



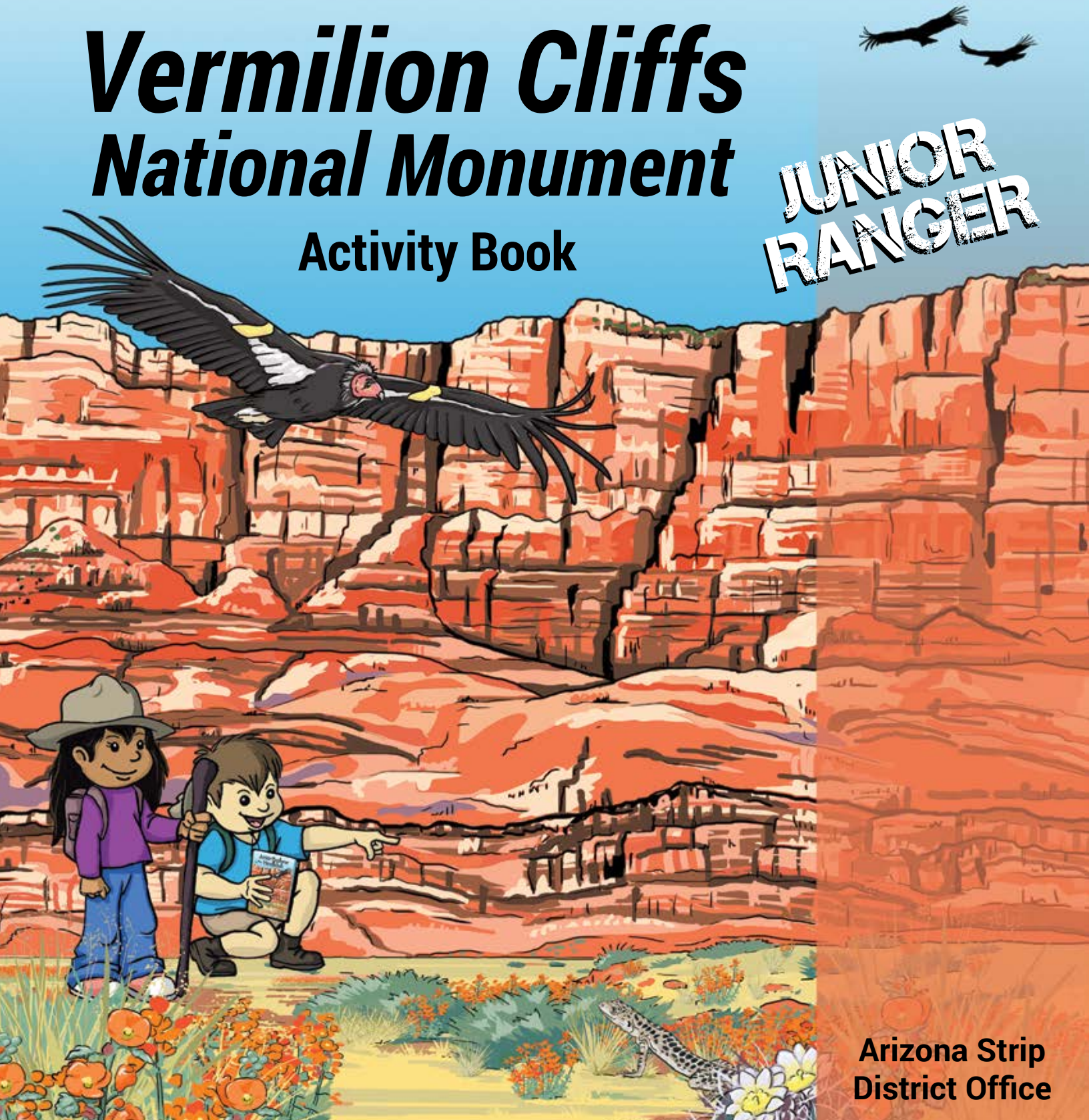
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management



# ***Vermilion Cliffs National Monument***

## **Activity Book**

# **JUNIOR RANGER**



**Arizona Strip  
District Office**

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# JUNIOR RANGERS

The Junior Ranger Program introduces young adventurers like you to the lands and resources managed by the BLM. We hope you enjoy the activities in this book and invite you to join the adventure!

## How to earn your badge

Complete six or more of the activities in this book at the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, home, or a local park. To receive your Junior Ranger badge and signed certificate, bring or mail your completed booklet (or a copy) to:

**Arizona Strip District Office**  
**345 E. Riverside Drive**  
**St. George, UT 84790-6714**  
**Phone: 435-688-3200**  
**Fax: 435-688-3258**  
**Email: [blm\\_az\\_asdoweb@blm.gov](mailto:blm_az_asdoweb@blm.gov)**  
**<https://www.blm.gov/office/arizona-strip-field-office>**



# PUBLIC LANDS BELONG TO YOU!

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a federal government agency that cares for more than 245 million acres of public lands. These lands belong to all Americans, including you. Most are in the Western United States. The BLM also manages a number of smaller sites in the Eastern United States.

