



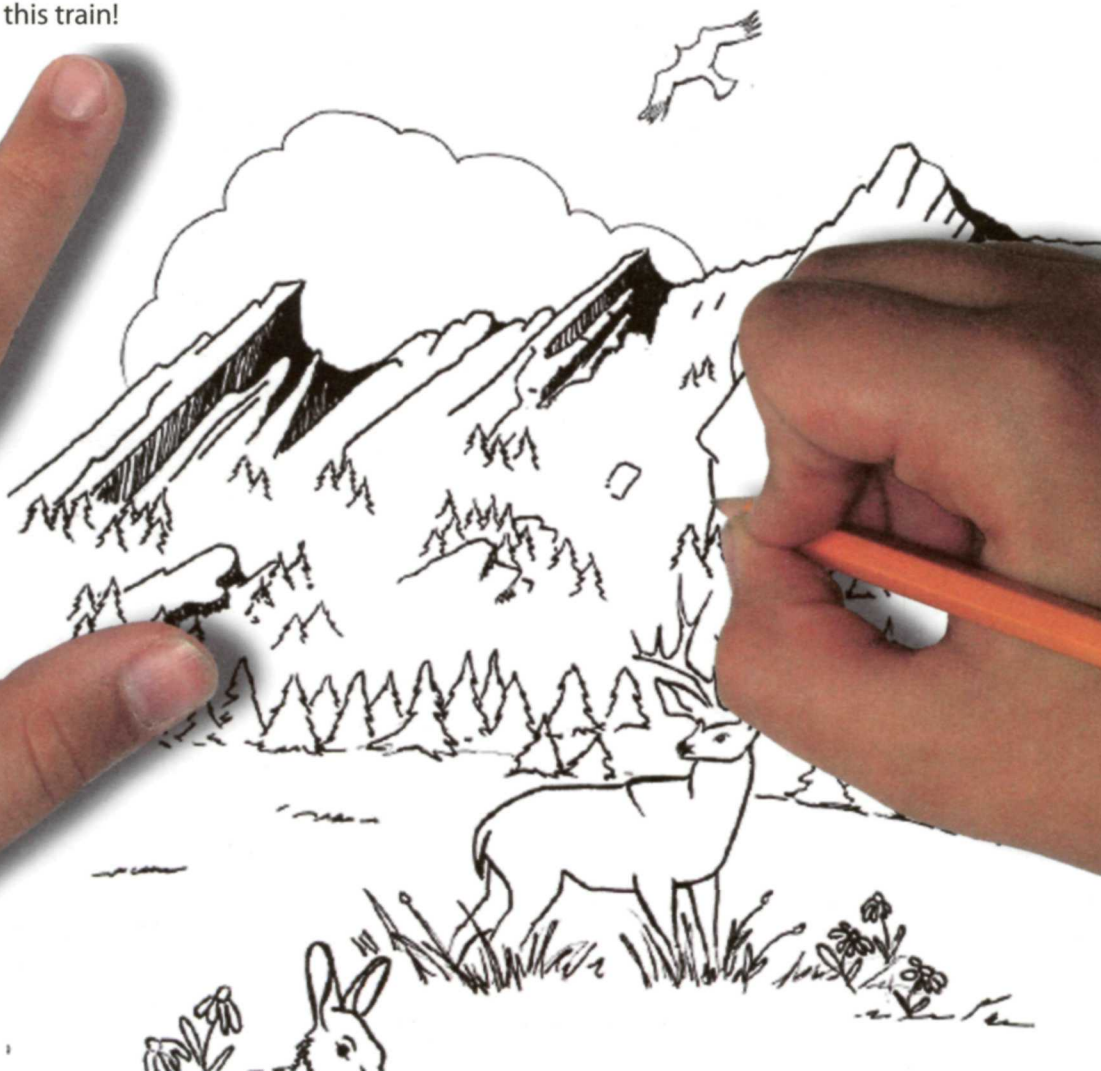
Trails & Rails Program  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

# Junior Ranger California-Zephyr®

An explorer's activity guide onboard Amtrak®

## **F**LATIRONS coloring page

The Flatirons are rock formations located near Boulder, Colorado. These sandstone rocks are the remnants of a mountain range that pre-dated the Rocky Mountains that you see from this train!



# BECOMING A JUNIOR RANGER

Welcome aboard the California Zephyr train! You are about to embark on the journey of becoming a National Park Service Junior Ranger.

