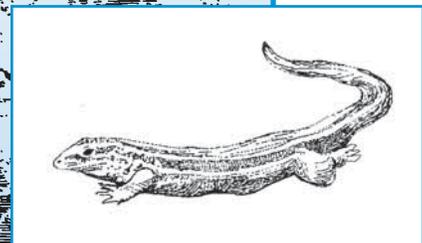
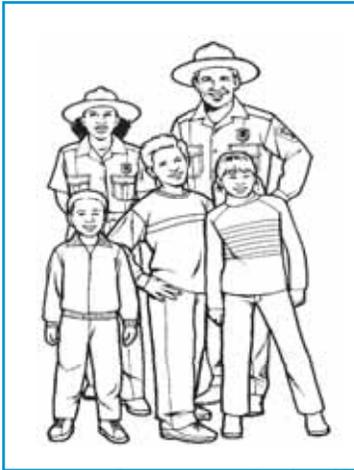


Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments



Discovering the Verde Valley



Welcome to the Verde Valley. If you flew above this region, you might see it as a broad green path winding through the desert. The Verde River provides a steady source of water and nutrients, feeding the green plants that line its banks. Wild creatures and people alike have long been attracted to the river's resources.

You can learn about the life of the Verde Valley by visiting Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments. At each of these sites, you can hike a trail and look for lizards, birds, and other animals. You can see buildings constructed by the people who lived here more than 900 years ago. You can also become a Junior Ranger by completing the activities in this guide!



How to Use this Book

Here's what you need to do to become a Junior Ranger:

- Map Your Visit, page 3.**
- Walk the trail at one site or more. Be sure to read all the signs along the way.**
- Complete at least one activity from pages 4, 5, or 6-7.**
- Complete the activities on pages 8-15.**

You can work alone, with your friends, or even with your parents. When you are finished, show your work to a ranger at one of the three visitor stations. Then you will receive your Junior Ranger badge and certificate.



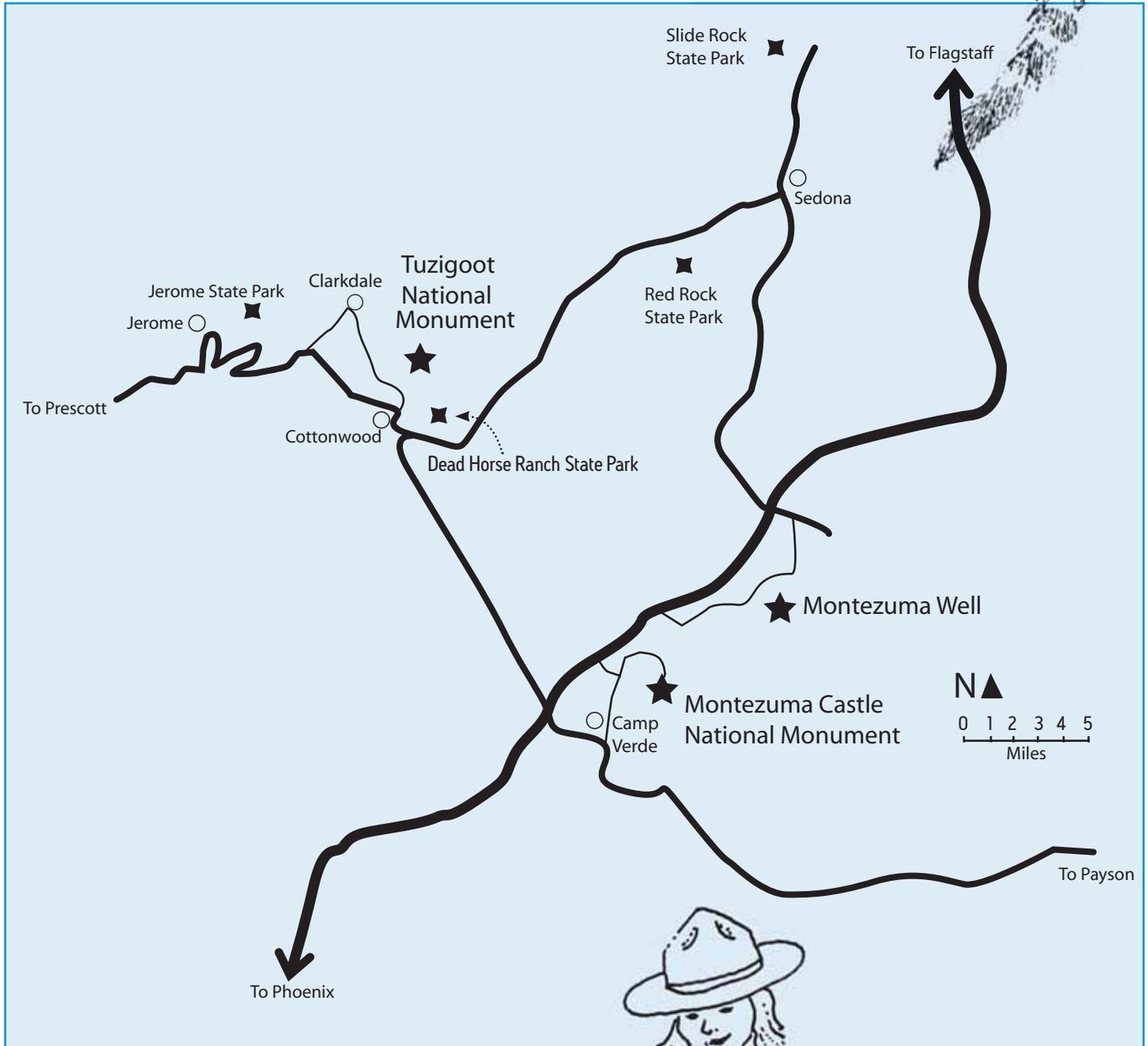
Take Care of Our National Treasures!

