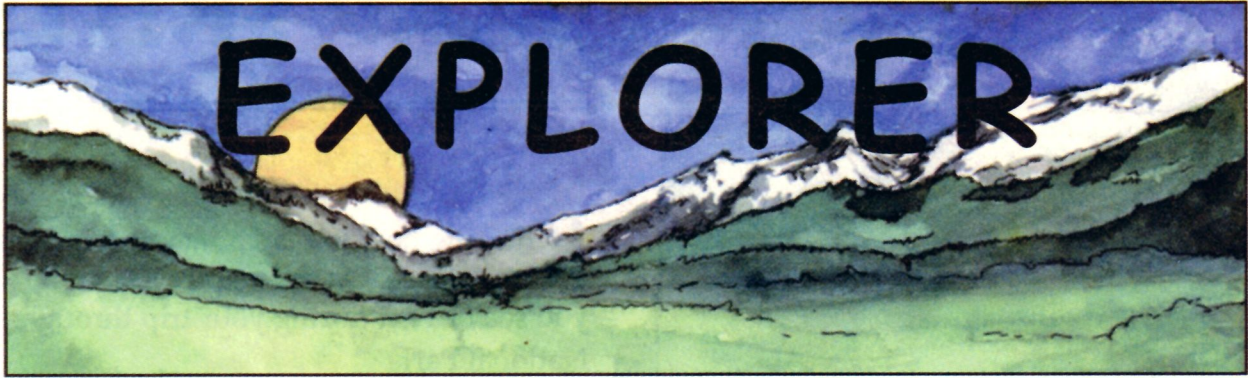
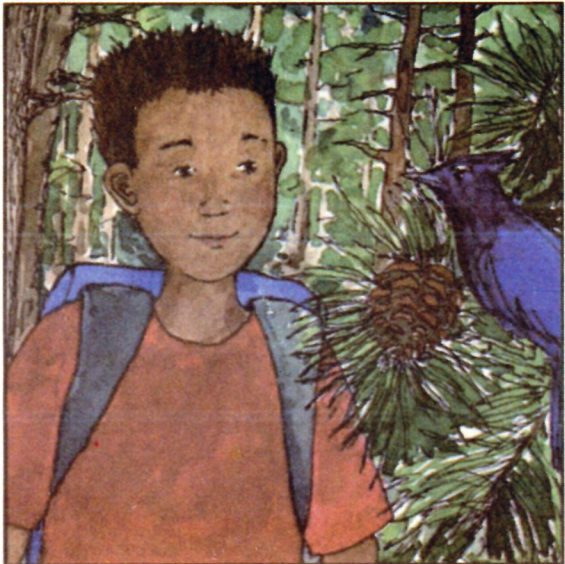




ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

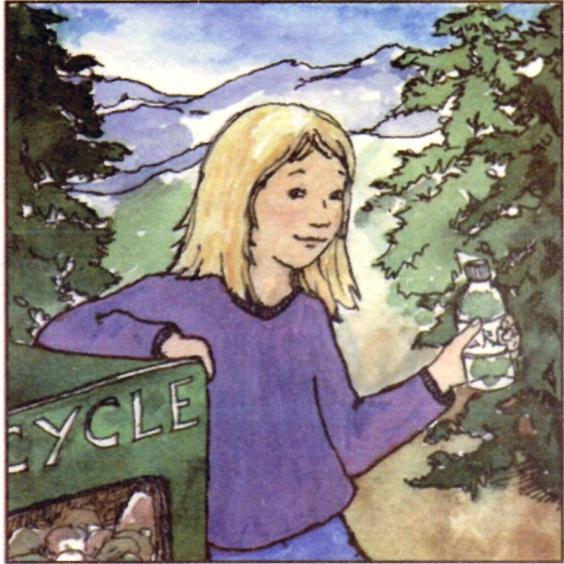
Join these kids on their adventure in beautiful Rocky Mountain National Park. How? Complete all of the games and activities in this newspaper. You'll learn lots about the park and have fun at the same time. Let's go!