The BLM manages public lands for many uses. These lands provide natural resources, such as coal, oil, and natural gas. They provide habitat for wildlife, food for grazing animals, and timber for people. The lands contain evidence of the past, such as dinosaur bones and plant fossils. Archaeological sites on public lands help us learn about people who lived in North America long ago. Today, people like you enjoy exploring the big open spaces on the lands.

## VERMILION CLIFFS NATIONAL MONUMENT

In November 2000, this 280,000-acre area was designated as the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument for its' geological, biological, and historic importance. The cliffs for which the monument is named are over 3,000 feet high.

The sandstone slickrock, colorful cliffs, and sandy plateaus provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. Plants on the monument range from common shrubs like sand sagebrush to sensitive species like fishhook cactus. The California condor, the largest land bird in North America, can be seen soaring above the monument where many of the condors make their home. As part of the recovery efforts for this species, each fall more condors are released on the monument where they join with others to make their homes among the safe haven of the Vermilion Cliffs. Numerous raptors, desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, mountain lions, and other animals, including bats, amphibians, and reptiles, call the Vermilion Cliffs their home.

**VISIT US SOON!**



# A WORLD OF ADAPTATIONS

Vermilion Cliffs National Monument is home to several species adapted to their environment.

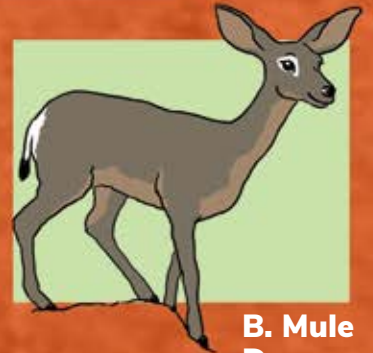
Draw a line from the animal to the phrase that matches it.

1. This animal's body is adapted to go weeks without needing to drink water.



2. This animal uses its long tail for balance.

A. Grand Canyon Rattlesnake



B. Mule Deer

3. Specialized scales at the end of its tail warn others of its venomous bite.



C. Red-tailed Hawk

4. This animal roosts in caves or abandoned mines and eats insects.



D. Townsend's Big-eared Bat



E. Bighorn Sheep

5. This animal hunts by scanning for prey from their perch or soaring in the sky. Their call sounds like a rasping scream.



F. Mountain Lion



G. Speckled Dace

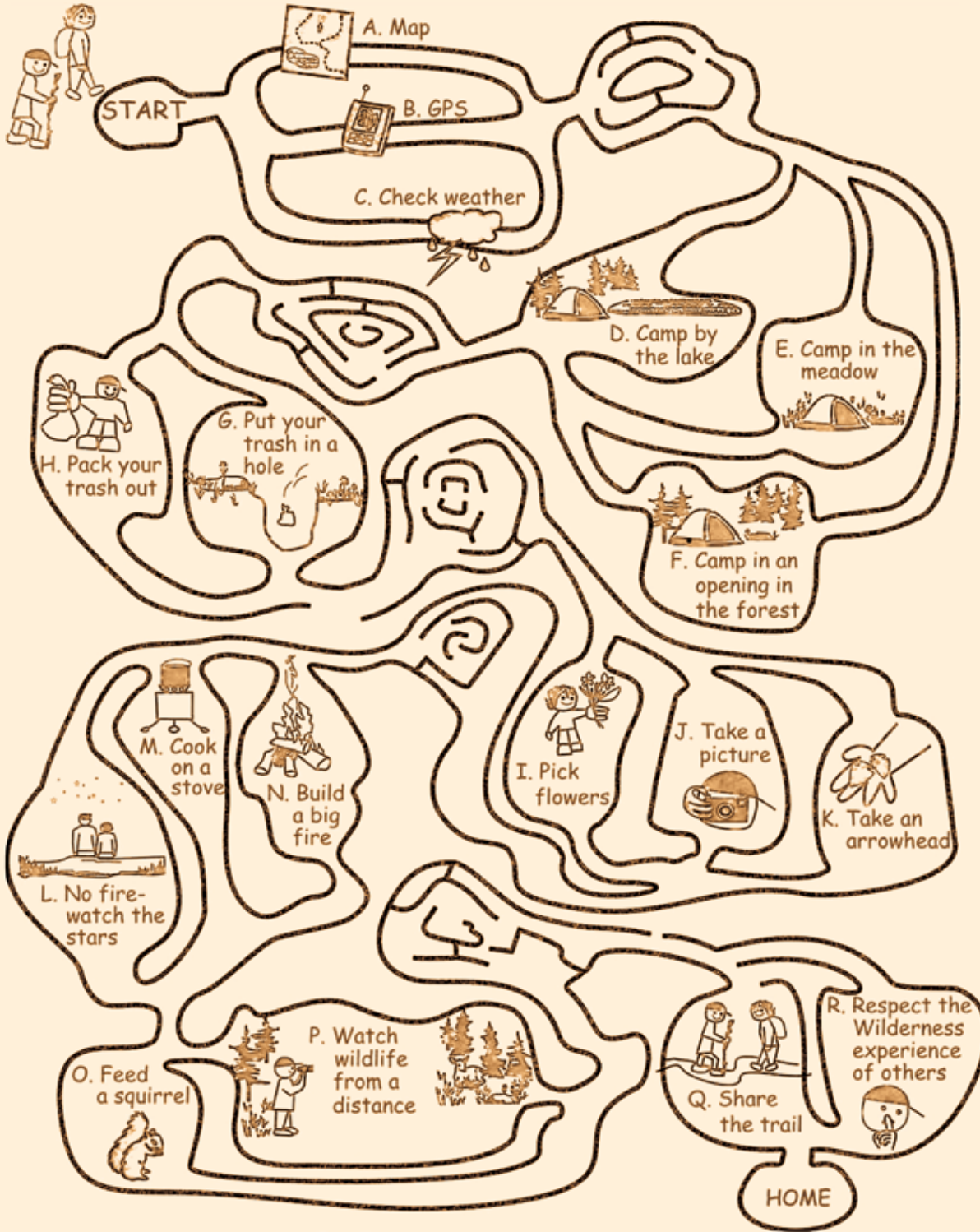
6. This animal is adapted to many different habitats, including warm desert streams.