As a Junior Ranger, your mission is to:

**EXPLORE:** You will see a lot of exciting and important landmarks during your trip today. Be on the lookout for opportunities to explore the train and what you are seeing outside of the train!



**LEARN:** Find out how much you can learn during your trip by completing activities in this booklet, but your journey does not end here! Junior Ranger programs are offered aboard many Amtrak trains and in most of the 417 National Park Service units across the United States of America.




**PROTECT:** Did you know that riding on a train is better for the Earth than driving a car? One of the jobs of a National Park Service Ranger is to protect the land and animals in our country. By riding on this train and

learning about the land and wildlife, you too are helping protect our environment and country.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

There are many activities located within this booklet to help you learn more about the train you are on and the environments that you are traveling through. Wherever you see this symbol  there is an activity for you to try! Try to complete as many activities as you can! When you complete the same number of activities as your age, take this book to one of the Trails & Rails Guides in the lounge car of the train that you are on. The train guides are also available to help you complete these activities!



# CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR



overview



Hey there! My name is Sammy the Squirrel and I am a passenger on the California Zephyr train, just like you! I ride the train so that I can teach people about the cool places they travel through. That's because I also help with the Trails & Rails program, which provides educational opportunities for passengers on board trains. I have learned a lot about Colorado and would love to share some of what I know with you!

This booklet has a lot of fun activities that will teach you about the California Zephyr route as it passes through the great state of Colorado. Are you ready to learn about the California Zephyr?

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Let's Get Started! Use the map below to fill in the blanks!

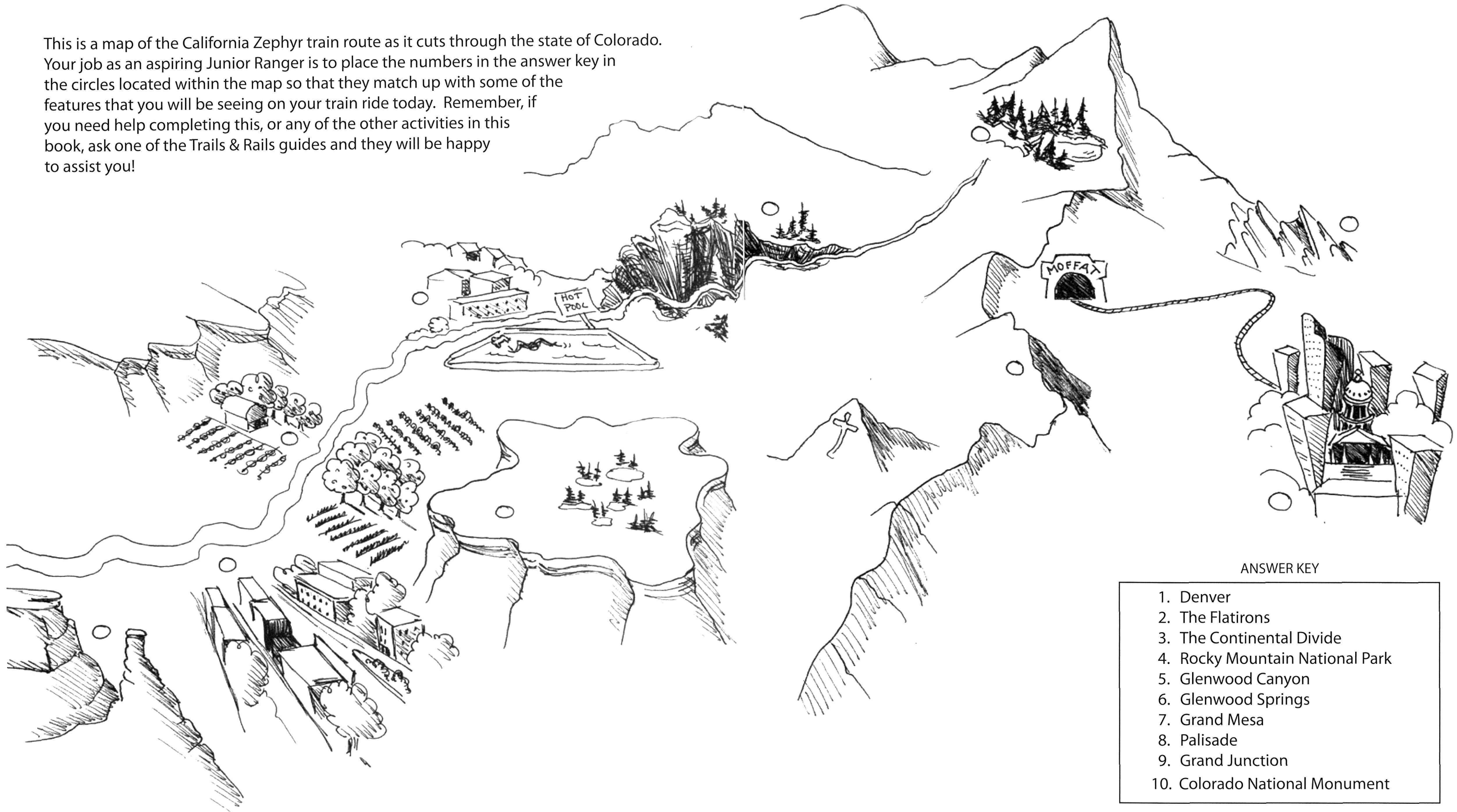
The California Zephyr is a long train route that travels daily between the cities of \_\_\_\_\_, Illinois and \_\_\_\_\_, California. The California Zephyr route is over 2,400 miles long, and takes about 52 hours to complete! It goes through 7 states: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. It also passes near many cool cities and national parks. These cities include \_\_\_\_\_, Nebraska and \_\_\_\_\_, Utah. You will also see Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado (specifically Long's Peak) if you are going to or coming from Denver.



# CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR ROUTE

 map exercise

This is a map of the California Zephyr train route as it cuts through the state of Colorado. Your job as an aspiring Junior Ranger is to place the numbers in the answer key in the circles located within the map so that they match up with some of the features that you will be seeing on your train ride today. Remember, if you need help completing this, or any of the other activities in this book, ask one of the Trails & Rails guides and they will be happy to assist you!



## ANSWER KEY

1. Denver
2. The Flatirons
3. The Continental Divide
4. Rocky Mountain National Park
5. Glenwood Canyon
6. Glenwood Springs
7. Grand Mesa
8. Palisade
9. Grand Junction
10. Colorado National Monument

# CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR ROUTE



## I spy and I tell game

You will see so many things on your train trip from Denver to Grand Junction. We ask that you not only look for a special object, but that you also describe what you see. When you spy an object below put a check or X in the box next to it. For a bigger challenge, try to describe the items you spy. Try and do as many as you can and have fun!

- ☐ a person fishing - What color was his or her shirt? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a raft - How many people were in the raft? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a rapid in the river - Which side of the train? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a dam - What color was it or what was it made of? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ gondola cars filled with rocks - What was unusual about them? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a reservoir - Which side of the train or where was it? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a canyon - What type or color of rocks were on the sides of the canyon? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a school house - What color was it or what was it made of? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ the entrance to the Moffat tunnel - What color was the entrance? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a dog - What color was it and how big was it? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a wind generator - On which side of the train and was it turning? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a slide fence that goes over the top of the train - How many wires? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a railroad bridge - What was it going over? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a car bridge - What went under it? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a railroad tunnel - About how many seconds were you inside the tunnel? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a car tunnel - How many lanes of traffic went into the tunnel? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a coal train - How many cars or how many engines? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a flag - What kind or what color? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a hotel - Where or what was it made of? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a rifle range - About how many targets? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a water wheel - Which side of the train? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a telephone pole - How many wires was it supporting? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a railroad maintenance crew - What were they doing? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a bird - What kind or color? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a wild animal - What kind or size or color? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ a person - What was he or she doing? \_\_\_\_\_

For the Super Spies!

- ☐ tunnels: How many between Grand Junction & Denver? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ train station stops: How many between Grand Junction & Denver? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ cars: How many through Glenwood Canyon? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ motorcycles: How many through the entire trip? \_\_\_\_\_

# DENVER

fun facts



Trails & Rails guides ride along with you on the California Zephyr route between the cities of Denver and Grand Junction. Denver is the capital city of Colorado, which became a state in 1876.

Complete these fun facts by unscrambling the words below them. If you have trouble, use the pictures or the Trails & Rails guides to help you.

## Fun Fact #1

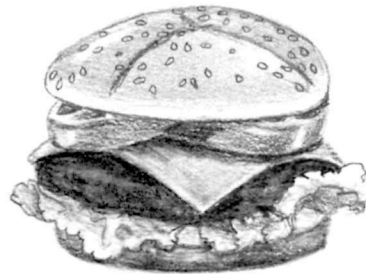
Denver has one of the largest \_\_\_\_\_ systems in the nation with 86% of residents living within a 10-minute walk of a park.