During your stay in the Verde Valley, you are invited to take pictures, take away rich and lasting memories, and take your time. But please, don't take rocks, sticks, and other natural items! This will ensure that our wild animals have the things they need to survive. Also, please do not touch any artifacts you find. Leaving things in place allows future visitors to enjoy the same experience you've had.

Map Your Visit



Use this map of the Verde Valley to plan your visits to Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments. Trace the route you think you'll take. Use a solid line to indicate driving routes and a dotted line to show where you plan to hike or walk. Keep adding to the map as you continue on your visit. You can use pictures, words, and symbols to show what you saw and did along the way.



Need Help? Ask a ranger at one of the park visitor centers. Or use the park newspaper.



Picturing the Sinagua

During your visit to this region, you've seen evidence of the people who lived here long ago. Like people everywhere, they worked, ate, built shelter, created things, talked, and sang. Today we call the people who used to live here the Sinagua. However, we don't know what they called themselves.

Montezuma Castle

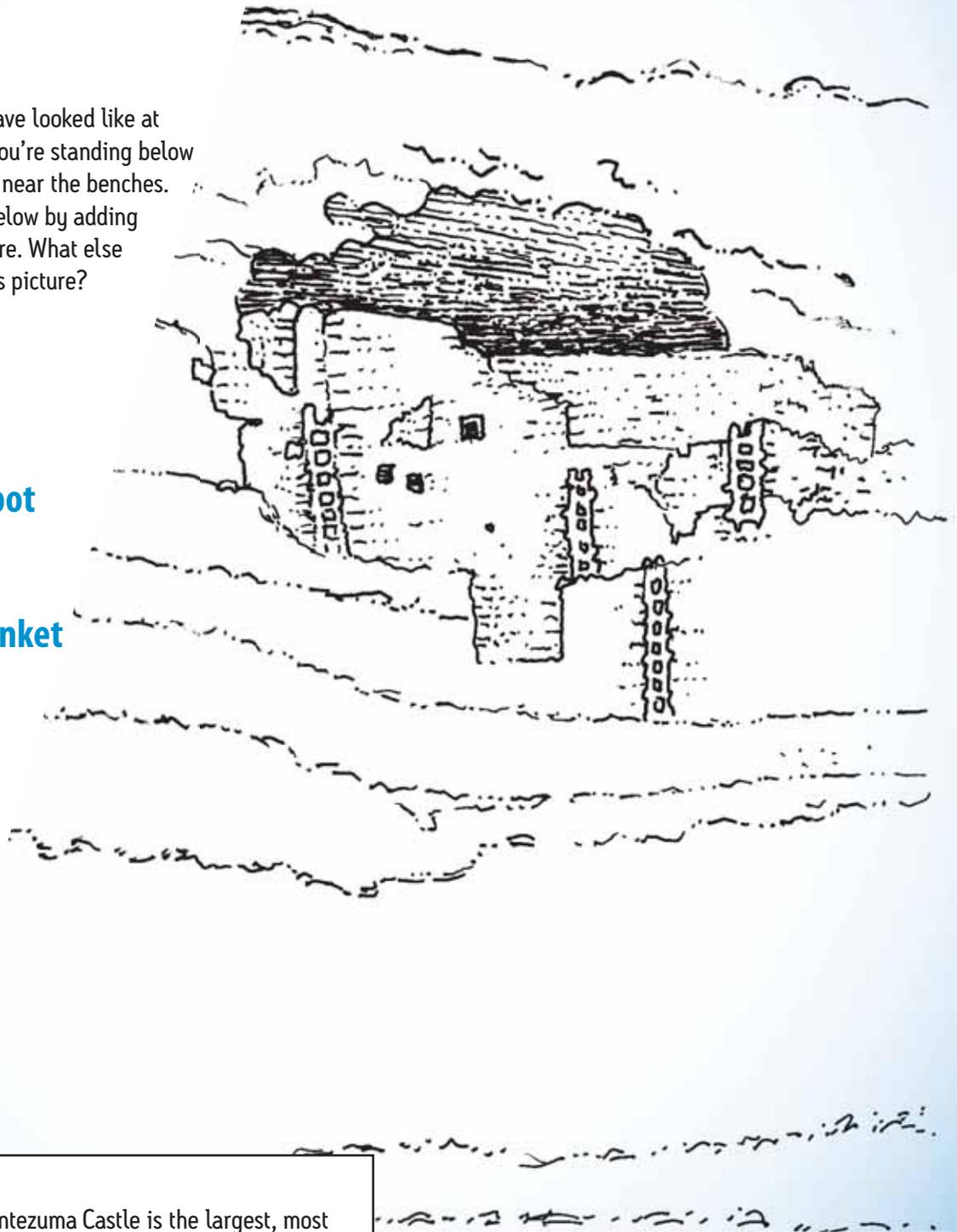
What would a typical day have looked like at Montezuma Castle? When you're standing below the castle, find a quiet spot near the benches. Then complete the image below by adding the listed items to the picture. What else do you think could go in this picture?

Dog

Woman making a pot

Children running

Man weaving a blanket

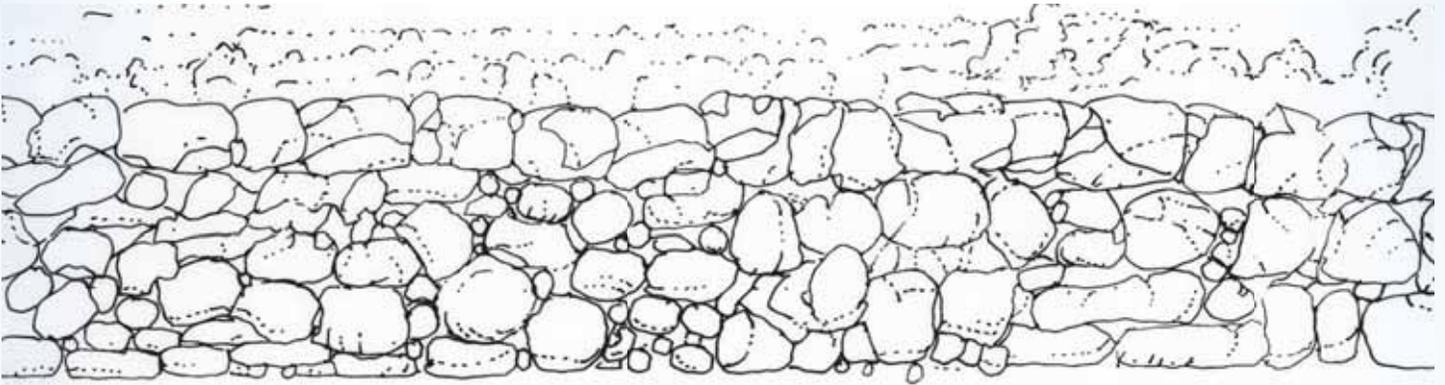


Did You Know: Montezuma Castle is the largest, most accessible, and best-preserved cliff dwelling in the Southwest.