7. Big ears radiate heat to keep this animal cool.

Answer Key  
1 = E; 2 = F; 3 = A; 4 = D; 5 = C; 6 = G; 7 = B.

# LEAVE NO TRACE MAZE

These Vermilion Cliffs Junior Rangers are about to go on a long trip through a wilderness. Help them make the best choices about where to go and what to do along the way. Each stop has a numerical rating with it. Add up your score and find your impact level below.



points	
A --	1
B --	2
C --	1
D --	3
E --	2
F --	1
G --	5
H --	1
I --	5
J --	1
K --	5
L --	1
M --	1
N --	3
O --	5
P --	1
Q --	1
R --	1
my total	

**What is your score?**  
 7 - Great job! You are working towards leaving no trace.  
 8 to 12 - Not bad, but please take care.  
 12 or more - Lighten up, you are leaving impacts.  
 If you got a 5 on any action - YIKES! Check your answer. Ask a ranger if you have any questions.

# WILDERNESS SAFETY

Junior Rangers need to know about how to be safe when they're exploring the outdoors. Being safe begins when you plan ahead before you start your trip. Always go with another person, such as a parent, friend, or sibling. Check the weather conditions for the area you are visiting. Tell someone who is staying behind where you are going and when you plan to return. Select ten essential items that you should take with you and list them in the box to the right. What else would you like to bring? Don't make your pack too heavy!



## Ten Essential Items

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



# MONUMENT BINGO

When you are driving or hiking in the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, you may see lots of things, including archaeological evidence of those who once lived here, and the plants and animals that lived here with them. You may also see interesting rock formations or cattle grazing. See if you can find four in a row and win a game of Vermilion Cliffs National Monument Bingo.

Cactus	Bighorn Sheep	Pueblo	Hawk
Lizard	Condor	Deep Sand	Paria Ranger Station
House Rock	Cattle	ATV	Moqui Marbles
Fragile Fins	Vermilion Cliffs	Paria River	Mule Deer

# VERMILION CLIFFS WORD SEARCH

You will find the names of the plants and animals on the next page hidden in this word search. See how many you can find!

**Hint:** There are no spaces between words in the puzzle.







**Fishhook cactus**



**California condor**



**Maze petroglyph**



**Mule deer**



**Redtail hawk**



**Globemallow**



California condors were listed as an endangered species because they almost became extinct. In 1982, there were only 22 condors left in the wild. Beginning in 1996, California condors were reintroduced to northern Arizona and released from Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. As part of the recovery efforts for this species, each fall more condors are released on the monument where they join with others to make their homes within the safe haven of the Vermilion Cliffs.

