

# Grand Teton

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton National Park  
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Memorial Parkway



## String Lake eHike Worksheet— Ecology

6th-8th grade, allow 60 minutes

Visit <http://www.nps.gov/grte/photosmultimedia/virtualtour.htm> Scroll down and click the link for the String Lake eHike. As your hike begins and you experience the virtual shores of String Lake, follow along with this worksheet to deepen your knowledge of the ecology of the area! Good luck and happy trails!




### Welcome

1. In your opinion, which of the four elements -earth, wind, water, fire- is most powerful? Why?

### Orientation

2. Which jagged peak is photographed towering above String Lake?

### Be Prepared

3. Using your mouse, hover over the informational “i”  until you see a picture of this hiker. Fill in this picture to include all of the necessary gear that you will need to safely and successfully complete today’s hike. Which piece of gear do you think is most important? Why?



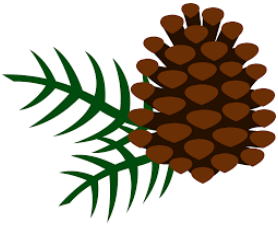
### Safety in Bear Country

4. There are two types of bears found in Grand Teton National Park. Name the two types and at least three key characteristics used when identifying/differentiating between them.

5. Also – the photographer pictured in the fourth photo on the left side of the page is WAY too close to that bear. What is a safe distance from which to watch bears?

## Experience the Elements

6. Hover your mouse over the eight different plant species highlighted on this page. Pick your favorite one and do a little research! Write down one cool fact you learned about your favorite plant, and teach it to a classmate.



## Earth

7. All three major rock categories can be found on Mount Moran, and throughout Grand Teton National Park. List at least two specific examples of how the geology of a place can influence the ecology.



## Water

8. There are a number of questions posed in the description at this stop on our hike. Pick one of the questions, copy it down here, and then answer it. What do you think?



### Teton Fault

9. The Teton Fault is an active fault that produces regular (in geologic time) earthquakes. Do some research to discover the nearest and most recent earthquake, on an active fault, to where you live! Be sure to include the name, year, magnitude, and possible effects on different forms of life.



### Wildlife

10. Hover your mouse over the eight different animal species highlighted on this page (while listening to the accompanying sounds). Notice the young elk and do some research (using/ citing the resources of your choosing) to answer the following questions:

- i. What's the average lifespan of an elk?
- ii. Who grows antlers? Males? Females? Both?
- iii. What time of year do they typically drop their antlers?
- iv. Why do they drop their antlers?



### The Landscape

11. There are a few hidden icons on this page! Name the island in the middle of Jackson Lake. Would you believe that it's possible to walk to that island under the right conditions? Name one seasonal reason that would make it possible to walk to said island.

## Wetlands

12. Wetlands are sensitive habitats. If they (somehow) disappeared and were no longer part of Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, what would the impact(s) be? Name at least three creatures who rely on the wetlands, and what they specifically need/value in the wetland habitat.



## Fire

13. Identify this bird. What role does it play in the ecosystem after a fire? Name one other plant or animal species in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem that needs fire to sustain its way of life. (Use/cite another resource of your choosing.)

## The Future

14. If you had to offer one piece of advice to future generations about how to care for Grand Teton National Park, and by extension, the world... what would you say? Feel free to write or draw your answer.