ALEX



ROBBIE



CRISTINA

ECOSYSTEMS

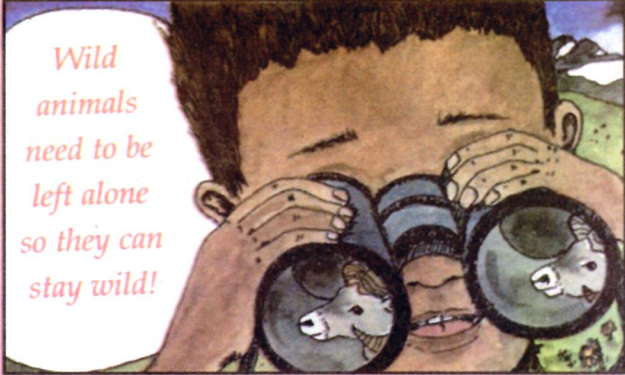
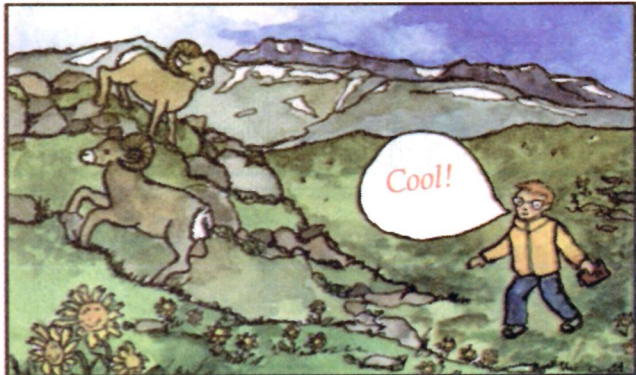
GAME 1



As you go up and down in elevation, you'll pass through different plant and animal communities called ecosystems, or life zones. Look closely. Watch for the changes. Pick the words from the list at right that complete the ecosystem descriptions.

	ALPINE	NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF THE PARK IS ABOVE TREELINE. THE WIDE-OPEN ALPINE (1) _____ BURSTS INTO COLOR WHEN TINY (2) _____ BLOOM IN THE (3) _____.	FORESTS PLANTS FIR LAKES BANNER SUMMER MEADOWS TUNDRA PONDEROSA ELEVATIONS
	SUBALPINE	DENSE (4) _____ OF ENGELMANN SPRUCE AND SUBALPINE FIR AROUND HERE. WIND-SCULPTED, FLAG-SHAPED (5) _____ TREES ARE SEEN AT TREELINE.	
	MONTANE	OPEN (6) _____ AND FORESTS OF (7) _____ PINE AND DOUGLAS- (8) _____ ARE FOUND HERE AT THE PARK'S WARMER, DRIER LOWER ELEVATIONS.	
	RIPARIAN	WILLOWS GROW IN THESE LANDS LOCATED AROUND (9) _____ AND STREAMS AT ALL (10) _____ IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK.	

Answers: 1. tundra, 2. plants, 3. summer, 4. forests, 5. banner, 6. meadows, 7. ponderosa, 8. fir, 9. lakes, 10. elevations



MAP SKILLS

GAMES
2 & 3



"Hey, look at that huge mountain. What is it?"
"It's right here on this map. Hallett Peak. See?"

