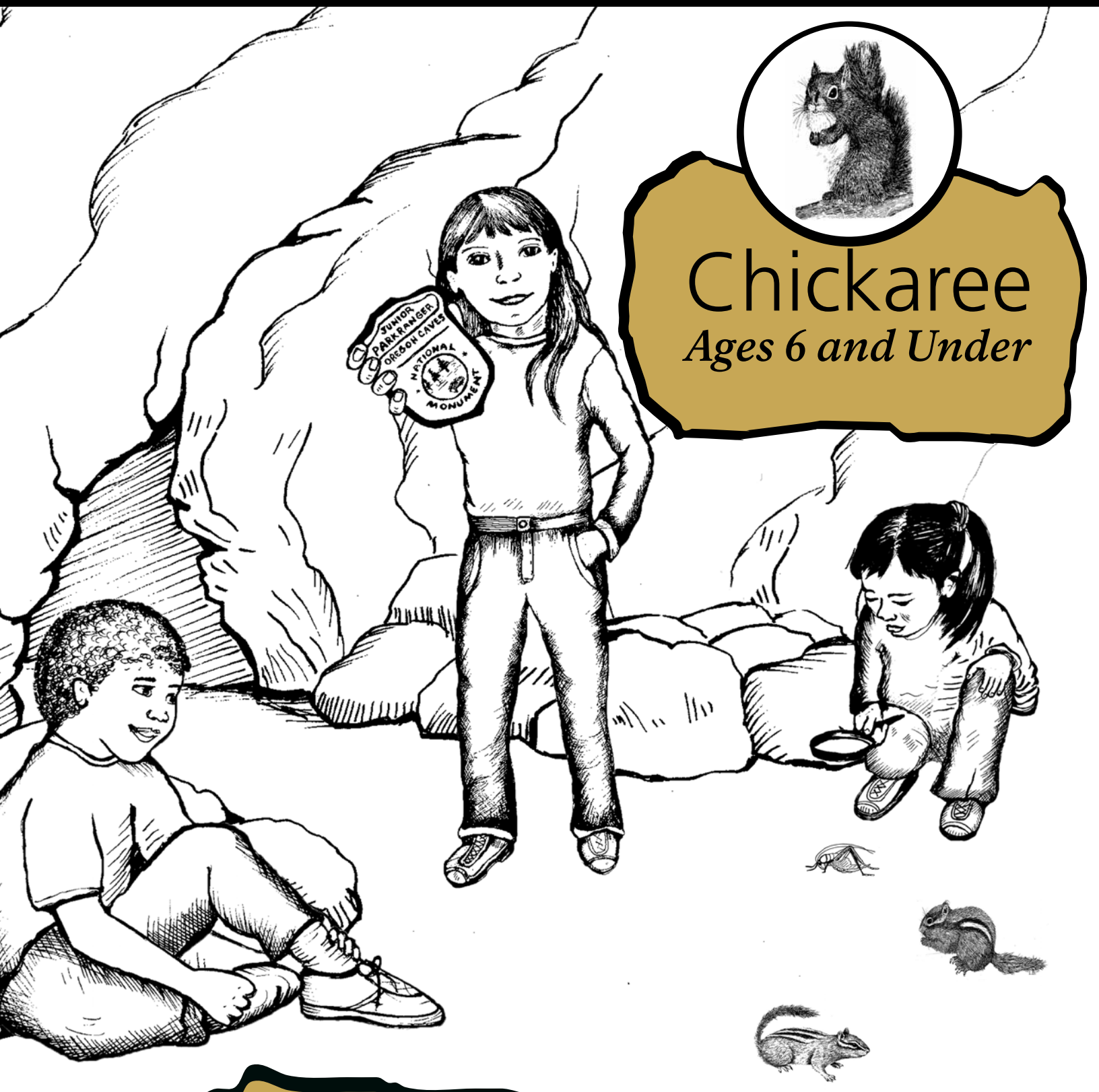
Junior Ranger

Oregon Caves National Monument

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior



Chickaree

Ages 6 and Under

My Name is

_____

WILL YOU ACCEPT THE JUNIOR RANGER CHALLENGE?

Oregon Caves NATIONAL MONUMENT

We invite you to explore Oregon Caves National Monument!

