

Caprock Canyons State Park & Trailway

# Junior Ranger Booklet



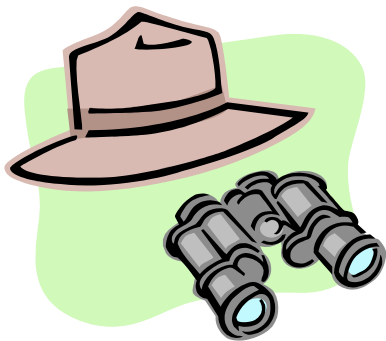
# Junior Ranger Program

## At Caprock Canyons State Park

Welcome to Caprock Canyons State Park! Using this booklet, you can explore and learn about nature and history right here at the park. You can also earn a Caprock Canyons State Park Junior Ranger Patch! But first, you must complete the following activities:

- Ages 5 & under must complete at least 3 activities.
- Ages 6 and up must complete at least 5 activities.

When you have finished, take your booklet to the park office and be ready to say the pledge to be sworn in as a Caprock Canyons State Park Junior Ranger!



# Park Safety Rules

- Always hike with someone. Never go hiking alone and always tell a parent or guardian where you are going.
- When hiking, always carry at least a gallon of water per person.
- If you are biking, always wear your helmet.
- Always stay on the trails.
- Be careful and stay away from the canyon edge.
- Do not approach the bison. The bison are still wild animals and can become aggressive if they feel threatened.
- Always swim with an adult or guardian present. Never swim alone.
- If you find something interesting, please leave it in place and tell a ranger where you found it. All plants, animals, and artifacts in state parks are protected by law.

# Let's Go on a Hike!

There are over 20 miles of trails here at Caprock Canyons State Park. That's not even including the 64 miles of Trailway! Using the map of Caprock Canyons State Park, pick a trail, go on a hike, and answer the questions below. Nature is all around us here so get out and explore!

I went exploring on the \_\_\_\_\_ trail.

Here's what I discovered: \_\_\_\_\_

Look for a plant that has both thorns and fruit. Write a description of what it looks like. What do you think it might be? \_\_\_\_\_

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Look for a rock that is shiny and white. Write a description of what it is like. What do you think it might be? \_\_\_\_\_

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Look for any clues that an animal was there before you. What did you find and who do you think it belonged to? \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe your favorite discovery as you explored on your hike today. \_\_\_\_\_

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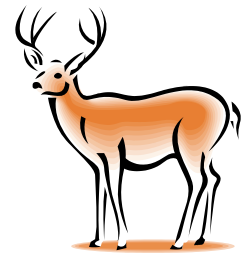
# Animal I.D.

Many different species of animals live here at Caprock Canyons State Park. This is because this area is where two different geographical zones meet. To the west is the High Plains and to the east is the Rolling Plains. These two geographical zones converge here at Caprock to provide the animals with everything they need to survive and thrive.

Go down the Little Red Creek bed and see if you can find an animal track. Draw a picture of the track you found beside the animal it belongs to.



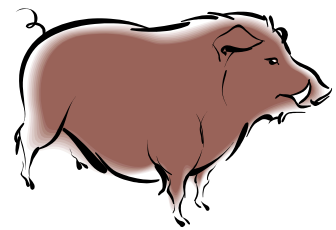
Coyote



Deer



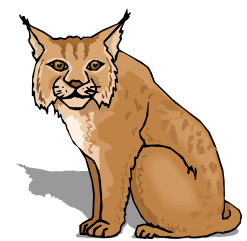
Raccoon



Hog



Skunk



Bobcat

# Spell It Out!

Take a hike down the Eagle Point trail and look for anything that starts with the letters provided.

C \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

P \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

O \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

K \_\_\_\_\_

(Can't find anything beginning with a K? Try kite. A kite is a bird that is frequently seen here at Caprock Canyons.)

# Participate in a Ranger Program

Interpretive programs led by a park ranger are a great way to learn about the great outdoors and the history of the area. Check the park calendar in the kiosks or ask at the office to see if a program will be given during your stay at Caprock Canyons. (Interpretive programs can also be requested in advance for any youth groups camping in the park.)

## Let's Talk About It....

The program I attended was about \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

Before I attended the program, I didn't know \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

My favorite thing about the program was \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .



# History Detective

There have been many different people who have either traveled through or called the area that is now Caprock Canyons State Park home. Use the letters to uncover the hidden answers to the questions below.

A=1	F=6	K=11	P=16	U=21	Z=26
B=2	G=7	L=12	Q=17	V=22	
C=3	H=8	M=13	R=18	W=23	
D=4	I=9	N=14	S=19	X=24	
E=5	J=10	O=15	T=20	Y=25	

What was the name of the group of ancient Indians who first lived in what is now Caprock Canyons State Park?

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_      -      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 6 5 12 19 15 13      16 1 12 5 15      9 14 4 9 1 14 19

Who was the Spanish conquistador who passed through this area on his search for gold?

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 3 15 18 15 14 1 4 15

Who were the Native Americans that he encountered and called Querechos?

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 1 16 1 3 8 5

Who were the Native Americans who eventually controlled this area?

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 3 15 13 1      14 3 8 5

What famous cattleman managed the JA Ranch which this area was once part of?

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 3 8 1 18 12 5 19      7 15 15 4 14 9 7 8 20

Who were the New Mexican hunters of the bison?

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 3 9 2 15 12 5 18 15 19

Who were the people who raised sheep herds in this area?

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
 16 1 19 20 15 18 5 19



# Bison as a Supermarket?

Bison provided Native Americans with everything they needed to survive. When we need things, we go to the local supermarket. Imagine what it would be like to use the bison for everything we might need on a daily basis. Go down these aisles as you would your local supermarket and look for the parts of the bison that you could use for the items below.