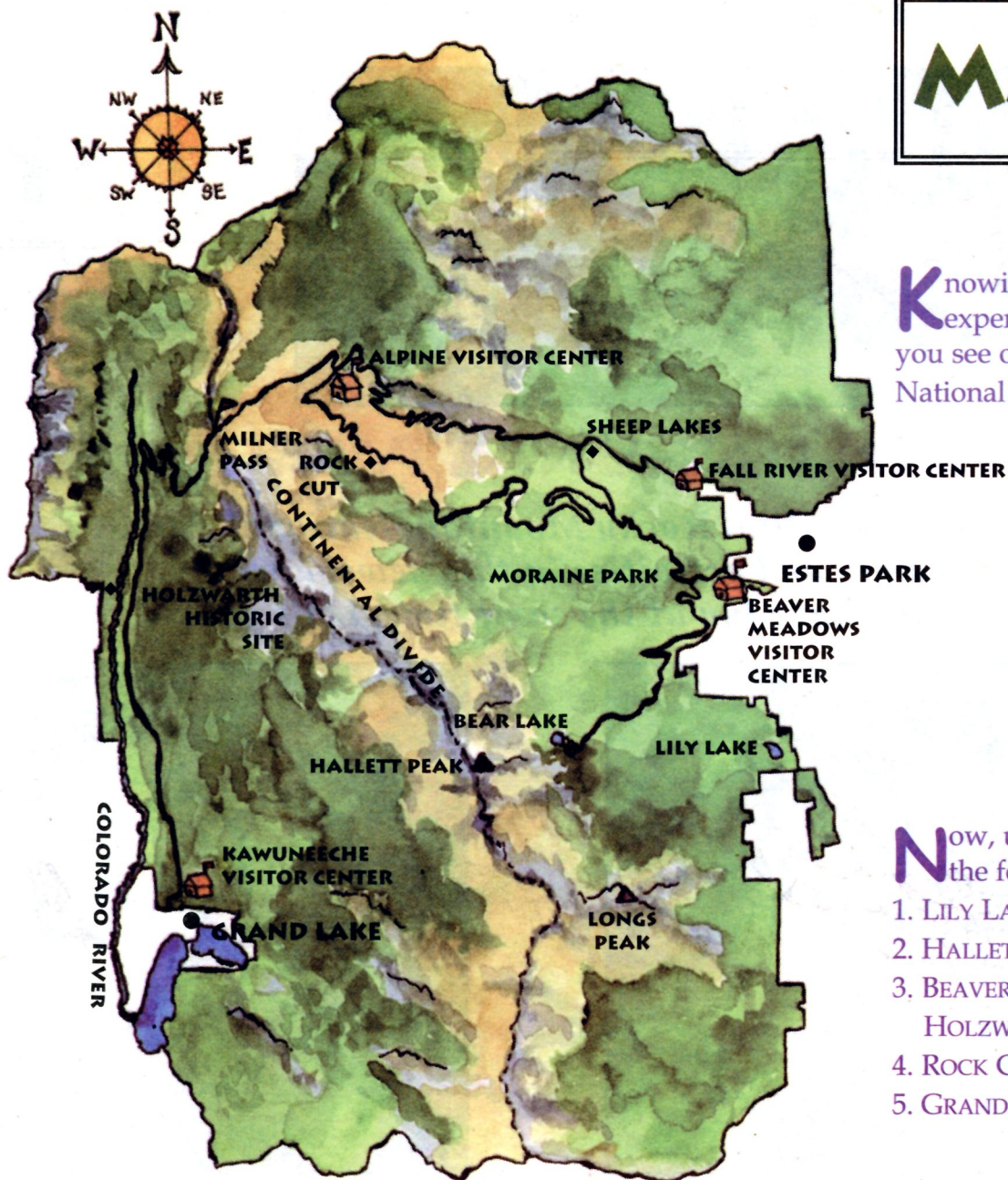
Knowing how to read a map can mean a safer, more fun park experience. On the map at left, circle each of the locations you see or visit during your trip through Rocky Mountain National Park.



Now, use the compass next to the map to help the kids figure out the following directions.

1. LILY LAKE IS WHICH DIRECTION FROM LONGS PEAK?
2. HALLETT PEAK IS WHICH DIRECTION FROM MILNER PASS?
3. BEAVER MEADOWS VISITOR CENTER IS WHICH DIRECTION FROM HOLZWARTH HISTORIC SITE?
4. ROCK CUT IS WHICH DIRECTION FROM BEAR LAKE?
5. GRAND LAKE IS WHICH DIRECTION FROM MORAINE PARK?

Answers: 1. northeast, 2. southeast, 3. southwest, 4. northwest, 5. southwest



LITTER, BE GONE!