Tuzigoot

Imagine what a day would look like at Tuzigoot. Climb the tower, sit down, and complete the sketch. Fill it in with the items listed below. Add anything else you think might have happened here.

Man making jewelry, Family eating, Basket with squash and ears of corn in it, Child grinding corn

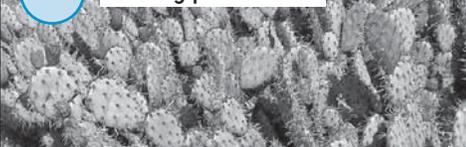


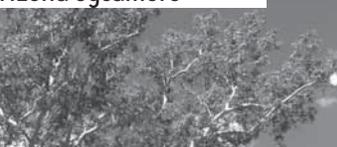
Did You Know: Tuzigoot is one of the largest known pueblos built by the people we call the Sinagua.

Montezuma Well Scavenger Hunt

Montezuma Well is a fascinating natural feature—a pool of water fed by a warm underground spring. About a thousand years ago, farmers built canals to carry water from the well to their gardens.

Today, this place attracts many critters. See how many of these creatures or features below you can find. Fill in your observations: where you saw it, what it was doing, or anything else that was interesting about this sighting. Try answering the follow-up question using your best guess and desert field guides, if you have them.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check as you find these	Answer this question	Observations
<input type="checkbox"/> Desert spiny lizard 	What do you think this lizard is doing?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Whiptail lizard 	Why do you think it has this name?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tarantula hawk 	What do you notice about this creature?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prickly pear cactus 	What do you think eats this plant?	
<input type="checkbox"/> A bird of prey 	Where do you think this bird sleeps?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ducks 	What do you think they eat?	

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check as you find these	Answer this question	Observations
<input type="checkbox"/> Rock squirrel 	Why do you think this mammal is here?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation canal 	What does the water feel like?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Arizona sycamore  <small>photo S. Watson</small>	What shape are its leaves?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sonoran mud turtle 	Where do you think this turtle sleeps?	

Some images: U.S. Fish and Wildlife service

Did You Know: There are no fish in Montezuma Well because its high concentrations of carbon dioxide paralyze the fish and make it impossible for them to breathe!

Did You Know: Sonoran mud turtles are native to Montezuma Well. Red-eared sliders have been introduced by people, and threaten to crowd out the mud turtles. That's why rangers trap and relocate red-eared sliders.

Did You Know: Montezuma Well is home to five species of animals found nowhere else on Earth. These unique critters include a spring snail, a leech, a water scorpion, alga, and shrimplike organisms called amphipods.

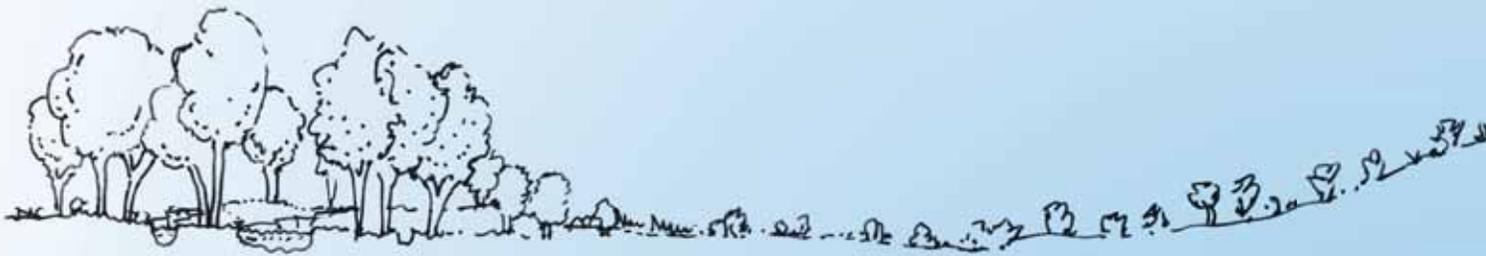


Habitat Match

The Verde Valley features a variety of habitats—places that give local wildlife the things they need to survive. Try to find these habitats as you walk the trails. Do you see any of these animals? What else do you see?