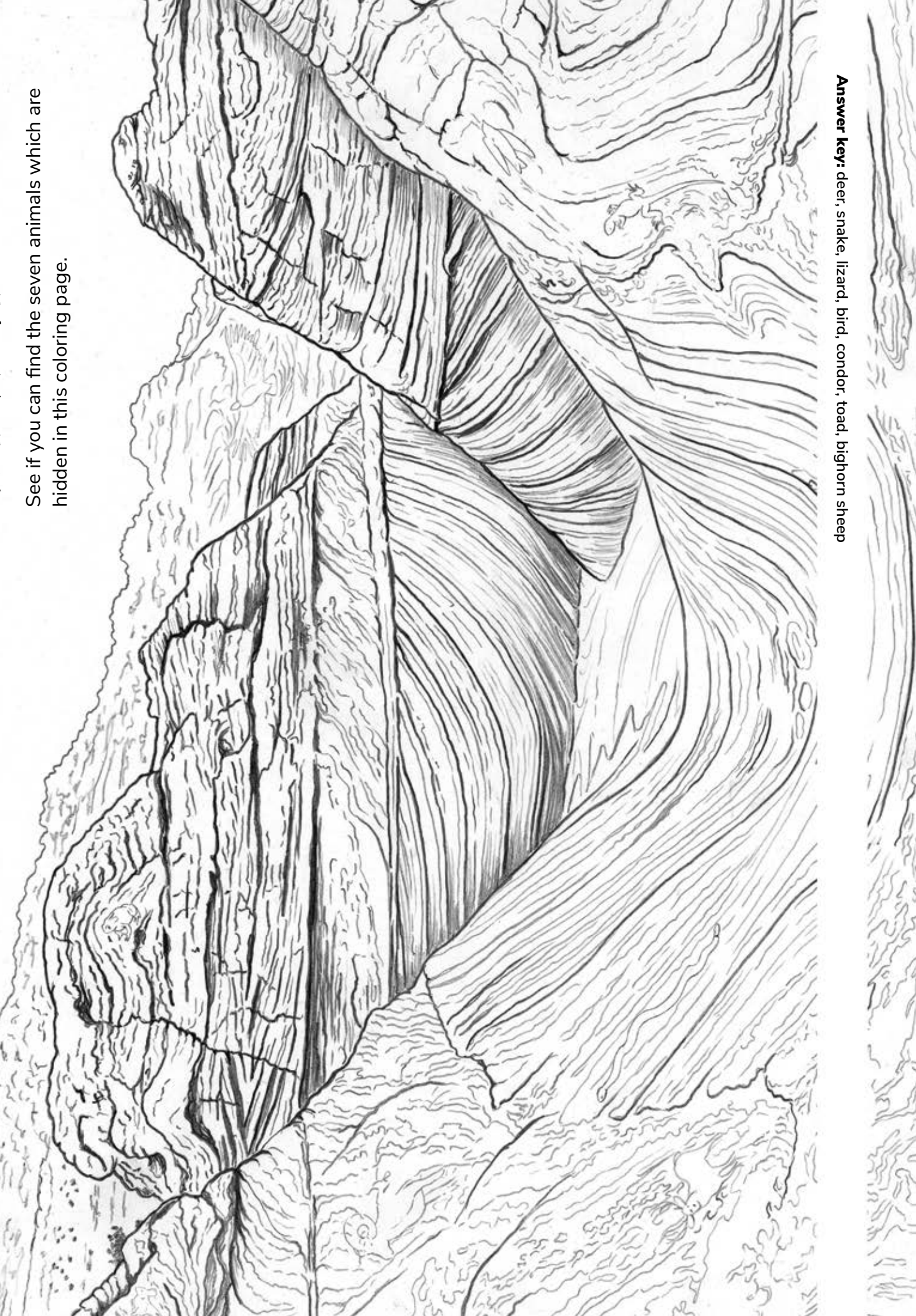
As of June 2024, there were 85 condors in the wild in northern Arizona and southern Utah. For more information about the condor reintroduction program, visit <https://www.blm.gov/visit/condor-viewing-site>.

# CONDORS AT THE CLIFFS



# THE WAVE

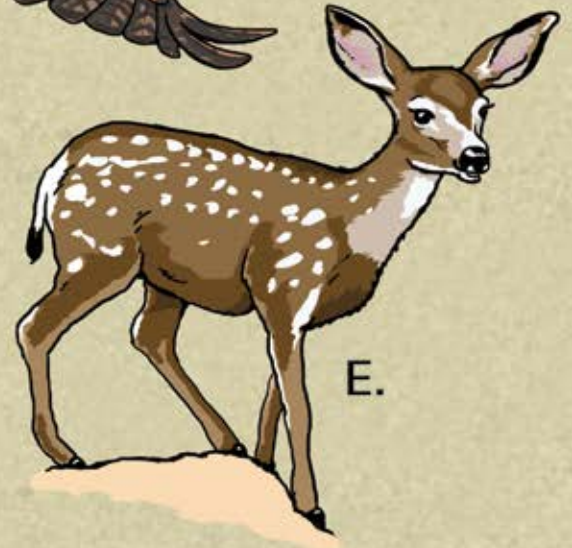
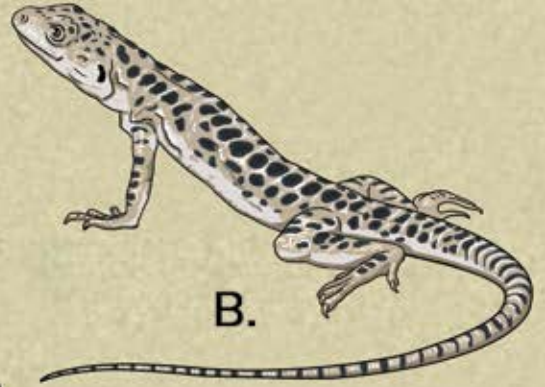
See if you can find the seven animals which are hidden in this coloring page.