GAME
4



ALUMINUM CAN
100 YEARS



PLASTIC BOTTLE
NEVER



CANDY WRAPPER
10-20 YEARS



ORANGE PEEL
12 MONTHS



TWIST TIES
HUNDREDS
OF YEARS

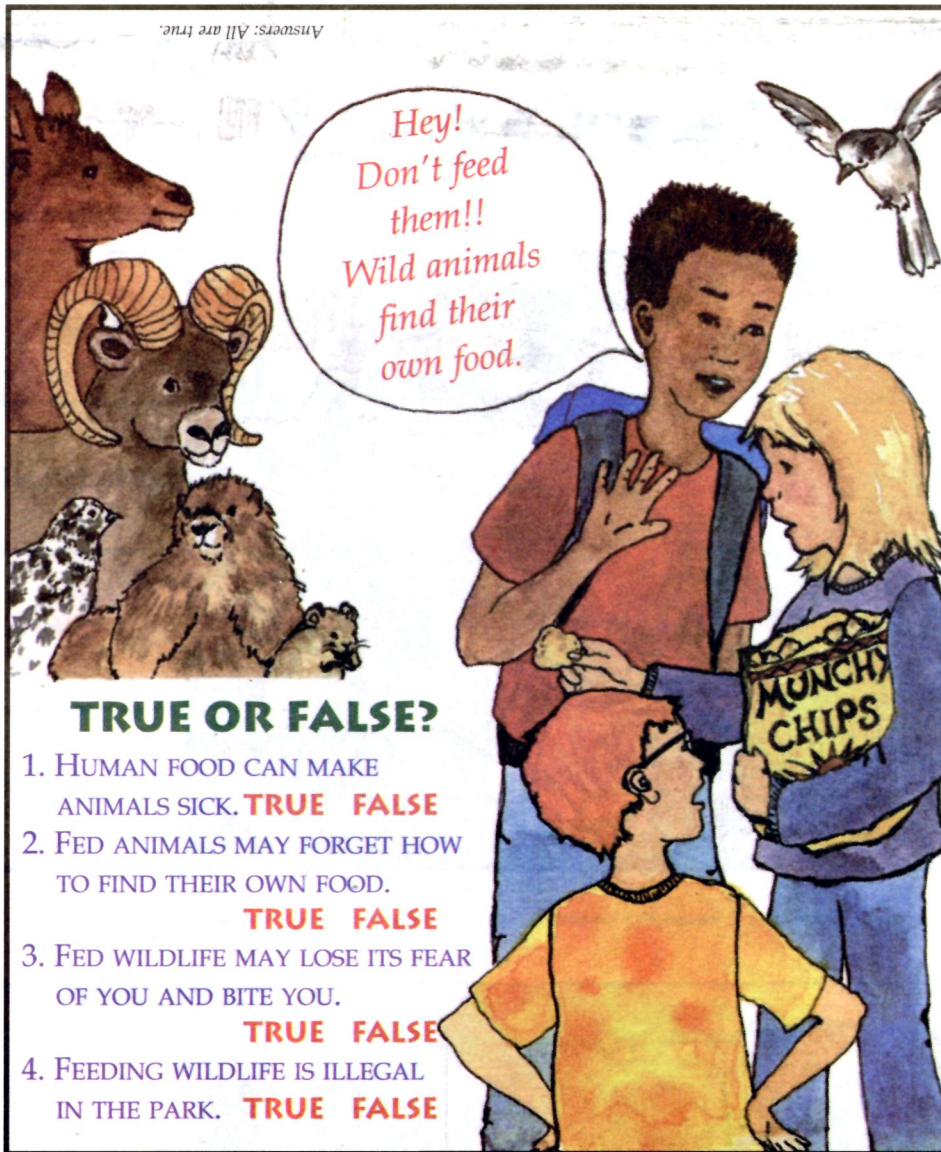


LITTER LIST

"We don't want
anyone to trash this
beautiful place!"



The illustrations at left show how long it takes for litter to decompose. Scary, huh? Help the park by picking up litter and tossing it into the trash can or recycling bin during your visit. List the items in the box above.



TRUE OR FALSE?

1. HUMAN FOOD CAN MAKE ANIMALS SICK. **TRUE FALSE**
2. FED ANIMALS MAY FORGET HOW TO FIND THEIR OWN FOOD. **TRUE FALSE**
3. FED WILDLIFE MAY LOSE ITS FEAR OF YOU AND BITE YOU. **TRUE FALSE**
4. FEEDING WILDLIFE IS ILLEGAL IN THE PARK. **TRUE FALSE**

NO FEEDING!

GAME
5



LONGS PEAK HIKE

GAME
6



"There's no way I'm getting up at 2:30 tomorrow morning!"
"We had to hit the trail early. If we don't make it to the top of Longs Peak before noon, we could get caught in a lightning storm."

Alex, Robbie and Cristina are joining the thousands of people who make the 16-mile-round-trip climb of 14,259-foot Longs Peak each summer. Most hikers care about Rocky Mountain National Park and act responsibly. A few do not. Five activities in this picture help rangers take care of the park. Circle them. Three activities do not help the park. Mark them with a big X.

Answers: Circle - 1. girl throwing away trash, 2. people enjoying breakfast at picnic table, 3. kids hiking on trail, 4. boy kneeling with flower guidebook, 5. girl watching wildlife through binoculars.
X out - 1. boy feeding ducks, 2. girl picking flowers, 3. boys shortcutting trail

GAME
7



CHECKLIST

"Look at those woodchucks over there on the rocks!"
"They look like woodchucks, but they're really marmots."