Match the animals to the habitat where they're most likely to be.

Draw a line from the critter to its habitat.



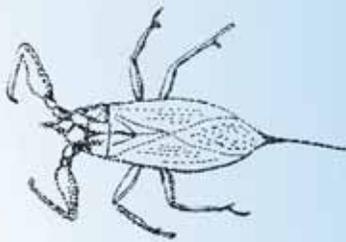
Mountain Lion

The biggest predator in these parts, I venture out in the dark desert night to hunt for prey. My eyes can detect movement even in limited light.



Desert Grassland Whiptail

You can see me zipping across the rocks. I'm one of the few animals you'll see when the temperature tops 90 degrees!



Water Scorpion

I dwell in freshwater, coming out at night to feed on the shrimp-like creatures that swim here too.

Ringtail

I use my lengthy tail for balance as I climb across rocky ledges. Some people think I'm catlike, but I'm really a member of the raccoon family.





Pinacate Beetle

I crawl around the desert looking for food. Watch out—if I'm approached by a predator, I'll lift my abdomen and emit a bad-smelling odor!



Rock Squirrel

You may see me scaling what seem like sheer rock walls. But actually, I'm using tiny cracks in the wall as footholds to race up and down.



Rattlesnake

When desert temperatures soar, I slither under rocks to keep myself cool.



Black-tailed Jackrabbit

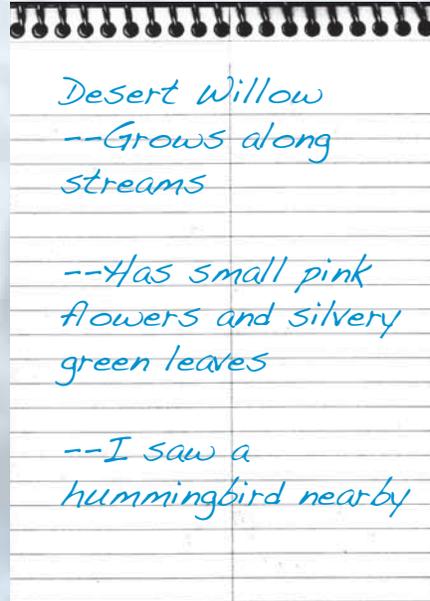
Large ears help me keep cool in the desert heat. They also help me hear the sorts of threatening sounds that set me hopping!



Depending on Plants

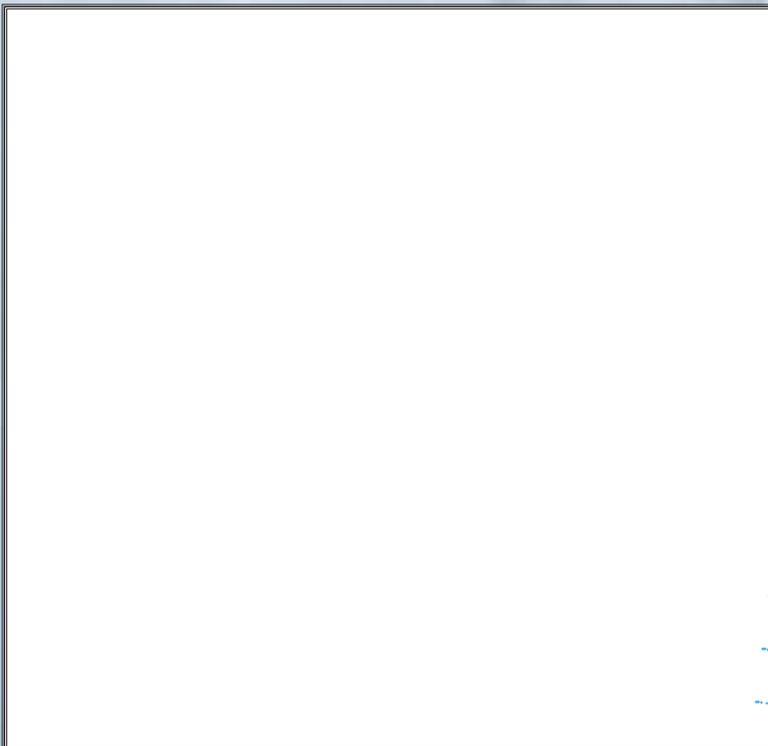
The people living here depended on the plants of the Verde Valley for food, building material, medicine, and clothing. That meant they were very familiar with the looks and features of many plants. Try to locate the five plants listed below. Then make sketches and field notes describing some of the notable characteristics of each one.