Here is a chance to discover its habitats and old growth forest, its bats and cave critters, its geology and fossils, its people and their history, and learn about caving safely. Please follow these directions and you'll be on your way to becoming a Junior Ranger!

The Chickaree Junior Ranger Booklet is intended for ages 6 and under. There are three ways to become a Junior Ranger. Just complete one of the following three choices:

Do three activities in this book and attend a cave tour.

OR Do four activities in this book and hike a trail or attend a ranger program.

OR Do five activities in this book.

What is a Chickaree?

A Chickaree (*Tamiasciurius douglasii*) is a small, lively, bushy-tailed tree squirrel. Their fur is brown to reddish brown on their backs and their bellies are white to orange. They are active year round except during very cold spells. They love seeds from the cones of the Douglas Fir trees, true firs and other cone bearing trees. They stash green cones away for the winter and hide nuts in nooks and crannies in the forest to eat later.

Oregon Caves National Monument
19000 Caves Highway
Cave Junction, OR 97523
(541)592-2100

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Geology

WHAT IS YOUR ROCK LIKE

Geologists are scientists who study the Earth. They are learning how the Earth was formed and how it changed over time. Like geologists, Park Rangers describe rocks in their field books so they can learn about the cave.

This is your field book. Find a rock and answer the following questions. Be creative in describing your rock.

What color is your rock?
Examples are red, white, black, brown, yellow and other colors.

How does your rock feel?
Examples are rough, sharp, smooth like glass, and other textures.

How does your rock smell?
Examples are musty, wet, dry, like dirt and other smells.

How big is your rock?
Examples are as big as your finger, your fist, your head and other sizes.

Draw a Picture of Your Rock
Please return your rock to exactly where you found it. Everything in National Parks and Monuments must be left where it belongs. Returning the rock, allows others to discover and enjoy it too.

WHAT DID YOU SEE?

Watershed

-Old Growth Forest

Circle the things you saw at Oregon Caves National Monument.

Draw yourself here.

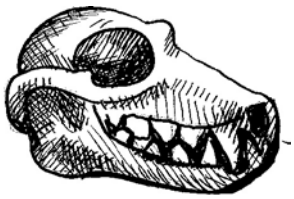
Fossils

WHICH SKULLS DO WE HAVE

Fossils are the remains of plants or animals that changed into rock. Some of the skulls on this page may look familiar.

Compare this set of skulls to the ones on the touch table.

If you see one on the touch table that is also on this page, circle it.
If you can't find it on the touch table put an X through it.



