



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management



# ***Sloan Canyon***

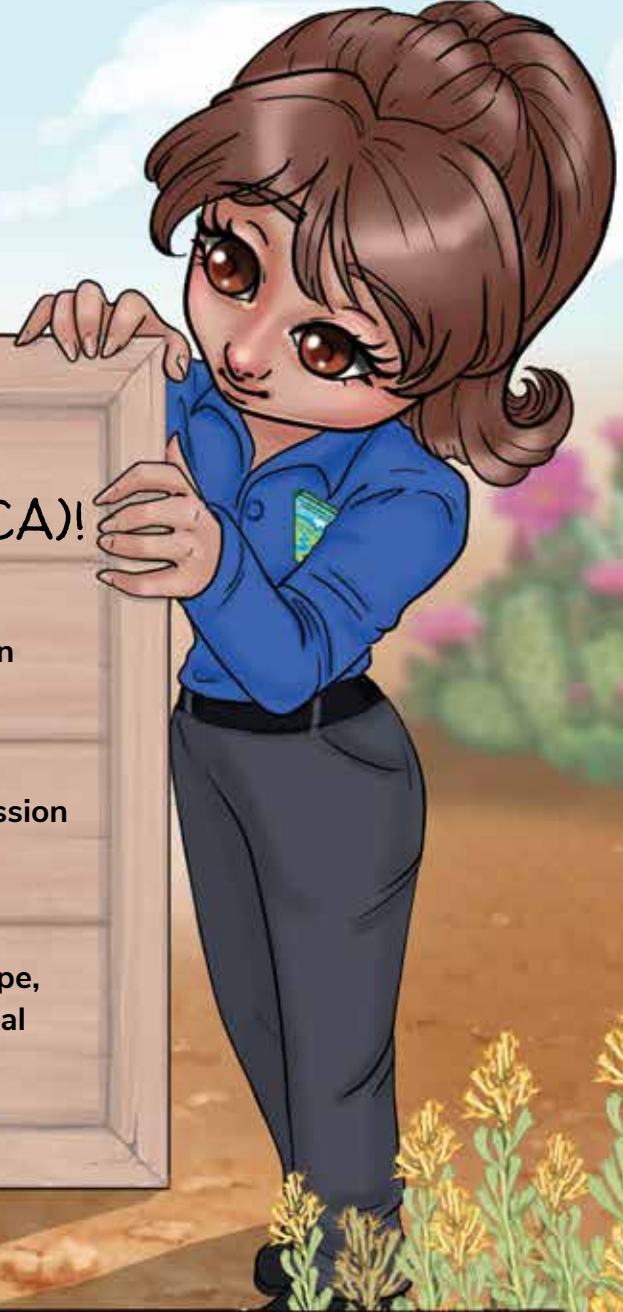
## ***National Conservation Area***

**JUNIOR  
RANGER**



**Red Rock/Sloan  
Field Office**





## WELCOME TO SLOAN CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA (NCA)!

Sloan Canyon NCA is cared for by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Tribal Partners, and Friends of Sloan Canyon.

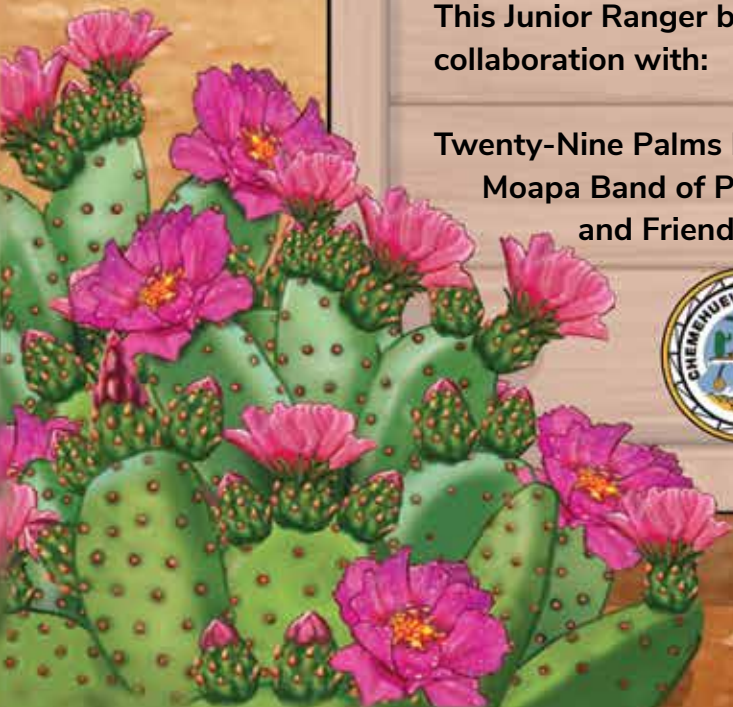
Join us to become a Junior Ranger! A Junior Ranger's mission is to learn, explore, respect, and enjoy their public lands.