Example:



Creosote

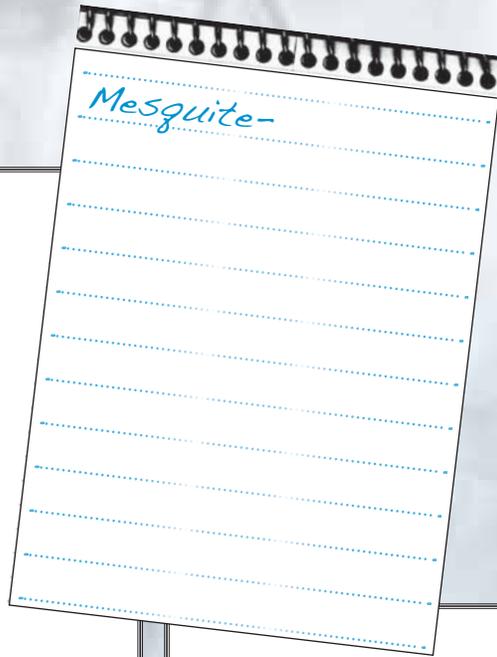
People have used creosote to treat a variety of ailments. Sketch some creosote leaves below and add your observations.



NOTE: Splash a little water on some creosote leaves. How do they smell? Imagine what happens when it rains here

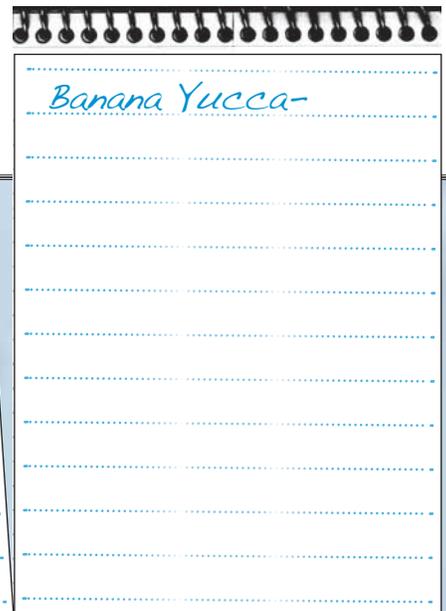
Mesquite

This tree was used to build homes. Sketch the trunk and branches or some seed pods.



Banana Yucca

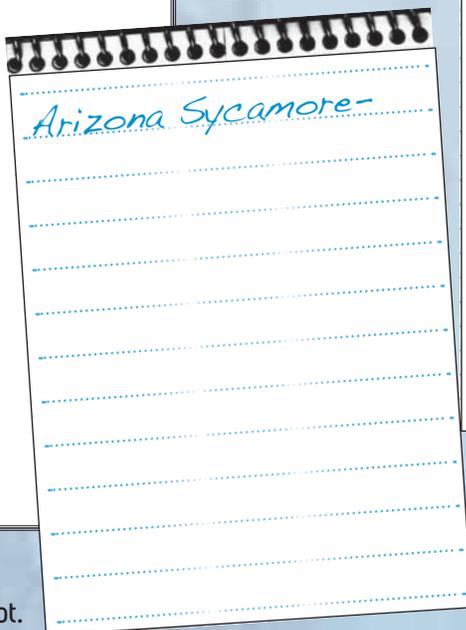
Fibers from the leaves of this plant were useful for making baskets, sandals, and clothing. Sketch a leaf here. Can you see the fibers?



QUESTION: Have you ever had mesquite-grilled food? What did it taste like?

Arizona Sycamore

People used these trees to make ladders and ceiling beams. They used the blossoms and twigs to make a dye.



NOTE: Look for sycamore beams in the walls of Montezuma Castle and inside the tower at Tuzigoot.

Senses of Wonder

A world of desert wonders surrounds you at Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, and Tuzigoot. Try these exercises to wake up your senses to these places.