Bat Skull

Beaver Skull

Chipmunk Skull

Jaguar Skull

Grizzly Bear Skull

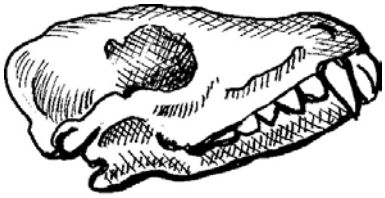
Cougar Skull

Moose Skull

Raccoon Skull

Horse Skull

Human Skull



Coyote Skull

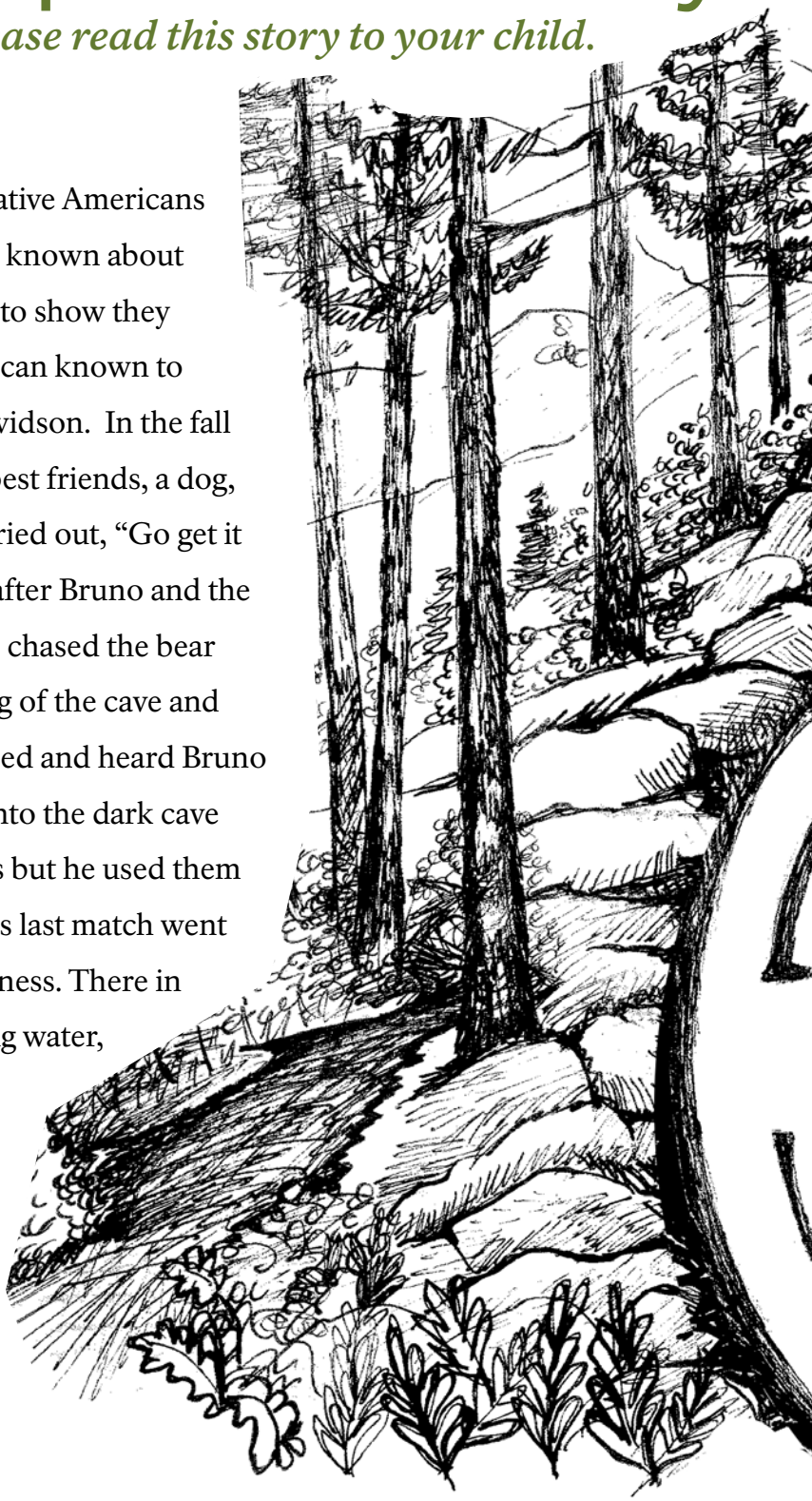
Black Bear Skull

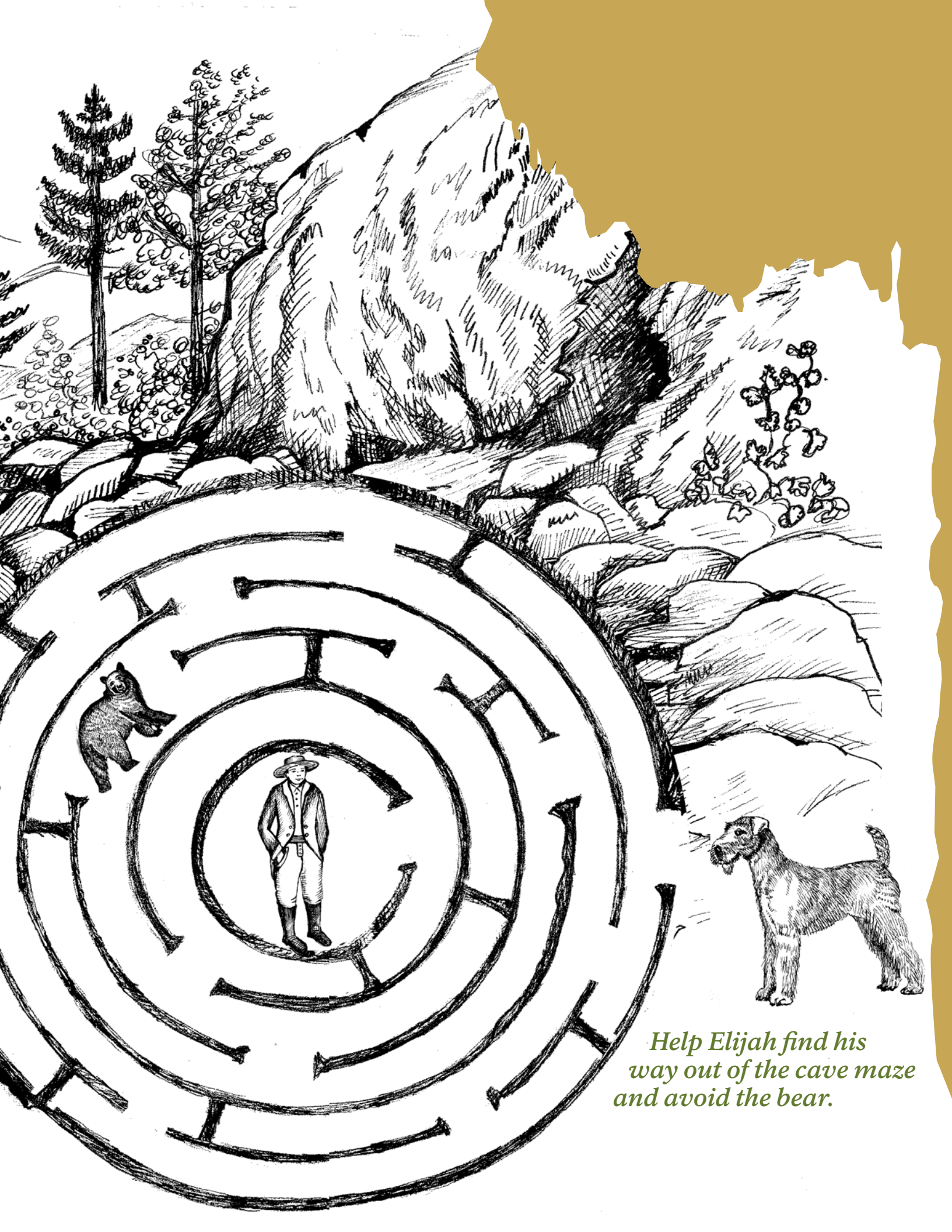
CAN YOU HELP ELIJAH FIND BRUNO

People & History

Parents please read this story to your child.

Though Native Americans may have known about the caves, they did not leave any evidence to show they had used them. The first European American known to have entered Oregon Caves was Elijah Davidson. In the fall of 1874, he went hunting with one of his best friends, a dog, Bruno. Bruno smelled a bear and Elijah cried out, "Go get it boy!" Elijah then raced up the mountain after Bruno and the bear. Before Elijah could stop him, Bruno chased the bear into the cave. Elijah dashed to the opening of the cave and yelled, "Bruno, come here boy!" He listened and heard Bruno and the bear fighting. So, Elijah crawled into the dark cave to rescue Bruno. Elijah had some matches but he used them all up without finding his friend. When his last match went out, Elijah found himself lost in total darkness. There in the darkness, Elijah could hear the running water, crawled over to it, and followed the water out of the cave. Can you guess who was waiting for Elijah outside of the cave? Bruno! Elijah grabbed Bruno and Bruno showered Elijah with wet dog kisses! Elijah was very happy that his friend was safe.





Help Elijah find his way out of the cave maze and avoid the bear.

WHO IS ENDEMIC?

Cave Critters

Everyone is unique – special – one of a kind. Here at Oregon Caves National Monument some of our cave critters are unique. These cave critters have lived in the caves so long that they have become one of a kind. They are endemic, which means they only live here in Oregon Caves.

Circle the cave critters below which look endemic to you.