TCYI KRPA

## Fun Fact #2

Denver claims the invention of this sandwich. The trademark for the name was awarded in 1935 to Louis Ballast of Denver.



HEBGERCEUSER

## Fun Fact #3

The 15th step of this building is exactly one mile high: 5,280 ft. This is why Denver is often referred to as "The Mile High City".



OPLCATI

## Fun Fact #4

Thirty-two \_\_\_\_\_ over 13,000 ft. and two over 14,000' can be seen from Denver.



SNMUTOIAN

## Fun Fact #5

Colfax Avenue in Denver is the longest continuous \_\_\_\_\_ in America.



TRESET

## Fun Fact #6

This baseball team opened on April 9, 1993 before 80,277 fans, the most ever to witness an opening game in baseball history.



ISRCOEK

# F LATIRONS



coloring page

The Flatirons are rock formations located near Boulder, Colorado. These sandstone rocks are the remnants of a mountain range that pre-dated the Rocky Mountains that you see from this train!





# C ONTINENTAL DIVIDE



decodinggame

Historically it was very hard to cross the Colorado mountains. This story explains some of the problems and how the problems were solved. Use the chart below to fill in the blanks in the story!

	1	2	3	4	5	6
A	Z	Y	X	W	V	U
B	T	S	R	Q	P	O
C	N	M	L	K	J	I
D	H	G	F	E	D	C
E	B	A	9	8	7	6
F	5	4	3	2	1	0

Before the tunnel it took almost *six hours* to go *over* Rollins Pass and now it takes about \_\_\_ minutes to go *under*

F5 F4

Rollins Pass. Although this makes for an easy trip, the coach doors must be kept closed while the \_\_\_ is in the

A1 D4 B5 D1 A2 B3

tunnel because bad \_\_\_ will enter the coaches.

D3 A6 C2 D4 B2

Large \_\_\_ help to remove the fumes from the tunnel.

D3 E2 C1 B2

It took \_\_\_ years to dig the tunnel. A train with 40 freight cars

E6

would have to make about \_\_\_ trips to remove the

F5 E6 F6 F6

rocks from the tunnel. The \_\_\_ tunnel is \_\_\_ miles long

C2 B6 D3 D3 E2 B1

E5

and it passes under the

\_\_\_.

D6 B6 C1 B1 C6 C1 D4 C1 B1 E2 C3 D5 C6 A5 C6 D5 D4

Rain or snow that falls on the \_\_\_ side of the Continental Divide flow into the

D4 E2 B2 B1

\_\_\_ ocean. Rain or snow that fall on the West side of the Continental

E2 B1 C3 E2 C1 B1 C6 D6

Divide flows into Pacific \_\_\_. There is a place in \_\_\_ Mountain National

B6 D6 D4 E2 C1

B3 B6 D6 C4 A2

Park where you can easily step across a small stream that eventually becomes the

\_\_\_ Colorado River that is \_\_\_ enough to cut through rock

C2 C6 D2 D1 B1 A2

B2 B1 B3 B6 C1 D2

to form the beautiful \_\_\_ Canyon in Grand Canyon National Park.

D2 B3 E2 C1 D5

The Colorado River is important because it provides water for 20 \_\_\_ people.

C2 C6 C3 C3 C6 B6 C1

Much of this water comes from snow fall that can reach 8 \_\_\_. However,

D3 D4 D4 B1

\_\_\_ climate \_\_\_ could cause less snow to fall and long

D2 C3 B6 E1 E2 C3

D6 D1 E2 C1 D2 D4

\_\_\_

D5 B3 B6 A6 D2 D1 B1 B2

could become common. It is important for young people like \_\_\_ to care for

A2 B6 A6

and keep our National Parks \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ so

D6 C3 D4 E2 C1

E1 D4 E2 A6 B1 C6 D3 A6 C3

\_\_\_ children can enjoy them too!