Help us protect and care for the plants, animals, landscape, and environment so Sloan Canyon will always be a special place.



This Junior Ranger book was created by the BLM in collaboration with:

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians of California,  
Moapa Band of Paiutes, The Hopi Tribe, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe,  
and Friends of Sloan Canyon.





# NUWU WELCOME

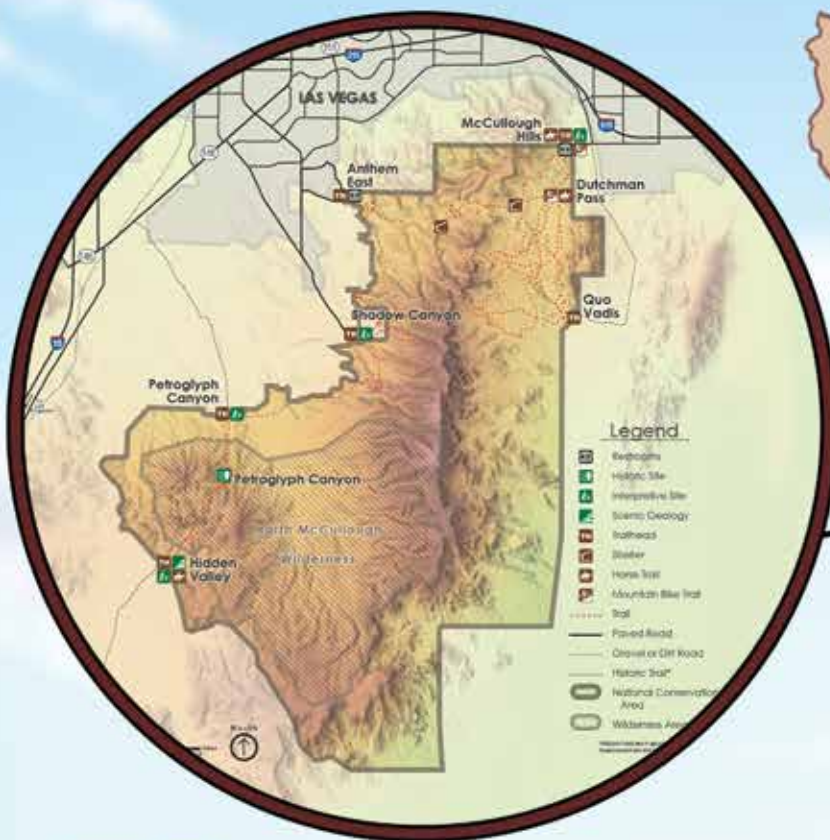
**“Maikwas! Ha-I-yook Mah-nock-eye-um Poo-nic-kine, Ha-gah-dah why-yuh?”  
This means: Welcome! It’s good to see you all, how are you?**

Since time immemorial (from the beginning of time and memory) Nuwu (Southern Paiute and Chemehuevi) have lived in the Mojave Desert’s mountains, canyons, and river shorelines. We invite you to join us as we connect with our ancestors.

Sloan Canyon has cultural significance to the Southern Paiute, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Hopi, Hualapai, and other Tribes.

When a Nuwu life is over those who remain behind sing Salt Songs. These sacred cry songs and dances remind us of our shared history and guide each spirit through our lands. The spirits, or the ancestors of our ancestors, call Sloan Canyon home and left behind messages, or petroglyphs for the world.

As you travel through our land, we invite you to connect with us and understand what once was.



The Tortoise Petroforms are the guardians of Sloan Canyon and watch over the petroglyphs. They safeguarded people that traveled through this area.



# WELCOME, JUNIOR RANGER!

My name is Wahmoontz, but you can call me **Patsin**. I will be your guide during our adventure at Sloan Canyon.

We are going to be enjoying activities that have different difficulty levels.

The pages are marked by an animal guide below.

**Complete as many activities as your age of any animal to become a Junior Ranger.**



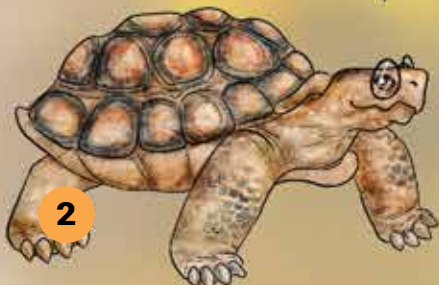
## Ages 5–7

## Ages 8–9

## Ages 10–12



My name is **Aiya [ eye-ya ]** which is desert tortoise in Nuwu **[ noo-woo ]**. I am part of Sloan Canyon's rich history. Keep an eye out for me to learn words and what they mean.



Aiya [ eye-ya ] is Southern Paiute for desert tortoise.  
Aya [ eye-ya ] is Chemehuevi for desert tortoise.  
Patsin [ pah-see ] means big sister.  
Nuwu [ noo-woo ] means The People.  
Nuwuvi [ noo-woo-vee ] means Person.