**Answer key:** deer, snake, lizard, bird, condor, toad, bighorn sheep

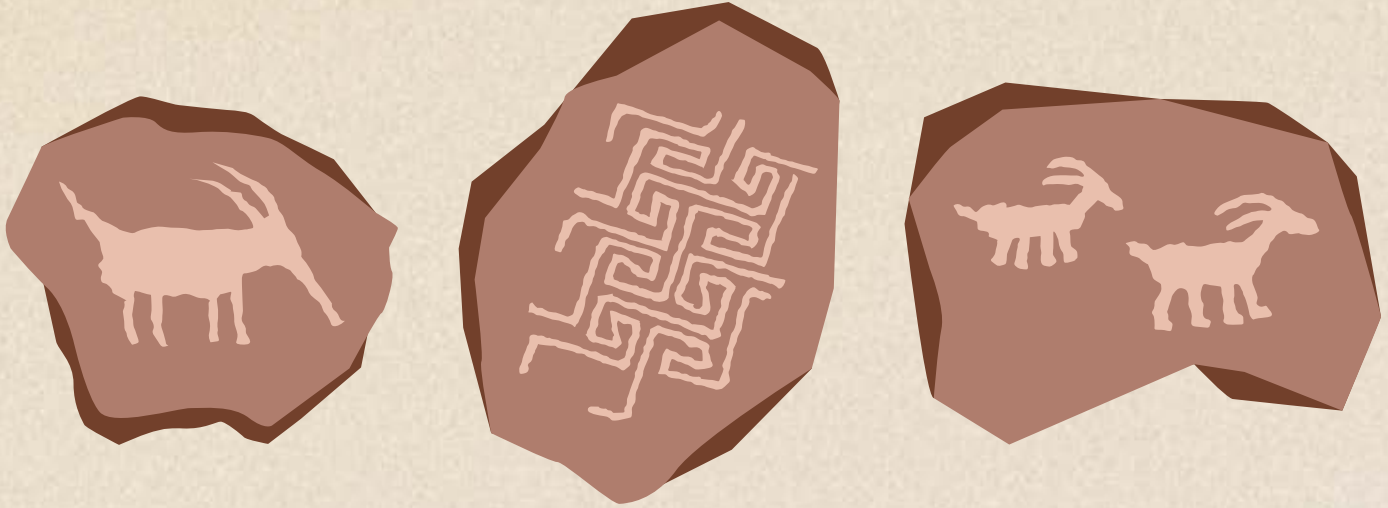
# VERMILION CLIFFS, MATCH THE TRACKS

Draw a line from the tracks to the animal.



Answer Key  
1 = D; 2 = A; 3 = B; 4 = E; 5 = C.

# PETROGLYPHS AT VERMILION CLIFFS



As you walk around the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, you might come across **pictographs** (painted images) or **petroglyphs** (carved images) on rocks. You might see images of people or animals, or patterns like swirls or dots. In Southern Paiute, Vermilion Cliffs is called “Angkar Mukwanikant,” which means “red cliffs.”

Some people call these images “rock art,” but for many Native American tribes like the Southern Paiute, the images found on the rocks are not just art—they are expressions of their history, beliefs, relationship with the land, and who they are as people. One of the words the Southern Paiute use to describe rock art is “**Tumpituxwinan**,” which means “**storied rocks**.” Storied rocks share information like directions, celebrations, knowledge of sacred sites, and stories between people through images. Even the type of rock the images are painted or carved on is important and adds to its meaning. Storied rocks are still important and sacred to Native American tribes and the Southern Paiute today. Many tribal members travel to these sites for ceremonial purposes.

It is disrespectful when visitors write their names on storied rocks or try to chip the images off and take them home. Protect storied rocks by leaving the area how you found it—**don’t write on them, move or stack rocks, or take other artifacts you might find**. By following these simple rules, you can preserve rock stories for other people who wish to view their beauty.