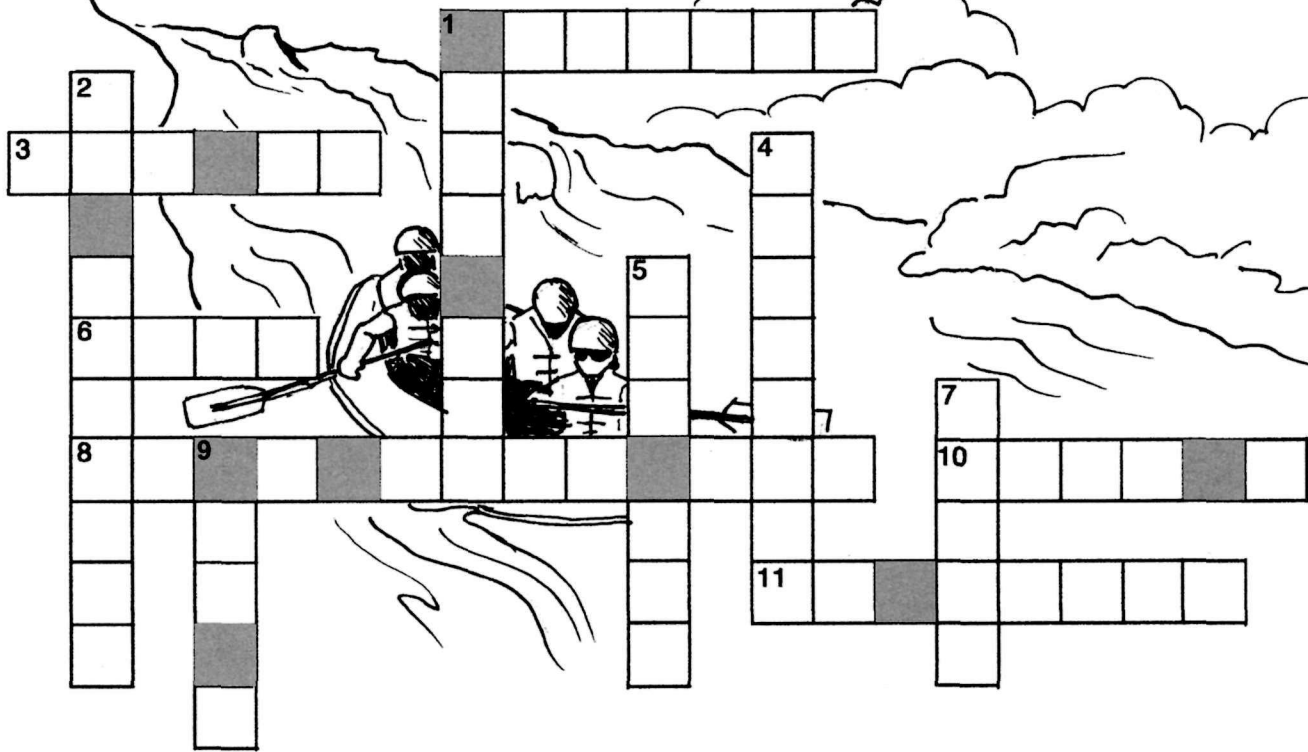
A2 B6 A6 B3



# COLORADO RIVER



crossword puzzle



## ACROSS

- 1 The force of the river has created deep \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 An extremely fast-moving part of a river
- 6 The Colorado River flows through how many states
- 8 The headwaters of the Colorado River are in this National Park
- 10 This type of dam helps prevent erosion
- 11 The Colorado River passes through \_\_\_\_\_ Canyon

## DOWN

- 1 The Colorado River flows through which state first
- 2 The Colorado River ends at the Gulf of \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Overflowing river water causes \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 A popular recreational activity on the flowing river
- 7 Original name of the Colorado River
- 9 Rate of water flow is measured by \_\_\_\_\_ feet per minute

## WORD BANK

rapids  
California  
four  
Rocky Mountain  
cubic  
roller  
Grand  
Glenwood  
flooding  
canyons  
rafting  
Colorado

Use the letters in the shaded squares to unlock the secret word! Note: One letter is used twice.  
Hint: A dam in Glenwood Canyon helps the Colorado River produce: \_\_\_\_\_

# COLORADO WILDLIFE



fill-in the blanks

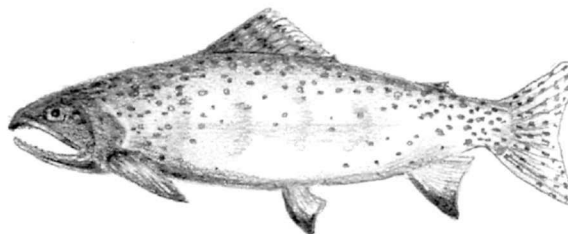
The train passes through three different areas which provide food and homes for a wide variety of animals. We travel the high plains, the Rocky Mountains and into the Colorado Plateau, each of which provides unique opportunities for animals to survive. The animals range from very small (pika, pine beetle, pine martin) to very large (moose, bear, and elk). Look closely, and if you're lucky you might see wildlife today!