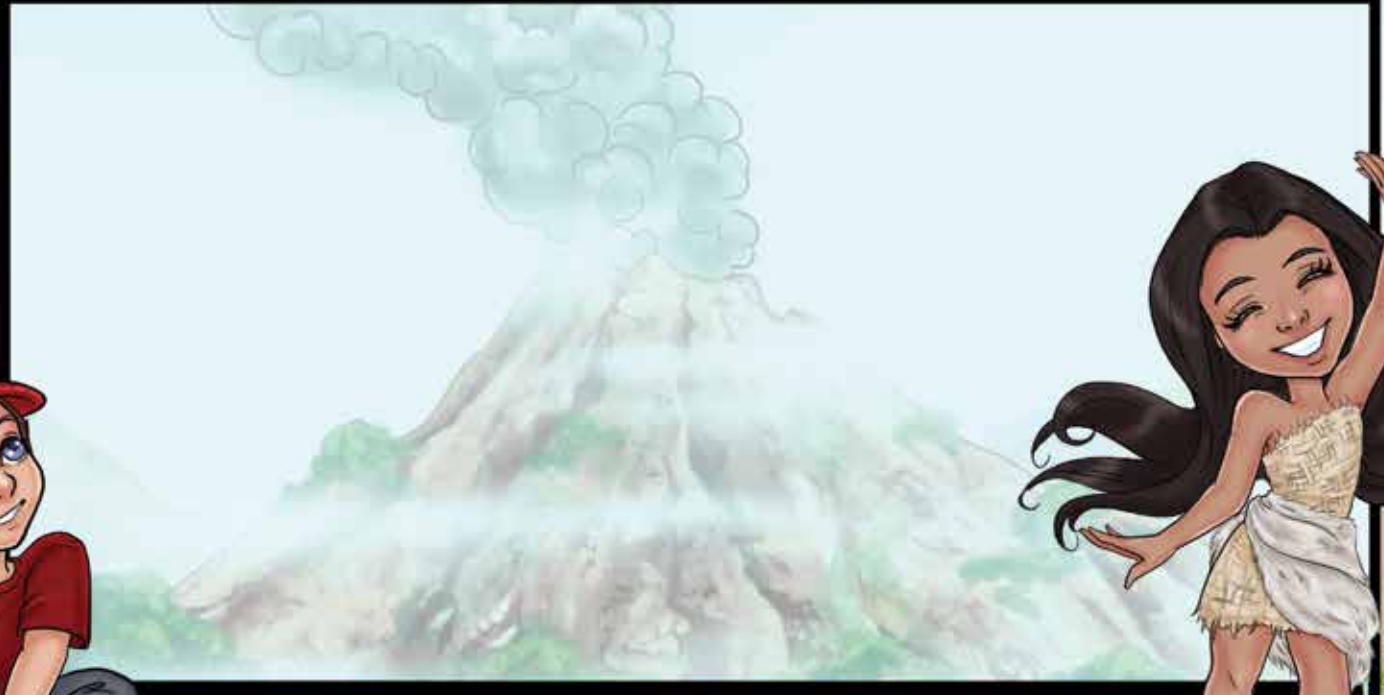
# LET'S DANCE

Did you know the Nuwu shared navigation and history stories through singing and dancing?



In the box below, create your own song and dance about Sloan Canyon volcanoes erupting! Use the shapes for each pose.







Remember each volcanic rock tells part of the story of Sloan Canyon. Please leave the rocks where you find them and take only memories, photos, and new dance moves.



Nuwu have many different songs and dances to celebrate different life events.

Asiwhaseev [ Asi-wha-see-ov ] means Salt Song.

