Check off what you've seen on the Ice Age Floods Trail

Try to get 3-in-a-row!

★ Bonus challenge! Can you get a blackout?





Solving the *Megaflood Mystery!*

Uni formitarianism

Founded by geologist James Hutton, a theory that landscapes were shaped through slow, continuous, uniform processes. These processes are the same in the past, present, and future. We can observe these processes today and know they have happened before, and will happen again.

Examples:

River valleys, the Grand Canyon, mountain-building.

Catastroph

Theory that landscape features are primarily formed from catastrophic events that were sudden, violent, rare, and widespread. These were short-lived events outside our present experience, knowledge, or nature and have greatly modified the surface of the earth.

Examples:

Volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, landslides, asteroid impacts.

How can we explain the unusual landscape of the

Channeled Scablands?



When geologist J Harlen
Bretz first came to the
area, he knew something
was up. River valleys are
usually v-shaped, but the
Columbia gorge is
u-shaped which suggests
something greater had
happened. Something...
catastrophic.



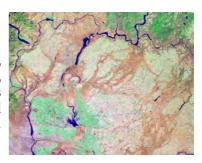
With reinforcement from geologist Joseph T.
Pardee's previous research, Bretz found clues around the channeled scablands to prove his theory!





Pardee discovered these giant ripple marks, ranging from 13 to 30 feet tall, formed from flood waters traveling at a rate of at least 50 miles per hour.

Satellite images of the scablands, from the Mariner 9 spacecraft, revealed braided-stream patterns similar to riverbeds. This reinforced Bretz's cataclysmic flood theory.





This is a massive erratic boulder from a different area, carried from miles away by the megafloods.

Which theory explains these clues? Circle one.

Uniformitarianism

Catastrophism

Grand Coulee Dam Visitor Center

Coulee Dam, Washington

The Grand Coulee Dam sits at the location of another kind of dam: an enormous ice dam! It formed from the **Okanogan lobe** of the Cordilleran Ice Sheet. When the ice dam burst, it sent walls of water gushing through the **Grand Coulee**, carving out what we see today!



Look around at the displays and **watch a video** they are showing in the theater upstairs.

Which video did you watch? What ecosystem do you see around the dam?

***************************************	***************************************
***************************************	*****

Sun Lakes-Dry Falls ****** State Park

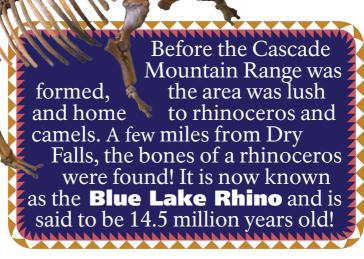
Coulee City, Washington

During the last ice age, Dry Falls was a waterfall

10 times bigger

than Niagara Falls!





Megaflood Wordsearch



Potholes

Swirling whorls of water that grind giant, pit-like depressions into the rockbed.

Mesa

A flat-topped hill with steep sides (like Steamboat Rock!)

Ripplemarks

Tall and long grooves in the landscape caused by flooding.

Coulee

A dry, steep-walled, trench-like gorge or valley representing an abandoned river channel.

Bretz

Last name of geologist J Harlen Bretz, the first to come up with the "catastrophic flood theory."

Rhythmites

Thick, graded, horizontal layers of flood deposits that are evidence of multiple floods years apart.

Basalt

The type of rock that makes up the Columbia Plateau.

Pleistocene

The time in which the last Ice Age occurred.

Cataract

A tall, now-dry cliff formed during the Ice Age Floods.

Fissure

Giant cracks in the ground that oozes lava.

Steamboat Rock State Park

Electric City, Washington



Steamboat Rock was created when Steamboat Falls eroded basalt on both sides of the geologic feature we see today. This geologic formation is

800 feet tall and 4,000 feet

Circle which formation Steamboat Rock is!

Buttes are *taller* than they are *wide*.

Mesas are *wider* than they are *tall*.

Butte

or

Mesa

Dry Falls Visitor Center is full of info on the Ice Age Floods and the Grand Coulee! Walk around and write down 3 things that you learned.