\_ L \_



P \_ \_ \_

Colorado's state fish!



\_ U \_ \_ H \_ \_ \_ T \_ R \_ \_ \_

P \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ R \_ \_ \_



\_ \_ A \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ A \_

\_ \_ \_ O \_

P \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ T \_ \_ \_



\_ I \_ \_ \_ R \_

S \_ \_ \_ \_



\_ \_ O \_ \_

# GLENWOOD CANYON



story with word bank

Glenwood Canyon is one of the deepest and most scenic canyons in Colorado. Glenwood Canyon was formed a couple million years ago by the \_\_\_\_\_ River, which also formed the Grand Canyon. This canyon is \_\_\_\_\_ miles long and has cliffs that are up to \_\_\_\_\_ feet high.

The railroad that you are on, Interstate Highway 70, a bicycle \_\_\_\_\_ and the river must pass through this canyon in close proximity. There was a lot of concern about the likelihood that the new highway would damage the \_\_\_\_\_ and serenity of the canyon, so to minimize the \_\_\_\_\_, special designs were used for this road, including building completely separate traffic \_\_\_\_\_, unusual tunnels, and raised sections supported by offset \_\_\_\_\_. From the train, you get a very good view of the new highway and its unusual \_\_\_\_\_.

As you head west through the canyon you will see an exit for Hanging \_\_\_\_\_, which is a favorite destination for \_\_\_\_\_. The shoreline of Hanging Lake is composed of \_\_\_\_\_, which gives the lake water an incredible green color. The water color and the spectacular waterfalls \_\_\_\_\_ make this area very popular with \_\_\_\_\_. While the hike is only one mile long, the trail has an elevation gain of 1,000 \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>Adventure</b>	<b>Fairy</b>	<b>lanes</b>	<b>photographers</b>
<b>Aspen</b>	<b>feet</b>	<b>museum</b>	<b>pillars</b>
<b>beauty</b>	<b>hiking</b>	<b>Native</b>	<b>Roosevelt</b>
<b>Colorado</b>	<b>Hot Springs</b>	<b>passengers</b>	<b>impact</b>
<b>construction</b>	<b>Lake</b>	<b>path</b>	<b>travertine</b>
<b>12.5</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>vapor</b>	<b>waterfalls</b>

Glenwood Springs is a very popular place for \_\_\_\_\_ to leave or rejoin the train. People have come here ever since \_\_\_\_\_ Americans discovered the mineral springs and hot \_\_\_\_\_ caves. Across the river is the famous Glenwood \_\_\_\_\_ Pool and the Hotel Colorado, completed in 1893. President Teddy \_\_\_\_\_ stayed here, and some say the Teddy Bear originated at this hotel.

Just west of the Glenwood Springs train station is the cable car that takes people to the Glenwood Springs \_\_\_\_\_ Park that features Glenwood Caverns, also know as the \_\_\_\_\_ Caves. Glenwood Springs has popular hotels and motels, restaurants, shopping, and a nearby ski area. It is also the jumping off point for \_\_\_\_\_ and other popular mountain towns and resorts. The station here also has a railroad \_\_\_\_\_.