# VOLCANIC PAST

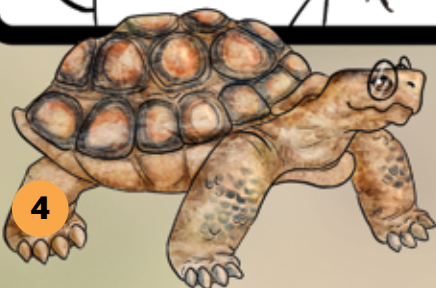
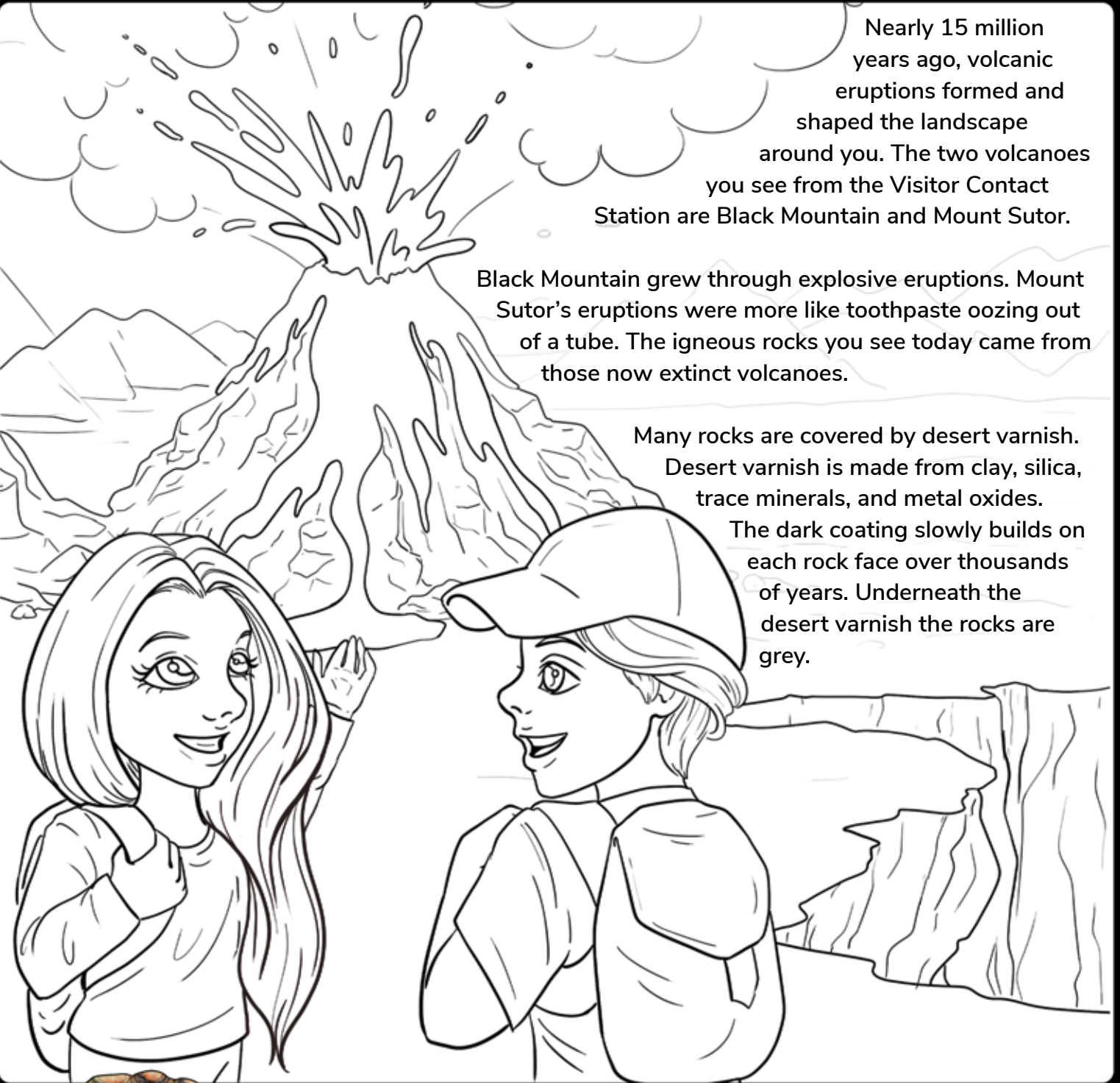


Many years ago, volcanoes in this area were active!  
Read about their history and then color the scene below.

Nearly 15 million years ago, volcanic eruptions formed and shaped the landscape around you. The two volcanoes you see from the Visitor Contact Station are Black Mountain and Mount Sutor.

Black Mountain grew through explosive eruptions. Mount Sutor's eruptions were more like toothpaste oozing out of a tube. The igneous rocks you see today came from those now extinct volcanoes.

Many rocks are covered by desert varnish. Desert varnish is made from clay, silica, trace minerals, and metal oxides. The dark coating slowly builds on each rock face over thousands of years. Underneath the desert varnish the rocks are grey.



Kaiv [ ka-iv ] means mountain.

Tu'bah [ tu-bah ] means black.



# RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB

The people in the Mojave Desert developed many tools to hunt and gather. Draw a line matching each tool to what it was used for.



## Pine Nut Hook

Used for grabbing branches and knocking cones down.



## Net

An important hunting tool used to carry supplies and to catch small game.



## Mano and Metate

Stone tools used to grind seeds into powder.



## Twined Seed Beater

A twined basket-like tool used to separate seeds from plants.



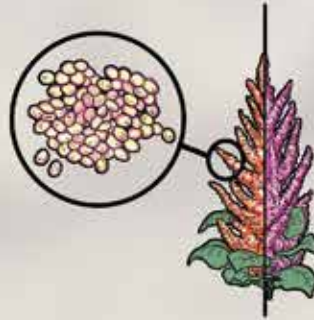
## Closed-twined Burden Basket

Basket is twined or woven and is used to collect and store items.