## Across

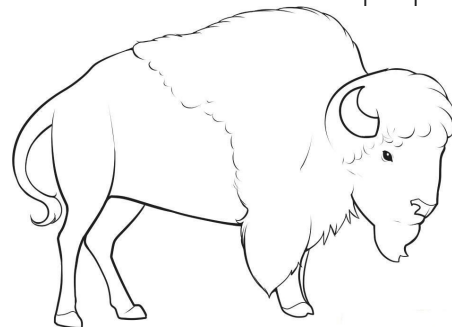
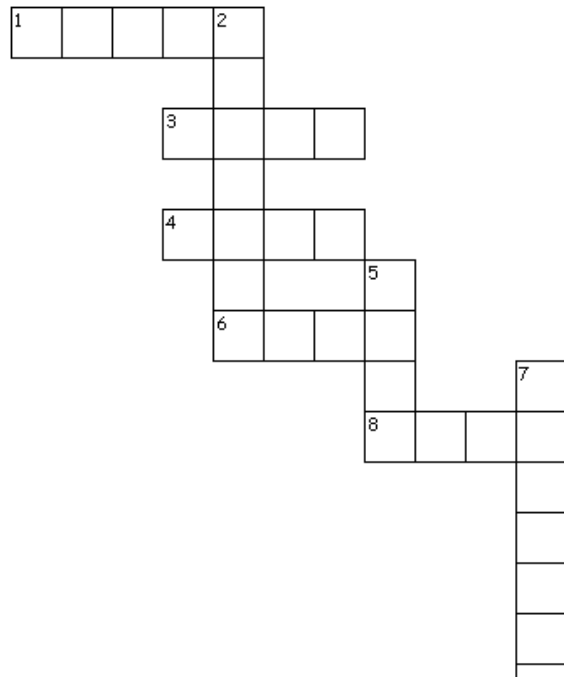
- 1. tools
- 3. cup
- 4. rope
- 6. clothing
- 8. flyswatter

## Down

- 2. pot
- 5. food
- 7. container

## Word Bank:

- |         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Tail    | Hair  |
| Stomach | Horn  |
| Hide    | Bones |
| bladder |       |
| Meat    |       |



# Lake Theo

Theo Geisler, for whom the lake is named, loved to fish and be in the great outdoors. He built the lake and let others from miles around come and enjoy this area that is now Caprock Canyons State Park. Lake Theo is a great place to enjoy the great outdoors and do some fishing. If you caught a fish, draw your picture with the fish and write Theo a short summary of your adventure.



I caught a \_\_\_\_\_ fish.

My fish was \_\_\_\_\_ inches long.

(Need a fishing pole? Don't worry. You can borrow fishing poles and tackle at the Park Office.)

# Traveling Down the Trailway

Not only does Caprock Canyons State Park have over 20 miles of trails, it also has 64 miles of Trailway! The Trailway was an old railroad called the Fort Worth and Denver South Plains Railway. The train carried several different agricultural products from Fort Worth to Denver and even carried passengers in a car called a doodlebug! The train had to pass through a tunnel called Clarity Tunnel. In 1989, the train stopped running and since then, Mexican-Free tailed bats began to live in the tunnel during the summer months!

Take a hike, ride a bike or horseback ride down any part of the Trailway and tell us about your experience.

Did you see a sign? What was it about?

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From what point on the Trailway did you start?

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What was your favorite thing about the Trailway?

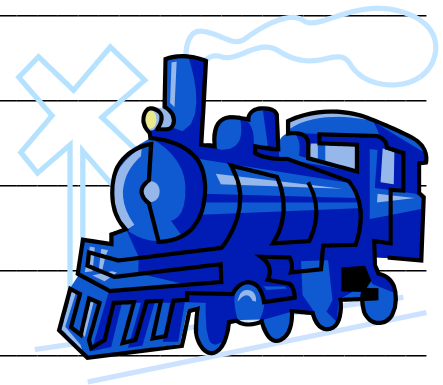
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# Word Search

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

APACHE  
 BASS  
 BATS  
 BISON  
 CACTUS  
 CANYON  
 CHARLES  
 CIBOLERO

COMANCHE  
 CONQUISTAD  
 OR  
 CORONADO  
 COYOTE  
 FOLSOM  
 GYPSUM  
 LAKE

MARYANN  
 MESQUITE  
 PASTORE  
 PERMIAN  
 PRAIRIE  
 RAILROAD  
 RINGTAIL  
 RIVER

SUNFISH  
 TERTIARY  
 TRACKS  
 TRIASSIC  
 TUNNEL

# Be a “Stark” for the Park

O.R. Stark, who petitioned for this area to become a park, knew the value of preserving and protecting the land. He knew this area would be a beautiful recreational area for people and for future generations. (You can see his picture hanging up in the entry way of the Visitor’s Center.) The rangers at Caprock Canyons work hard to protect the park and keep it that way. Help us to continue his legacy and take care of the park. Pick one of the activities below and help us by being a “stark” for the park.

\_\_\_\_\_ Collect some litter that you find by filling it in a bag and taking it to a dumpster.

\_\_\_\_\_ Leave your camp cleaner than you found it.

Please answer the questions below.

Why do you think it is important to keep our environment clean?

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What do you appreciate the most about state parks?

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# Junior Ranger Pledge

**As a Junior Ranger, I want to be a protector of the parks.**

When I visit the parks, I pledge that:

- I will stay on the paths and trails and obey safety rules.
- I will help keep the park clean by not littering or polluting.
- I will not feed, pet, or harass wildlife.
- I will leave all plants, animals, and artifacts in the park for other people to enjoy.
- I will learn about nature and the history of Texas.
- I will talk to my friends and family and encourage them to protect the park, too.

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