# GRAND MESA

 maze



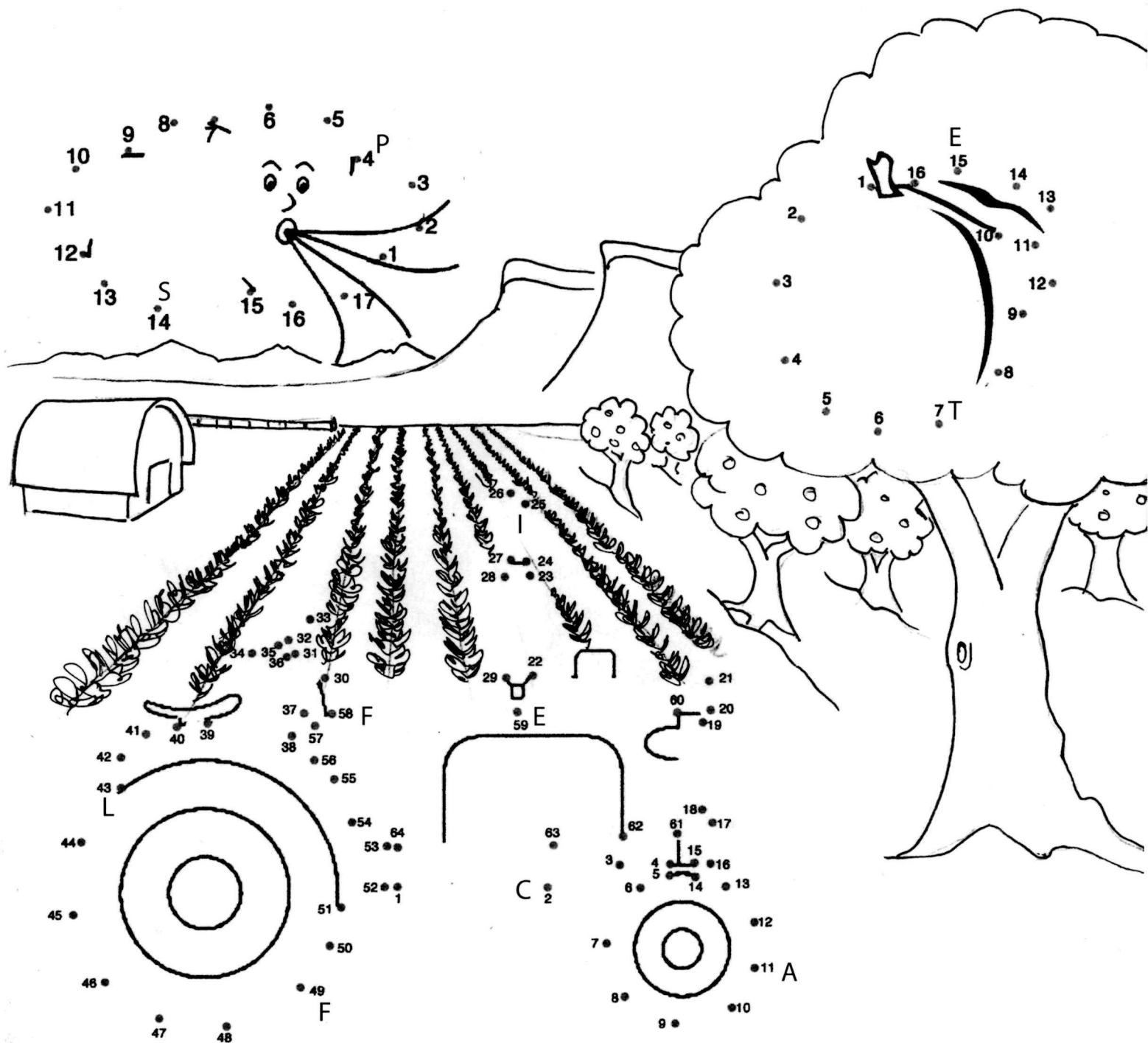
Sammy Squirrel has been exploring Grand Mesa. Now, please help him get back to the campground safely!



# PALISADE

connect the dots

Known as the "banana belt," Palisade is famous for the many fruits grown here. Compressed air from Debeque Canyon warms the air to create an ideal growing climate.



Palisade means:

11 14 7 59 15 4 2 43 25 49 58

# G RAND JUNCTION



## word search

Grand Junction is located where the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers merge. The Bookcliffs are to the north, Grand Mesa is to the east and the Colorado National Monument is to the south. Many dinosaur species have been unearthed in the area. You can also study dinosaurs in a local museum. There are a variety of biking and hiking trails and many weekends there are festivals and special events. The area is prime for growing many kinds of fruits and vegetables. Uranium, shale oil and natural gas development are part of its history. And the local people love to climb aboard Amtrak for transportation to places both east and west.

R J A C G B A Q A M T R A K W  
 D K R G S P J H A G P N T M P  
 S J A H R Y M H X S Q T U Y D  
 I B I F Z I K E L P T G T N D  
 W X L C X F C A S S L I E B Z  
 X B R J C L V U R A S K C N N  
 I M O X O I R U L R K M P N A  
 F T A O T X A Y E T U G X L T  
 J K D S K S I V V I U T Y M Y  
 B I E G O C I T N Z R R X T A  
 D F T N F N L A R N F D E A T  
 V G I U U G R I V A T H V S Y  
 I D C V D U W E F O I L Z K H  
 M O N U M E N T L F E L R N G  
 A D T T I M I G Q I S E S T A

### Word Bank

AGRICULTURE	TRAILS	BOOKCLIFFS	DINOSAURS
FESTIVALS	MESA	RAILROAD	UNIVERSITY
	MONUMENT	URANIUM	OIL
		AMTRAK	

# CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR CAR



a closer look at the train

Let's see what we can learn about one of the upper portions of a passenger car on the California Zephyr. Complete as many items below as you can!