## Harvested and Foraged Goods

Many crops and other foraged wild foods like nuts and berries.



## Seeds and Grains

Seeds and grains were collected from plants including Amaranth. The flower is used in food, dye, and medicine.



## Mesquite Beans

These hard seeds are ground into a powder to make a drink or cake.



## Pinyon Pine Tree

In the fall, these trees produce pinecones with delicious pine nuts.



## Cottontail

A key game animal hunted for their meat and hide.



Oop [ oop ] means mesquite bean.

Wenup [ we-nup ] means basket.

Nahgah [ na-gah ] means bighorn sheep.



# I SPY

A Nuwuvi woman processes dried mesquite beans into powder using her mano and metate. The mesquite flour is then used to cook many things like mesquite cakes. This process is still practiced today.



There are some items hidden in the image. Can you find and circle them?



**Pine Nut Hook**



**Spoon**



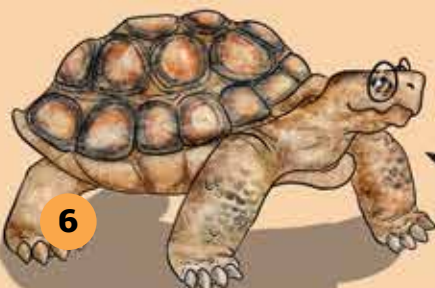
**Bowl**



**Hairbrush**



**Tongs**



Opi [ Opps ] means the pods and powder of mesquite beans.

Mawdots [ Mawd-otz ] means metate. It is a stone surface usually flat or bowl-shaped used for processing grain and seeds like mesquite beans.

Moouts [ Moo-uts ] means mano. It is a stone hand tool used with a metate to grind seeds into powder.



# MOJAVE DESERT SUPERHEROES



Plants and animals that live in the Mojave Desert are born ready to live in this hot and dry desert! They have superpowers called adaptations which are features or behaviors that help them to survive.

Choose a name from the list and write it next to its adaptation/superpower.

**Kangaroo Rat**

**Tortoise**

**Kit Fox**

**Joshua Tree**

**Beavertail Cactus**

**Creosote**



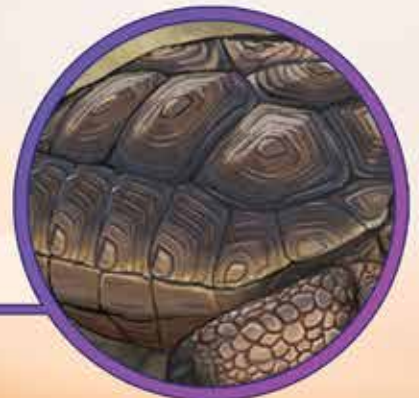
I come out at night to hunt and to avoid the heat. My big ears help me to stay cool in the summer.

My spiny pads protect me from hungry animals and help me store my water for hot summers.



My needle-like leaves protect me from animals trying to eat me. My leaves have a wax on them, almost like a sunscreen, that protects me from the sun and losing water.

I spend most of my time underground in my burrow to stay cool, but my shell helps protect me when I come out.



My big feet help me jump around the desert at night looking for seeds. I get all the water I need from eating seeds.

My small, waxy leaves help me survive by protecting me from the sun and keeping me from losing water.

