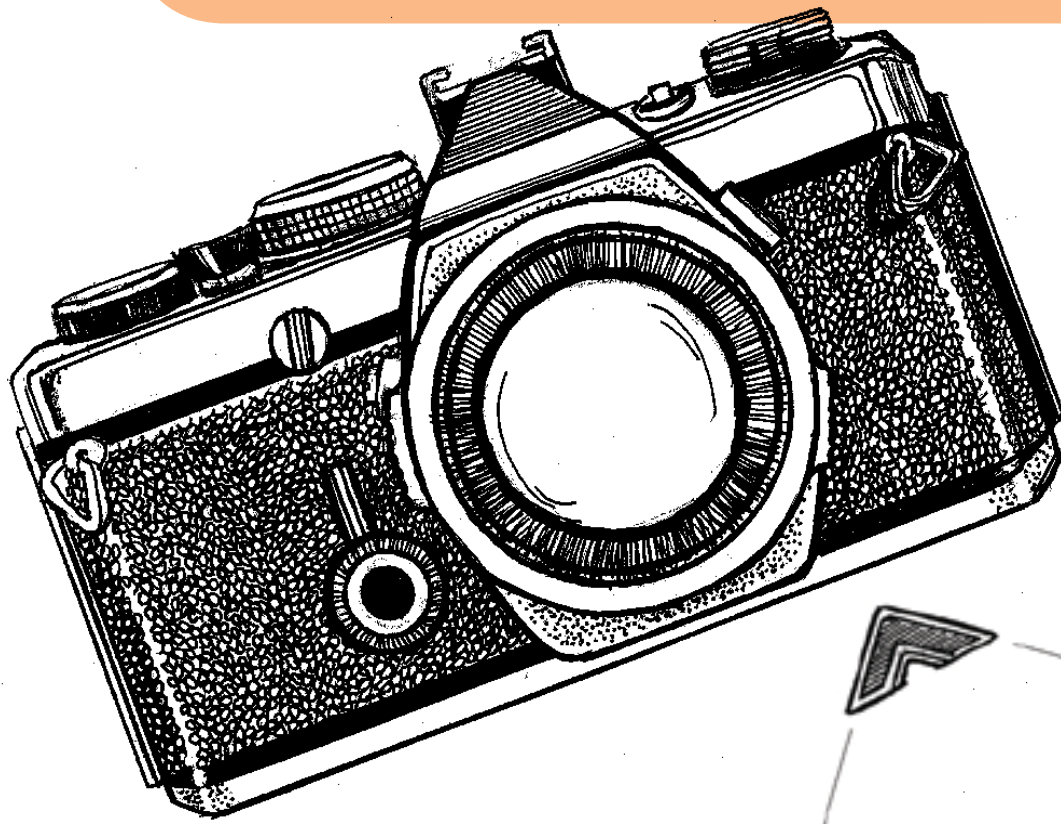
If I were to choose one word to describe the canyon,
I would say the canyon is

One empty oval for writing.