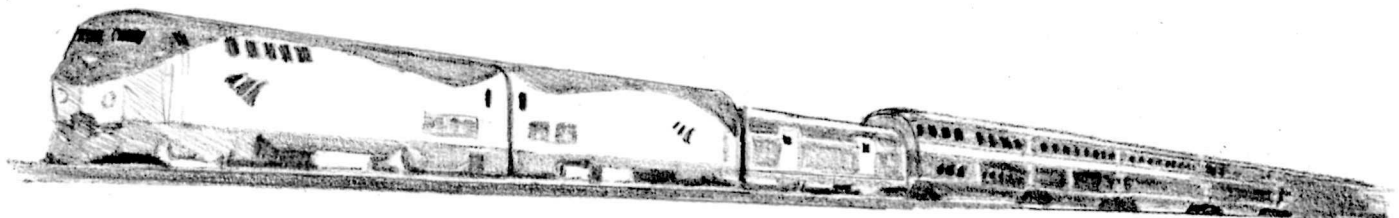
1. How many stair steps does it take to get from the bottom part of the passenger car to the top part of the car? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many windows are in the car? Don't forget the windows in the doors! \_\_\_\_\_
3. How do the windows make the passenger car safer? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name two ways to open the doors at the end of the car. \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many fire extinguishers are there on a passenger car? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How many trash bins are there on a passenger car? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many passengers can be seated in a passenger car? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many wheels are on a passenger car? You can watch other cars on a curve and count the number of wheels, ask the conductor, or ask a Trails & Rails Guide. \_\_\_\_\_
9. How many cars, including the engine, make up the California Zephyr? You can watch other cars on a curve and count the number of wheels, ask the conductor, or ask a Trails & Rails Guide. \_\_\_\_\_
10. When you take two big steps you move about five feet. Use your steps to measure the approximate length of the inside of the car in feet. \_\_\_\_\_
11. What is the approximate width of a passenger car? \_\_\_\_\_
12. If it takes approximately 14 minutes to go through the Moffat tunnel and the tunnel is approximately 7 miles long. What speed is the train traveling in miles per minute? Hint:  $\text{Speed} = \text{Distance} \div \text{Time}$  \_\_\_\_\_
13. How far would the train travel in 60 minutes at tunnel speed? Hint:  $\text{Distance} = \text{Speed} \times \text{Time}$  \_\_\_\_\_ in 60 minutes
14. How many miles per hour was the train traveling through the tunnels? Hint: How many minutes are there in one hour? \_\_\_\_\_
15. What does the word "Zephyr" mean? Ask several passengers if they know. \_\_\_\_\_
16. Close your eyes for a few minutes (don't go to sleep) and note the sounds, smells and motions of the train. Describe your observation in three or more sentences.

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# ANSWER KEY

## Overview

Chicago, Emeryville, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Omaha, Salt Lake City

## Fun facts

City Park, Cheeseburger, Capitol, Mountains, Street, Rockies

## Decoding game

12, Zephyr, fumes, fans, 6, 1600, Moffat, 7, Continental Divide, East, Atlantic, ocean, Rocky, mighty, strong, Grand, million, feet, global, climate change, droughts, clean, beautiful

## Crossword puzzle

Across: 1. Canyons 3. Rapids 6. Four 8. Rocky Mountain 10. Roller 11. Glenwood

Down: 1. Colorado 2. California 4. Flooding 5. Rafting 7. Grand 9. Cubic

## Fill-in the blanks

Elk, Pika, Cutthroat Trout, Bison, Pine Martin, Black Bear, Bighorn Sheep, Pine Beetle, Moose

## Story with word bank

Colorado, 12.5, 1300, path, beauty, impact, lanes, pillars, construction, lake, hiking, travertine, waterfalls, photographers, feet, passengers, Native, vapor, Hot Springs, Roosevelt, Adventure, Fairy, Aspen, Museum

## Connect the dots

A steep cliff



# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

This certifies that

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has completed all activities for the



*California Zephyr*<sup>®</sup>  
**Trails & Rails Award**



and is hereby granted the official title of

**National Park Service Junior Ranger**

Junior Ranger Pledge:

"I promise to discover all I can about the special places protected by the National Park Service and share my discoveries with others. I pledge to enjoy and protect the plants, the animals, and the historic places of my country."

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Junior Ranger Signature & Date

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Trails & Rails Guide Signature & Date