Now it’s your turn to create your own storied rock! Imagine you’re trying to leave a message for other people in pictures, like “food this way” or the importance of one of your favorite spots. What symbols or images would you use to communicate this to others? **Draw it below.**

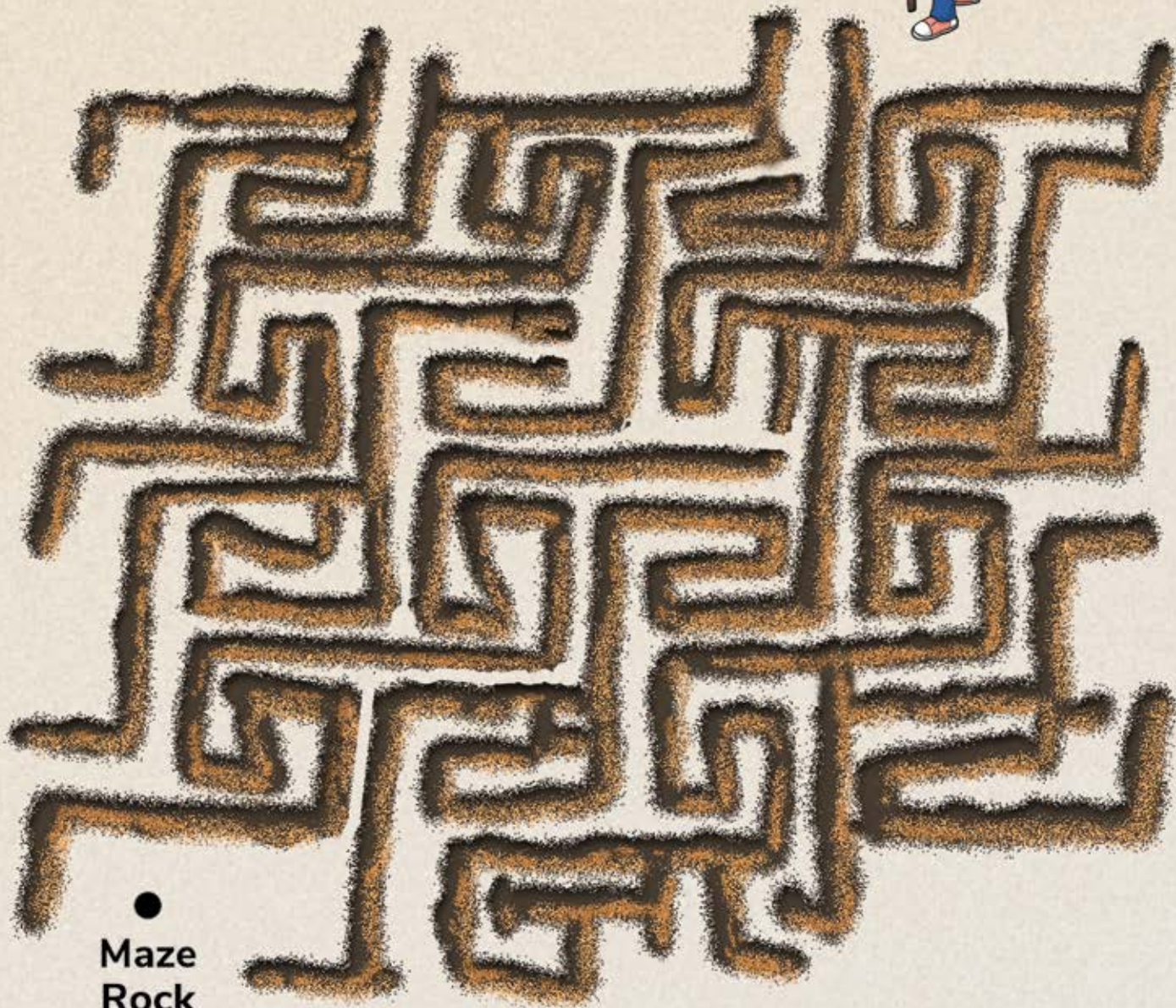
# HELP THE HIKER MAZE

Located in the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, near the Arizona-Utah border, is the Maze Rock Art Site. The site got its name from the maze-like designs carved into the rock face, possibly made between AD 850 and 1300 by ancient people who lived in the area. The art shows pictures of people, animals like bighorn sheep, deer, and mountain lions, and patterns like mazes, spirals, and circles. By looking at these drawings, we can learn more about how these early people lived and what was important to them. The site is very important to many Native American tribes today.



Help this hiker find her way to the Maze Rock Art Site.