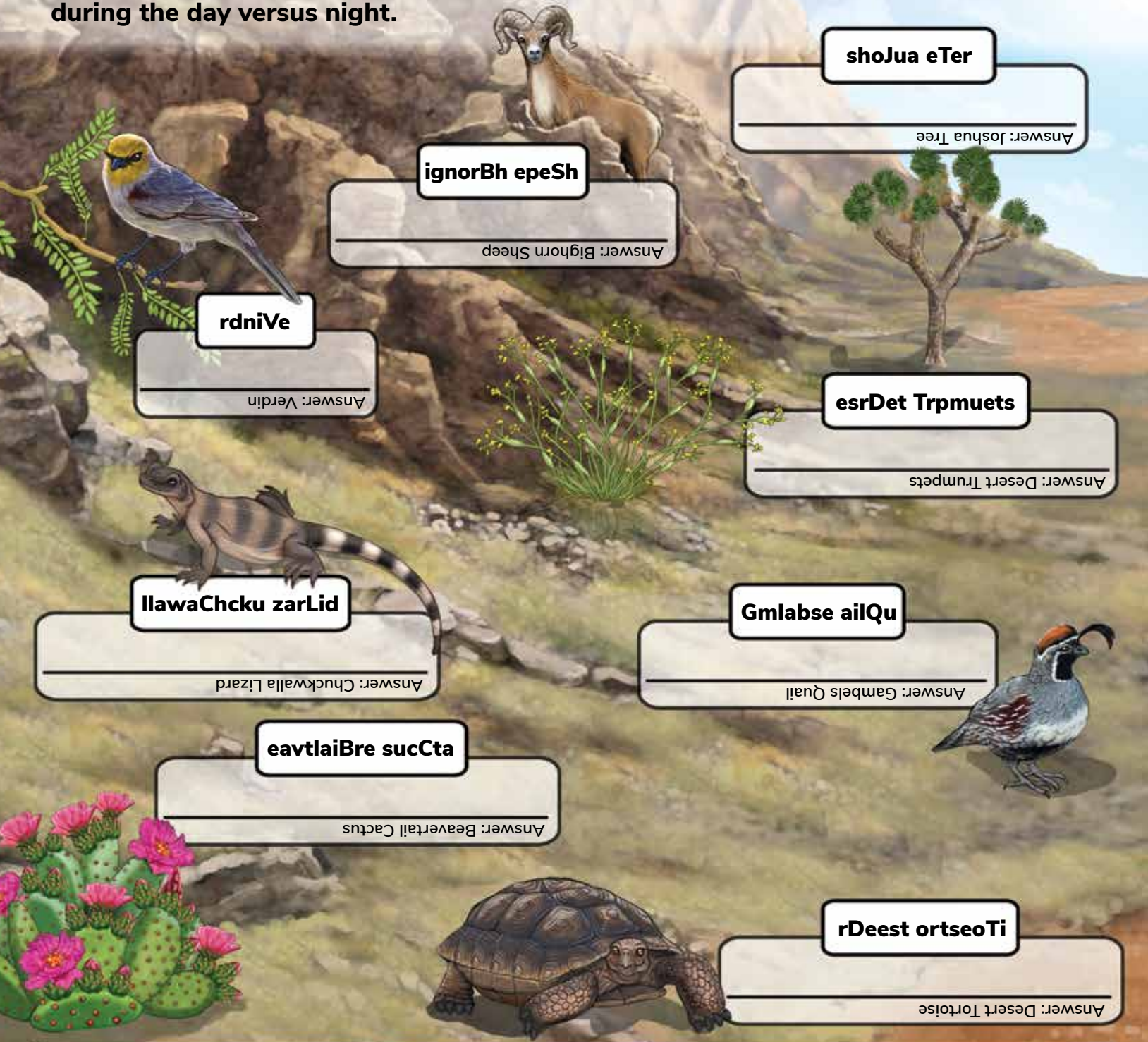


We are all dependent on each other to survive. No animal is above another. A plant is as powerful as an animal because they need each other. To maintain balance in the desert, you must have respect, understanding, and patience.



# DAY AND NIGHT LIFE

Desert plants and animals at Sloan Canyon have unique adaptations that help them survive. Unscramble the letters and see which animals and plants are active during the day versus night.



Some animals only come out during the day. They need the warmth of the sun to heat their body or the daylight to see. Plants that depend on animals during the day have colorful flowers to attract pollinators.



lidlaP aBt

Answer: Pallid Bat



gnitiRal tCa

Answer: Ringtail Cat



itK xFo

Answer: Kit Fox



rtesWen dadenB ckoGe

Answer: Western Banded Gecko



teerDs igEnven esPiomr

Answer: Desert Evening Primrose



nookKraga tRa

Answer: Kangaroo Rat



yraHi iporcnoS

Answer: Hairy Scorpion



esDrte ghiNt dazriL

Answer: Desert Night Lizard



Some animals only come out at night. They have special eyes to help them see in the dark. Some plants only bloom at night because their pollinators (animals or bugs) are active at night. Their flowers tend to be very pale, large, and sweet smelling.



# MESSAGES IN THE STARS

Throughout time, people have used the stars to find their way. The North Star is a bright friend guiding nighttime travelers on their journeys. Constellations, especially in the winter night sky, have inspired adventure stories on cold nights around a campfire.

Connect the dots to discover two constellations in the night sky.



North Star



Chemehuevi people were fast runners and messengers between local indigenous communities. Runners used the stars or Puuciv [ poot-see ] to guide them at night. Chemehuevi people refer to themselves as Nuwu. Chemehuevi has many meanings in other languages like “nose in the air like a roadrunner” or “to run like a roadrunner.” The 29 Palms Band of Mission Indians is just one band of Chemehuevi people.



# UPS AND DOWNS OF HIKING

Hiking through Sloan Canyon is always an a-maze-ing adventure! Complete the maze to discover what unique things you can see on the trail. Watch out for the obstacles if you go the wrong way.



McCullough  
Hills Trailhead

**START**

Watch  
your step!  
Cactus patch!

Dead  
end

Give the bees  
space!  
Go around!

Anthem East  
Trailhead

Bighorn Sheep

Petroglyphs

Lizards

Oh no! Dry  
waterfall,  
turn back!

Flowers

Shadow  
Canyon  
Trailhead

**FINISH**

Birds

Illegal Trail!  
Turn around!

Watch out!  
Rattlesnake!