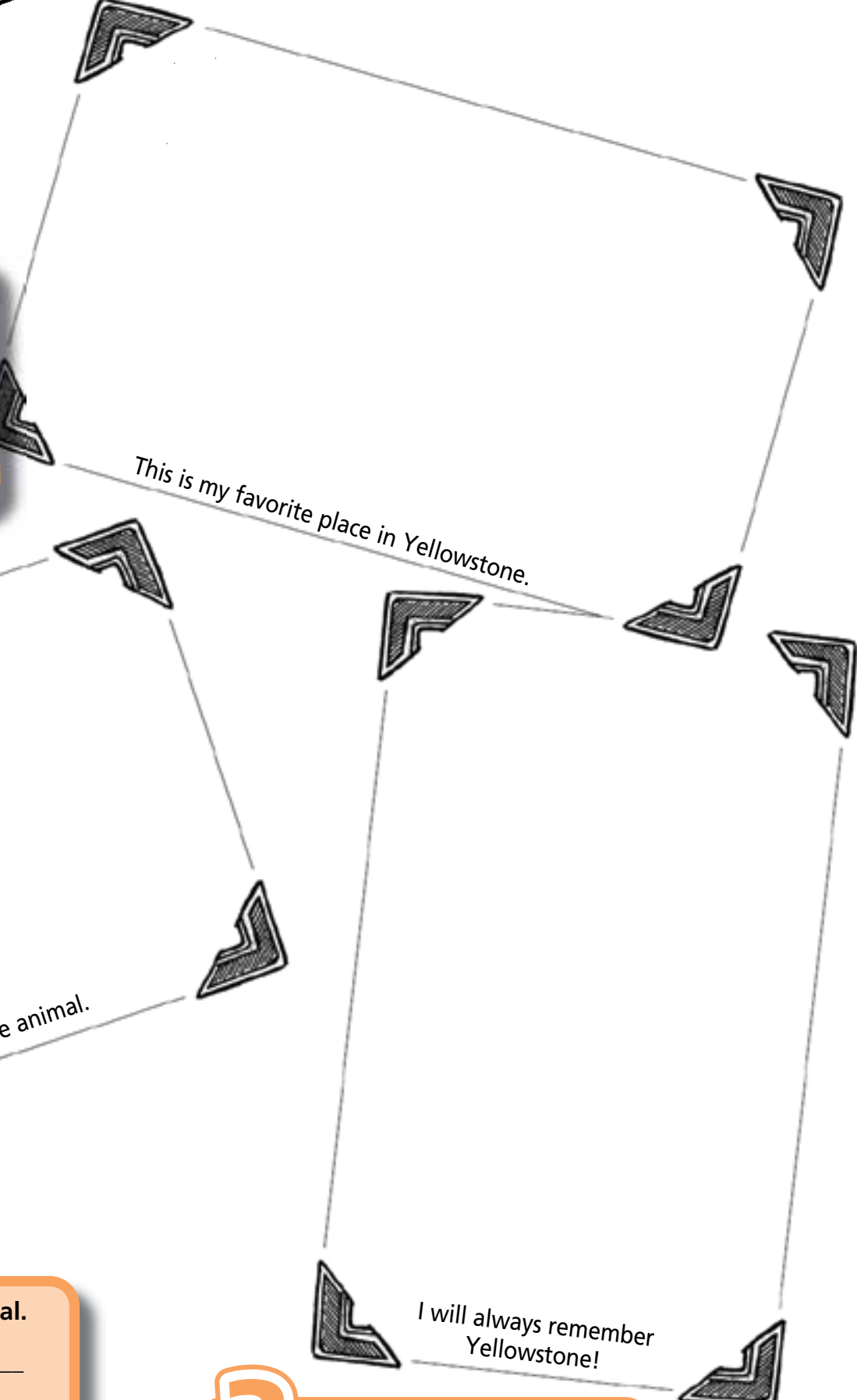


You and Yellowstone



Taking pictures is fun! And it is a perfect way to remember Yellowstone. Imagine you are using a camera to take photographs to show to your friends at home. Hold up your thumb and first finger on each hand with thumbs touching to frame what you are seeing. Then draw pictures of your Yellowstone vacation in the spaces below.

1 Draw your favorite place in Yellowstone.
Where is it? _____
Why do you like it? _____



2 Draw your favorite Yellowstone animal.
What is it? _____
Why is it your favorite animal? _____

3 Draw something you did in Yellowstone that you want to remember FOREVER!





Be a Junior Ranger



This is your chance to learn about Yellowstone and have lots of fun at the same time! Just look below to see what you need to do to become a Junior Ranger! When you are finished, take this paper to one of the visitor centers shown on the park map below, and a Ranger will award you the Junior Ranger patch

Put a check in the box when you finish each activity. All boxes must be checked.