Lots of interesting wildlife and wildflowers can be seen in Rocky Mountain National Park. Look carefully. When you spot one of the animals, birds or plants below, check it off. Don't be disappointed if you can't find them all!

ANIMALS

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | ☐ BIGHORN SHEEP |  | ☐ COYOTE |
|  | ☐ ELK |  | ☐ MARMOT |
|  | ☐ MULE DEER |  | ☐ PIKA |
|  | ☐ MOOSE |  | ☐ ABERT'S SQUIRREL |
| | ☐ CHICKAREE (RED SQUIRREL) |  | ☐ |
| | ☐ GOLDEN-MANTLED GROUND SQUIRREL |  | ☐ |

BIRDS

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
|  | ☐ MAGPIE |  | ☐ NORTHERN FLICKER |
|  | ☐ CLARK'S NUTCRACKER |  | ☐ AMERICAN DIPPER (OUZEL) |
|  | ☐ WHITE-TAILED PTARMIGAN |  | ☐ |
|  | ☐ STELLER'S JAY |  | ☐ |
|  | ☐ MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD | | |

PLANTS

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|
|  | ☐ HAREBELL |  | ☐ |
|  | ☐ INDIAN PAINTBRUSH |  | ☐ |
|  | ☐ COLORADO COLUMBINE |  | ☐ |
|  | ☐ RYDBERGIA (ALPINE SUNFLOWER) | | |

GAME 8 ANIMAL TRACKS

 1. LEMU REDE	 2. CORCNAO	 3. HBONIRG PESEH	 4. YCTOEO
 5. VEBARE	 6. KLE	 7. TOETR	 8. OSMEO



"These tracks are pretty cool."
 "Yeah. I saw some snowshoe hare prints at Bear Lake this morning."
 Below each track at left is the name of the animal that made it. But the name is scrambled. Unscramble the words and help the kids identify the mammals that left these footprints.

Answers: 1. mule deer, 2. raccoon, 3. bighorn sheep, 4. coyote, 5. beaver, 6. elk, 7. otter, 8. moose

CRISSCROSS GAME 9

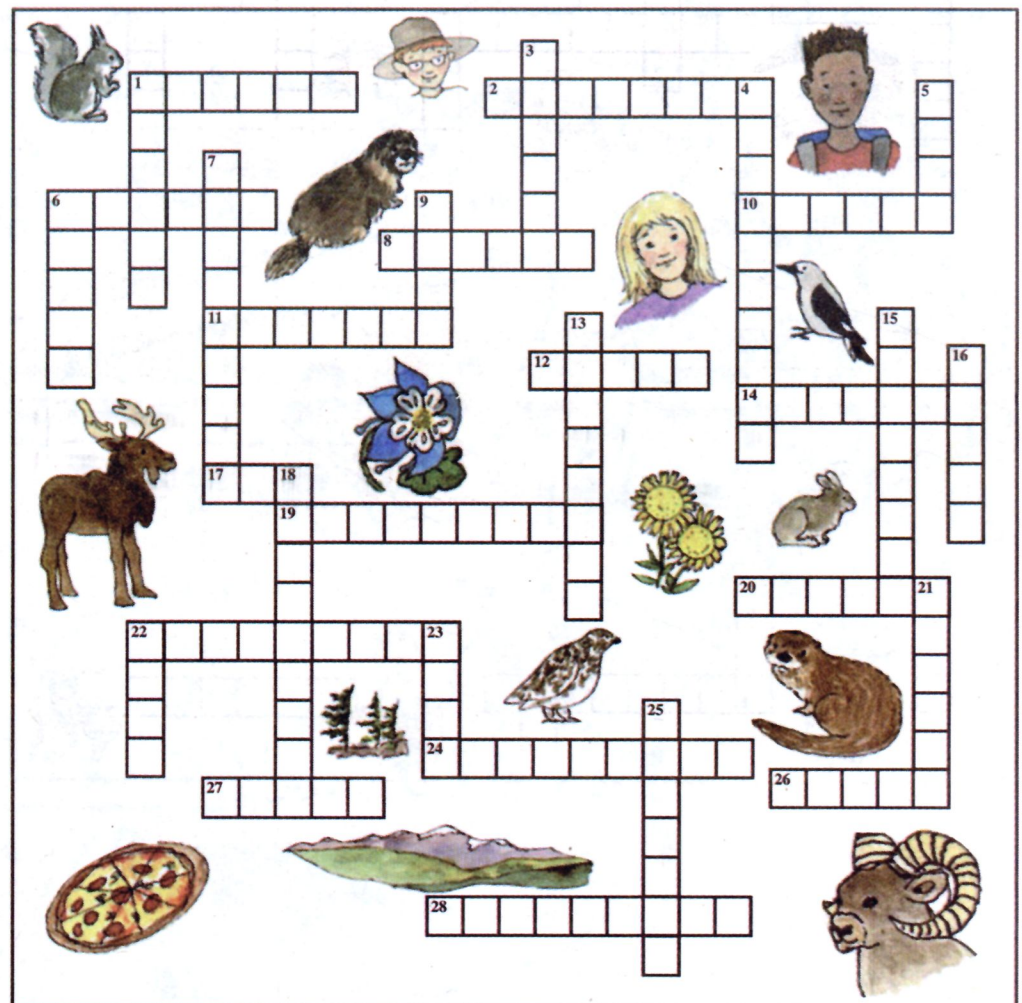
"All those snaggy little trees we saw at treeline are called krummholz. I learned that at the campfire program last night."
 You're nearing the end of your adventure. Let's find out what you have learned during your visit to Rocky Mountain National Park. Complete the Crisscross puzzle by answering the questions below.