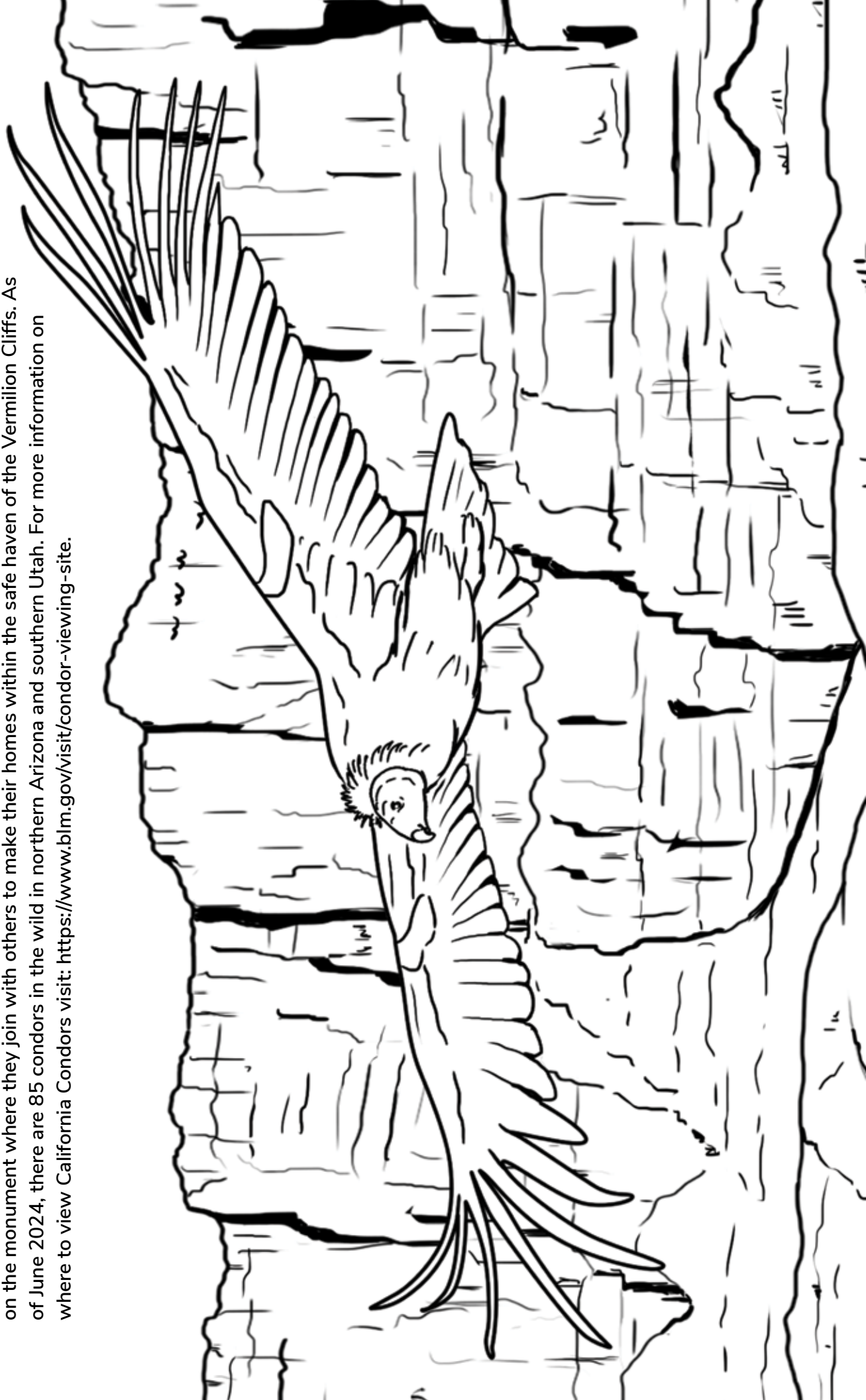
**Start**



●  
Maze  
Rock  
Art Site

# CALIFORNIA CONDORS

California condors are the largest land bird in North America. They can grow up to 26 pounds with a wingspan of up to 9 1/2 feet. Condors can live to be 50 years old or more! They are scavengers, meaning, they only eat dead animals. They can soar up to 15,000 feet in the air and travel more than 150 miles a day. As part of the recovery efforts for this species, each fall more condors are released on the monument where they join with others to make their homes within the safe haven of the Vermilion Cliffs. As of June 2024, there are 85 condors in the wild in northern Arizona and southern Utah. For more information on where to view California Condors visit: <https://www.blm.gov/visit/condor-viewing-site>.





# TRAIL JOURNAL

Take your trail journal to record thoughts and sketches when you hike in the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument.



A series of horizontal blue lines for writing, starting from the top of the page and extending down to the bottom. The lines are evenly spaced and cover most of the page's width.