1 I have completed at least four activity pages plus this page (five pages total).

2 I went to one program by a Ranger! (Look in your park newspaper or ask at a visitor center for a list of programs.)

Name of the program

Ranger's signature

3 I hiked one of Yellowstone's trails. Name of trail: _____

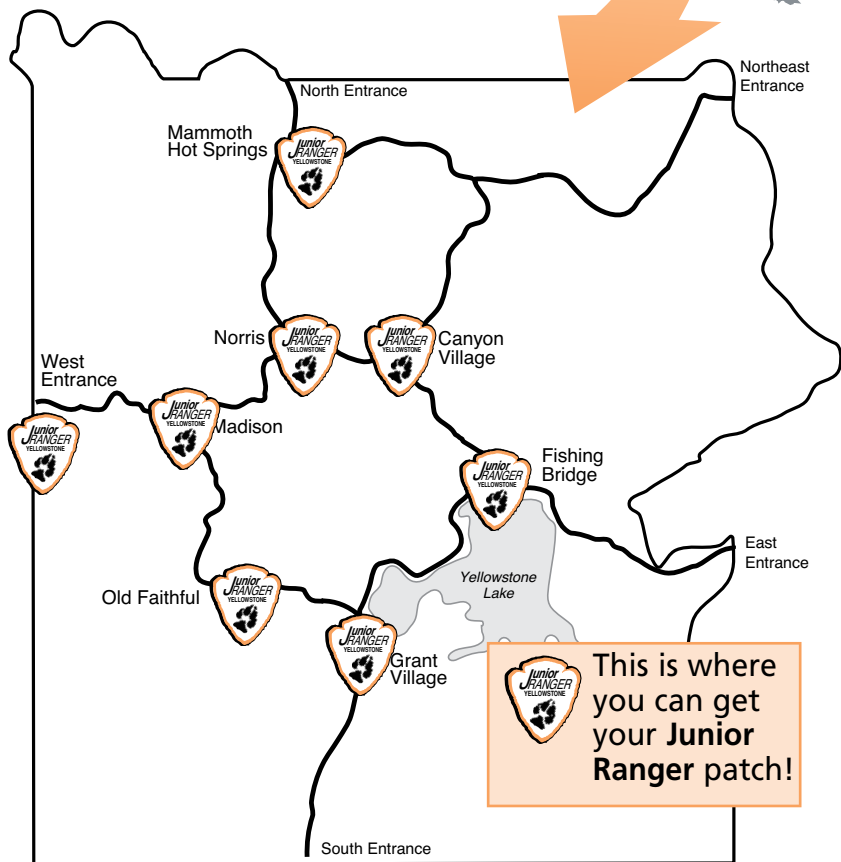
4 I know rules are important. They help me take care of Yellowstone, and they help me take care of myself while visiting the park. I have followed all of Yellowstone's rules:

- Do not feed any animals.
- Stay a long way away from animals.
- Stay on boardwalks and trails.
- Do not throw anything in hot springs.
- Do not pick flowers.
- Put all trash in garbage cans. Please recycle.

5 I want to be a Junior Ranger because _____

6 Read the Junior Ranger Pledge to an adult and understand it (see page 1).

7 Find the state where you live and put a star there. Then draw a line from your home to Yellowstone. If your home is not on this map, write your state or country here: _____



8 This map shows the roads and visitor centers in Yellowstone. Trace over the roads that you have traveled and put stars where you have stopped to watch animals, to look at waterfalls, hot springs and geysers, or to hike, fish, explore, or stay overnight. You can have fun wherever you go in Yellowstone!



This page describes the requirements for the Junior Ranger Program. In order to earn a Junior Ranger patch, each child must fulfill all of these requirements. A minimum of two days is recommended for completion. Adults may assist the child in answering questions and completing activities, but the work must be the child's own. Please read the requirements carefully before signing.

I have read and fully understand the requirements for the Junior Ranger program.

Child's signature _____ Age _____ Adult's signature _____ Date _____ Issuing Ranger _____

The Yellowstone National Park Junior Ranger patch is awarded to:

_____ on _____ by _____
Name Date Ranger's signature

You can also send your completed paper to: Junior Ranger Coordinator, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone, WY 82190