Black Mountain  
(elevation: 5092 ft)

Trail  
Closed



# LAS VEGAS VALLEY THROUGH TIME



The Las Vegas Valley has seen many changes over time.  
Let's travel through a few significant historical time periods!

## Early Period

Since time immemorial, people have lived in southern Nevada. Southern Paiute (Nuwu) traded with other Tribes from the Pacific Ocean to the Hopi Mesas. Nuwu traveled across the region to see their relatives and participate in ceremonies. Many families thrived by hunting and gardening.



## 1800's

The first European visitors to the Las Vegas Valley were the Spanish. To establish a trade route from New Mexico to California, they traveled

through this lush valley containing freshwater springs described as las vegas (the meadows) in Spanish. The increase of people traveling through the area disrupted the balance of Nuwu lives.



## Missionaries

The Las Vegas Mission was built by Mormon missionaries in 1855. It was one of the first non-native settlements in the Las Vegas Valley. The settlers did not know the land. They brought new diseases that caused suffering and death. They also brought cows and horses to the valley and used the same water sources tribes relied on. The Nuwu were often separated from these water sources.







## 1900's

As the people came West on the railroad, Nuwu felt heavy social pressure from the Federal Government to change their way of life. Helen Stewart, a friend of Nuwu, gave 10 acres of spring fed land to the Las

Vegas Paiute (Nuwu). This was a challenging time for the Nuwu as modern ways often clashed with their traditional ways.

## Hoover Dam

In 1930, construction began on the Hoover Dam to tame the Colorado River. Completed in 1935, it was the largest dam in the world. The ability to control the river, make electricity, and divert water helped Las Vegas grow rapidly.



## Modern Day Las Vegas

The Las Vegas Valley is a sprawling urban area with a world-famous reputation. Visitors come from around the world to enjoy live entertainment and outdoor recreational opportunities.

The Las Vegas Paiute Tribe and Moapa Band of Paiutes still thrive today. Nuwu believe they have a duty to protect the land and people. They are part of the land and will always belong here.

## 100 Years in the Future

Public lands like Sloan Canyon help protect wilderness and cultural areas for future generations. Draw what you think the Las Vegas Valley will look like in 100 years!



# SIGNS OF THE SEASONS



The seasons at Sloan Canyon bring unique changes to the area.

## ACROSS

4. During monsoon season, usually in the summer, it can rain so hard, and so fast the soil cannot absorb all the water. This can cause a dangerous flash \_\_\_\_\_.

8. As temperatures begin to drop in the fall, \_\_\_\_\_ come out of their spiderweb covered burrows walking on their eight hairy legs.

9. A desert shrub called a Cat Claw \_\_\_\_\_ is an important plant that provides shelter and food to wildlife. In the fall the leaves turn yellow before falling off.

10. Many animals live underground in \_\_\_\_\_ to keep them cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

## DOWN

1. In the spring keep an eye out for baby \_\_\_\_\_ sheep. They are born fuzzy with little horns and can walk after one day.

2. During the spring \_\_\_\_\_ like Globemallow, Desert Marigold, and Evening Primrose begin to bloom.

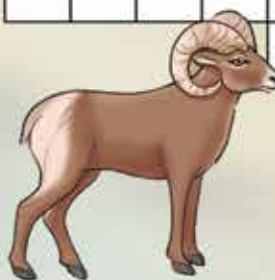
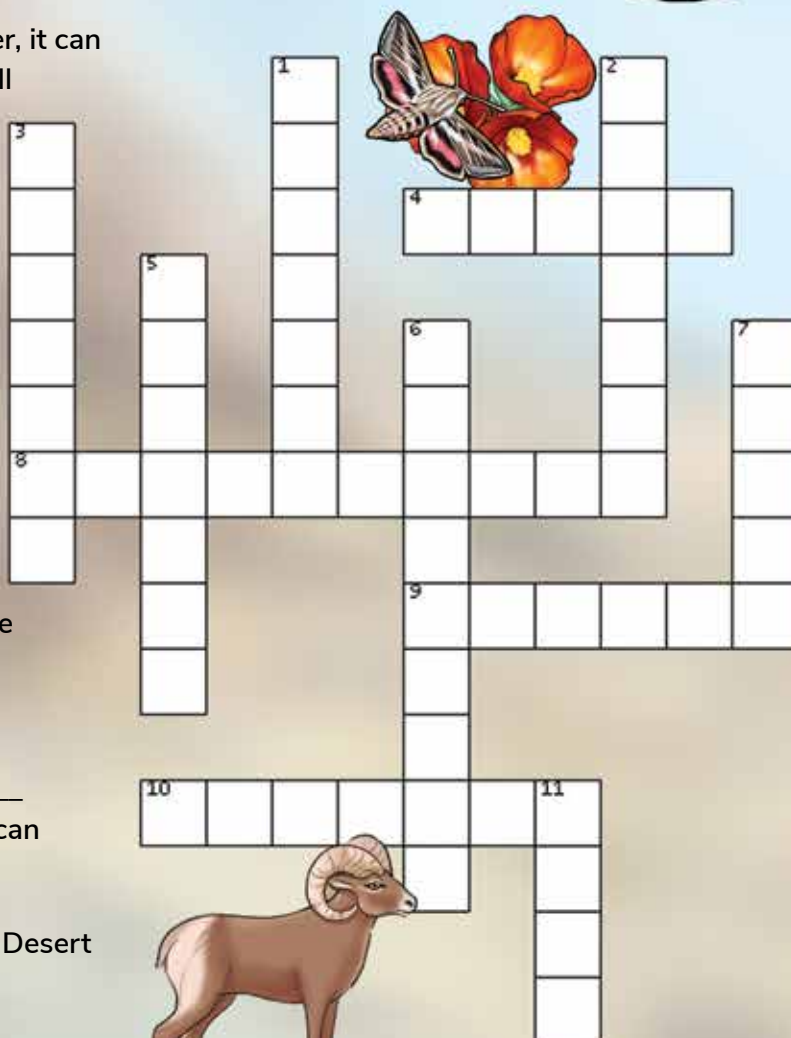
3. Throughout the Southwest, summer heat waves are becoming hotter and longer, and rainstorms are more unpredictable due to \_\_\_\_\_ change (the warming of Earth's temperature).