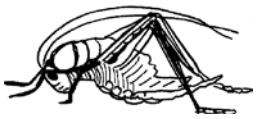
Grylloblattid

Harvestmen

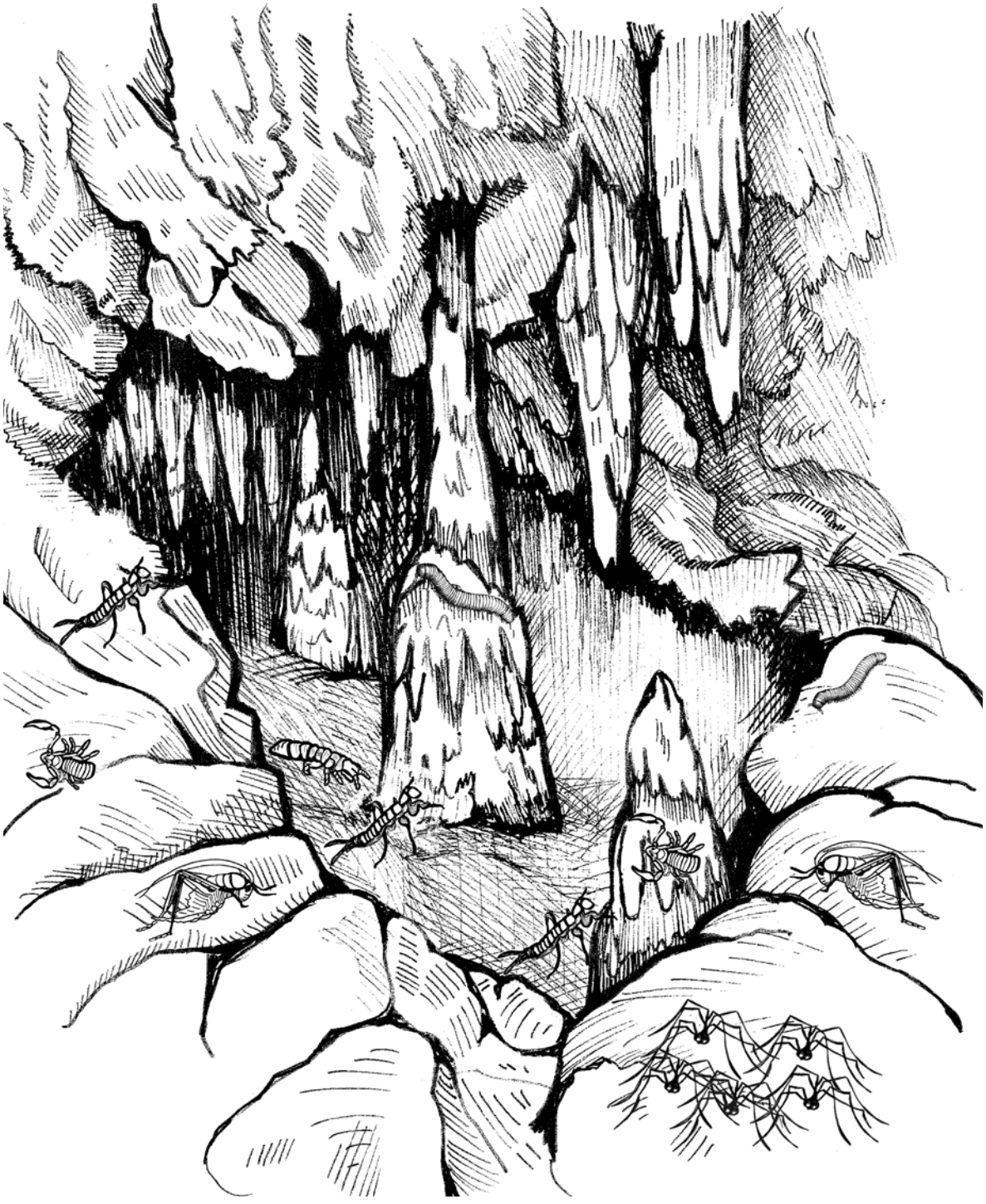
Millipede

Springtail

Pseudoscorpion



Cave Cricket



Bats

HOW MANY BATS ARE THERE

Here at Oregon Caves National Monument we have eight different species of bats which mostly use the dead trees of the old growth forest as their summer homes, some use the caves to hibernate in the winter and some use the caves as a rest stop between meal times in the summer.

Can you find the bats?
Circle them and count how many you find.