# HOME SWEET CAVE

Once people thought bats were birds without feathers. Now we know bats are mammals because:

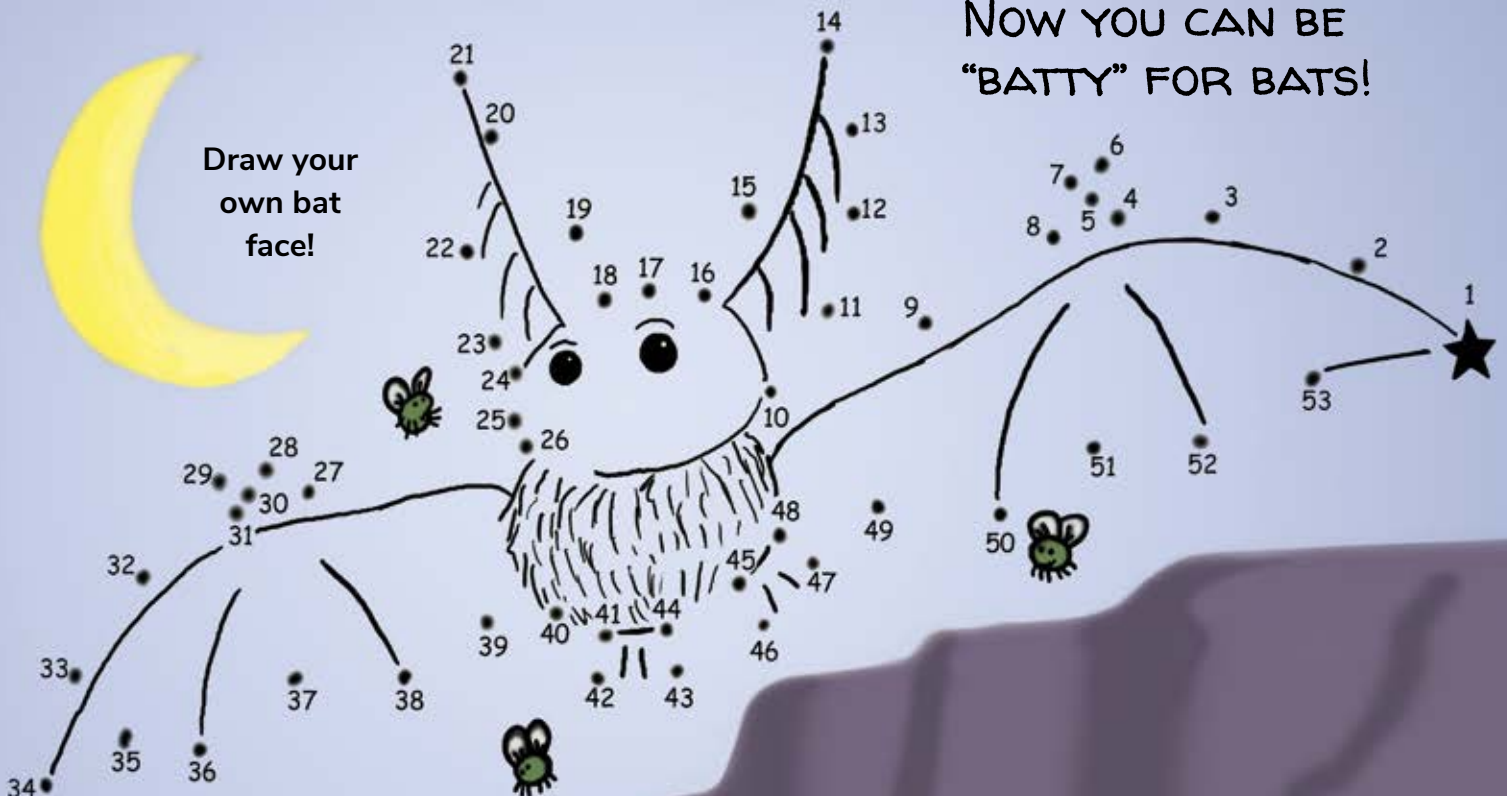
1. Bats are warm blooded.
2. Bats nurse their babies with milk.
3. Bats have fur.

Bats spend daylight hours sleeping in caves, crevices, or trees until night, when they emerge to hunt insects.

Bats are the only mammals that can fly. Their wings are made of two thin layers of skin stretched over their arms and long fingers. If we had fingers like a bat, they would be longer than our legs! The scary stories about bats are not true. When you see a bat, say "Thank you, friend." Bats eat hundreds of insects each hour. Without bats we would be swatting at more bugs!

Connect the numbered dots to draw a bat.

NOW YOU CAN BE "BATTY" FOR BATS!



# MORE PLACES TO PLAY AND LEARN! ON THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

Where will you visit next? Check the circles of places you have visited.



Book illustrations by Rachel Ivanyi

To learn more, visit:

<https://www.blm.gov/national-conservation-lands/arizona/vermilion-cliffs>



Bureau of Land Management

# JUNIOR RANGER

As a Bureau of Land Management Junior Ranger,  
I promise to:

- Do all I can to help preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources on our public lands.
- Be aware of how my actions can affect other living things and the evidence of our past.
- Keep learning about our important heritage.
- Share what I have learned with others.

Ranger Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