5. During fall and winter, some animals like birds and butterflies \_\_\_\_\_ from one place to another for food or better weather. They may stop and rest here during their long journeys.

6. Reptiles like snakes, lizards, and tortoises go into \_\_\_\_\_, while mammals like bears go into hibernation during the winter.

7. Temperatures in the summer can reach 115°F. Most creatures hide in the shade but the white and black striped \_\_\_\_\_-tailed lizard may be seen sunning themselves.

11. Sloan Canyon is in the Mojave Desert. During the winter it can be very cold, and it can even \_\_\_\_\_.



## WORD BANK:



# TAP INTO YOUR WILD SIDE



North McCullough Wilderness is a special area where you can enjoy a natural landscape and solitude. Each wilderness experience is unique. Imagine you are in wilderness. Use your senses to connect with the land around you and write what you experience.

**SIGHT:** Look closely at a creosote bush and a small cactus.  
How are they different?

Do they look the same as plants at your favorite park?

**SMELL:** Gently cup your hands around the leaves of the creosote bush, blow deeply, and smell.  
What does it smell like?

Does the smell remind you of anything?

**SOUND:** Stand near a creosote or small cactus and listen quietly to the sounds around you.  
What do you hear?

What do you think makes those sounds?

**TOUCH:** There are amazing things you can see, hear, and smell. BUT there are things you should NOT touch. Look at the pictures below and circle things that are okay to touch. Put an X through things you should NOT touch.



Cactus



Petroglyph



Creosote Bush



Park Bench



Venomous Snakes



There are rocks with marks and images (petroglyphs) that are very special to the local indigenous people. These rocks are cultural resources (evidence of past human activity). If you see a petroglyph, it is very important that you NEVER touch it. The oils on your skin can destroy the rock markings! Once damaged, petroglyphs cannot be repaired and their message is destroyed forever.



# WAYS TO RECREATE!



There are many activities at Sloan Canyon—from biking and picnics to hiking in wilderness and sightseeing.

Each trail offers amazing views and rich history! Share the trails responsibly and protect the area for future generations.

**Don't forget proper gear, water, and sun protection.**

Color in some of the activities.

**BIKE RIDING**

**HIKING**

**HORSEBACK RIDING**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Creatures like snakes and spiders may frighten some people but are important in nature and to the local indigenous people. A symbol of wisdom, the rattlesnake [ kwyasti ] is the keeper of ancient Nuwu stories. Tarantulas [ u qwa'-mpi ] are a sacred symbol of power, strength, and courage.

**Please stay on designated trails to help protect fragile soils, plants, animals, and cultural sites.**



# PROTECTING SLOAN CANYON

A Junior Ranger is a steward of the land. We can protect Sloan Canyon by practicing Leave No Trace skills. It is essential we take care of the land and remember the importance of Sloan Canyon for all people, plants, and animals.

**Find and circle the differences between the two scenes at Sloan Canyon.**







Bureau of Land Management

# JUNIOR RANGER CERTIFICATE



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Junior Ranger Oath

**As a Sloan Canyon Junior Ranger, I promise to:**

- Care for the area while showing respect and protecting Sloan Canyon NCA and the Ancestral Lands of the Nuwu.
- Keep learning about the importance of nature and history wherever I go.
- Be aware of how my actions can impact other living things and the evidence of our past.
- Share what I learn with others.

Junior Ranger Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approving Official Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Learn more about Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area by visiting our website at:  
<https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/nevada/sloan-canyon-nca>



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Carbon Consulting Group