Fringed

California

Little Brown

Big Brown

Long Legged

Yuma

Long Eared

Townsend

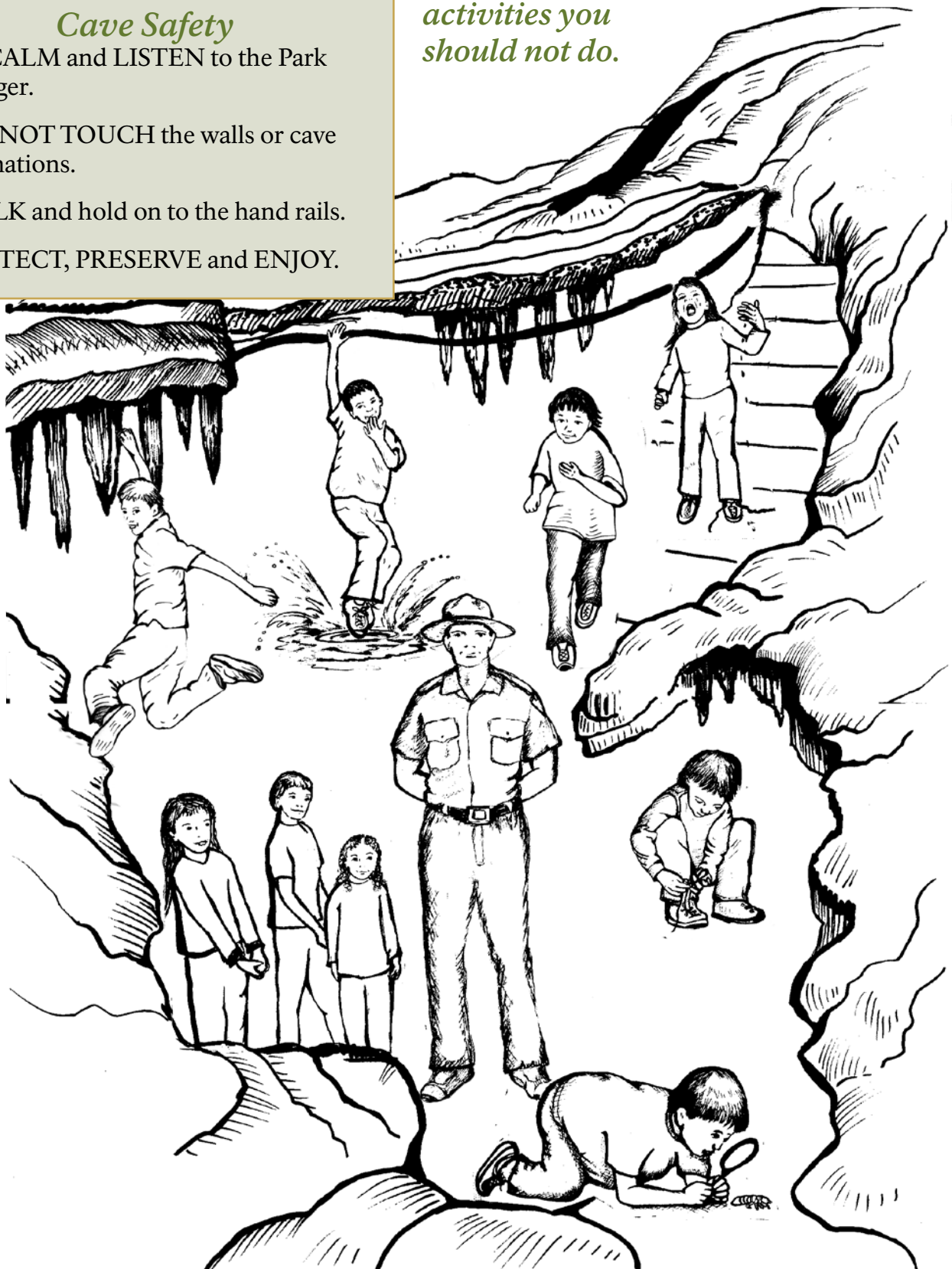
HOW CAN YOU BE SAFE?

Cave Safety

Circle those things that are safe activities in the cave and X out those activities you should not do.

Cave Safety

1. Be CALM and LISTEN to the Park Ranger.
2. DO NOT TOUCH the walls or cave formations.
3. WALK and hold on to the hand rails.
4. PROTECT, PRESERVE and ENJOY.



This certifies that

_____

has completed the Junior Ranger Program at
Oregon Caves National Monument
and is hereby considered an
official Junior Ranger.

Given on this _____ day of _____, 20_____

_____
Ranger Signature

Junior Ranger Promise

As a Junior Ranger, I promise to help protect and preserve all of the National Parks and Monuments, my community and the world for everyone to enjoy.

What did you discover today?

Chickaree

Ages 6 and Under