LISTEN

Find a nice place to sit down and close your eyes. Listen for one minute to the natural and human sounds around you. List the sounds you heard here. What do you think made the sound?



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NOTE: If you hear a lot of people, imagine what these places sounded like when they were busy villages 700 years ago! Do you think it was similar?

TOUCH

The desert is often a very warm place. Can you find something cool? Describe it here.

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NOTE: Try touching the water in the irrigation ditch at Montezuma Well. Is it warmer or colder than the air around you?

SMELL

Some desert plants have a strong smell, especially after a rain. Describe how two different plants smell, and write their name (or draw their picture) here.

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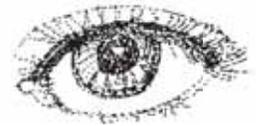
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LOOK

You've probably seen lots of interesting things on your visit to the Verde Valley, but now try this. Crouch down low and look at one square foot of land. List everything you see. Did you discover anything you'd overlooked before?



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Where Are They Now?

Beginning around 1400, the people began to leave their dwellings in the Verde Valley. Perhaps an epidemic, a drought, or even a religious reason prompted their move. Some people have mistakenly said that the people “disappeared.” Most likely, they went to live with relatives at the Hopi or Zuni Pueblos.

Many Indian groups with ties to the Sinagua, such as the Hopi and Yavapai-Apache, consider Montezuma Castle, Tuzigoot, and Montezuma Well to be sacred places. What can we all do as visitors to respect those beliefs? Do you have any places you consider sacred? How do you act when you visit those places?

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Have you ever moved? What did it feel like? How do you think a kid would have felt about leaving this place?

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Ask your family where your ancestors came from. Did they come from a place like Montezuma Castle or Tuzigoot? Or was it much different? Do you feel a strong connection to the place where your ancestors came from?



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Here and There



National monuments are full of animals, plants, artifacts and other special features That's why people have worked so hard to get them protected, and why rangers ask visitors to treat these areas with respect.



In the spaces provided, compare the monument or monuments you have visited with your own neighborhood. What makes each place special to you?

SOUNDS

Compare the kinds and levels of noise you hear.

Home

Here

ANIMALS

Describe the most interesting animals.

Home

Here

ACTIVITIES

What kinds of activities do you most like to do?

Home

Here

HISTORIC SITES

What are the oldest buildings and artifacts you've seen?

Home

Here

STEWARDSHIP

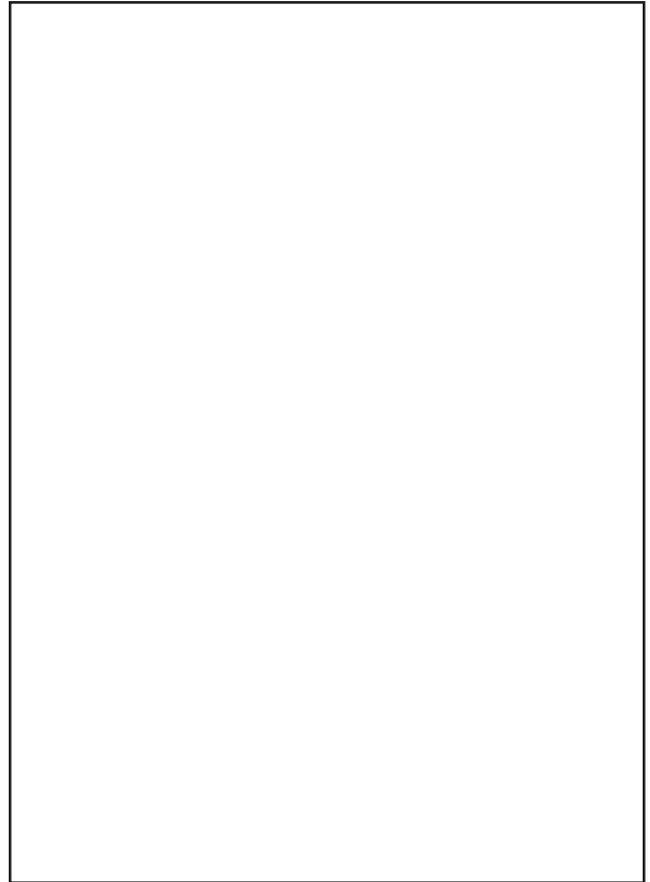
What are the best things you can do to help protect these places?