ACROSS

- HIGHEST ECOSYSTEM
- LANDS NEXT TO LAKES AND STREAMS
- LOOKS LIKE A WOODCHUCK
- LAND ABOVE THE TREES
- DOG-LIKE PREDATOR
- LOWER-ELEVATION ECOSYSTEM
- _____ MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
- EXPLORERS DO THIS
- THIS FAMILIAR MAMMAL'S A FALL BUGLER
- FANCY NAME FOR AN ALPINE SUNFLOWER
- ANOTHER NAME FOR THE OUZEL
- TUNDRA-DWELLING BIRD
- HEAVILY FORESTED ECOSYSTEM
- RIVER-SWIMMING MAMMAL
- A KID'S FAVORITE FOOD
- ALSO CALLED A RED SQUIRREL

DOWN

- LONG-EARED SQUIRREL
- TRASH TOSSED ON THE GROUND
- CLARK'S _____
- TRAIL WALK
- HUGE MAMMAL PREFERS PARK'S WEST SIDE
- COLORADO'S STATE FLOWER
- _____ DEER
- YOU'RE IN THIS STATE
- _____ HARE
- WHEN SHOULD HUMANS FEED WILDLIFE?
- WEATHER-BEATEN TREELINE GROWTH
- PARK PERSON IN UNIFORM
- PONDEROSA _____
- ALPINE FORGET-ME-_____
- _____ SHEEP



Answers: ACROSS - 1. alpine, 2. riparian, 3. marmot, 4. hiker, 5. nutcracker, 6. marmot, 7. ponderosa, 8. river otter, 9. elk, 10. marmot, 11. montane, 12. rocky, 13. colorado, 14. explore, 15. snowshoe, 16. never, 17. elk, 18. krummholz, 19. ranger, 20. dipper, 21. piñon, 22. subalpine, 23. pizza, 24. chickadee, 25. bighorn, 26. otter, 27. pizza, 28. chickadee
 DOWN - 1. albert's, 2. riparian, 3. marmot, 4. hiker, 5. nutcracker, 6. marmot, 7. ponderosa, 8. river otter, 9. elk, 10. marmot, 11. montane, 12. rocky, 13. colorado, 14. explore, 15. snowshoe, 16. never, 17. elk, 18. krummholz, 19. ranger, 20. dipper, 21. piñon, 22. subalpine, 23. pizza, 24. chickadee, 25. bighorn

YOU DID IT! WAY TO GO!



"That was fun! I feel like I know this park a lot better now."
 "I can't wait to show my vacation pictures to the kids at school!"

There sure are lots of great things to explore in Rocky Mountain National Park. Want to know more? Visit one of the Rocky Mountain Nature Association bookstores located in all park visitor centers and check out the awesome selection of books, posters, puppets, pins and other fun stuff. As an extra bonus, kids ages 6 to 12 can ask a ranger at the visitor center desk for a free copy of the park's Junior Ranger Log Book. Complete the activities with your family or friends and a ranger will award you an official Junior Ranger badge.

We had a great time exploring the park with you. Come back soon!



PUBLISHED 2005 BY THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURE ASSOCIATION
 AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
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