Home

Here

In Your Own Words

What was your favorite part of your trip to the Verde Valley?
Describe it here in words or pictures.



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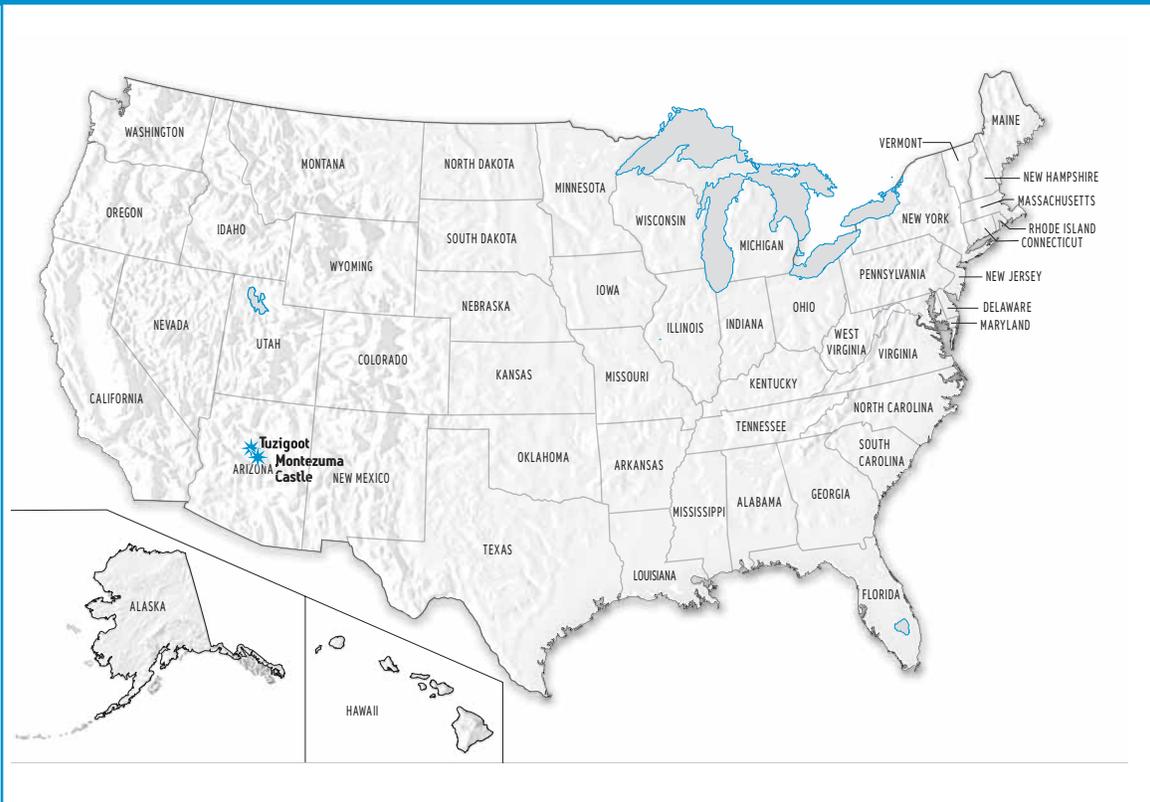


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Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments



Written by Sara St. Antoine
Designed by Jackson Boelts Design
Illustrations by Jackson Boelts
Edited by Abby Mogollón
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www.nps.gov/moca
www.nps.gov/tuzi

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To learn more about WNPAA please visit our website at www.wnpa.org.

You'll find our national parks all across the United States, from the cold coast of Alaska to the swampy tip of Florida. Many parks offer visitors the chance to become a Junior Ranger. With the program, you'll discover each park's wild beauty and colorful human history. You'll even receive a special badge or pin. The more parks you visit, the more Junior Ranger badges and pins you can collect.

Become a WebRanger

As a WebRanger, you'll learn what Park Rangers do to help protect our natural resources and our cultural heritage. You'll also learn how Park Rangers observe and discover new things about our national parks—things to share with visitors like you.

www.nps.gov/webangers

