

# Park Ranger Trainee Patch Program

## [Complete 3 requirements to earn this patch]

Imagine you worked for a national park as a ranger. There are over 60 national parks all over the United States. You could help track movements of wild animals, help plant trees, help scientists make discoveries, present guided tours, protect the historic sites and monuments. Depending on where you live you could be working in the mountains, dessert, caves, near the seashore or volcano.



1. Choose a national park to learn more about. It could be in your state or one that you always wanted to visit. What state is it located in? What type of trees, monuments, animals, and terrain does it have? For extra, learn more about the state like the capital, where it is located in the USA and it's state flower or tree.
2. Some caves are located in national parks. They contain fossils, minerals, and provide many areas to explore and learn more about the adapted animals live in extreme conditions within caves. Caves are beautiful to look at and provide great places to explore and learn. Learn more about the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky OR any caves. What type of animals live there, fossils, or type of rock or formations inside. For extra, create a cave by using chairs to lay blankets over to climb through.
3. There are several national parks that have unique sites to view. Choose one of well known parks to learn more about. What terrain, sites, or monuments are there? Examples: Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Joshua Tree, Great Smoky Mountains, Zion, Redwood, and Rocky Mountain.
4. Some parks feature an area where you can learn about paleontology, the study of fossils of animals and plants. Look at pictures, use the internet, visit a park or museum that has fossils you can view. Try to sketch out or color a fossil. Label it and determine what it is a fossil of.
5. In order to protect the animals in the area a park ranger works, you need to make sure the people visiting the park don't try to feed the animals, get too close, or disturb their habitat. Make sure signs are posted for trash and careful of animals. Give an example of what not to do at a park with animals OR create a sign on a piece of paper for people that would be visiting the park.
6. Did you know you could go sand sledding at the Great Dunes National Park? Find out more about the park. What is the weather like, what kind of plants and animals live there? Are they different from a park in your state?
7. There is a variety of water sources in parks. Learn more about one of the water areas in a park. What type of animals live in the water, does it have a unique quality, are you able to go in the water or is it a protected area, are you able to fish in the water? Choose a park near you or a national park in another state. Example: Crater Lake National Park, Yellowstone National Park, or Glacier Bay National Park.
8. There are over 60 National Parks in the United States and many more around the world. Choose two you would like to visit. Why did you choose them? What type of landscape does the parks have?
9. Some parks have areas where archeologists are observing and digging for artifacts from the past. This includes pieces of pottery, jewelry, toys, and glass items. Learn more about archeology, OR participate in related activity, OR view items they have found, OR draw out what you think an item may look like according to the pieces on display.
10. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Organic Act giving the National Park Service authority to care and maintain many monuments or memorials. Choose one to learn more about. Examples: Statue of Liberty National Monument, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Washington Monument, or Pearl Harbor. <https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/national-park-system.htm>
11. Choose a park near your area to complete a service project. Examples include: Pick up litter, assist in a day camp, contact a park and find out how you can help and make it happen with your group.
12. Learn how to use a compass. If you have a map of the park it should have a symbol on it for North and your compass has a needle that points north. Start with an adult and line up north on the map and your compass. Once you are facing north you can find the other directions. South is behind you, east is to your right, and west is to your left. Try to find a simple location on the map like the campsite or trail. Use the sample map on the downloadable kit to get acquainted with maps. Learn to measure out distance and write down locations of places.
13. Plan an adventure to the park. This could be a hiking, letterboxing, scavenger hunt, learn about nature, picnic, take an educational program, go bird watching, or enjoy water activities. The choice is yours.
14. Plan a camping adventure in a park. Make sure you pack all the items you need for your adventure. Examples of activities include: making smores, camping out, hiking, cooking over a fire, using a compass, star watching, or
15. Learn about local wildlife in parks. Are some of them protected or endangered species?



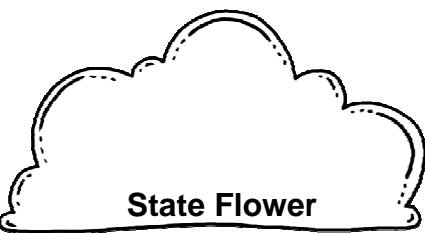
**BOOKLET**



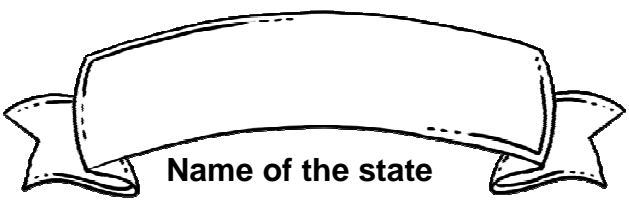
There is a variety of parks located in the United States, some are in your neighborhood. Over 60 of those parks have the title of National Park.

- Circle the name of the state if you have visited a park, memorial, or monument there.
- Draw a star or shape near the state name if it was a National Park. (There is a list of the national parks on the next page if need to refer to a list.)
- Draw a small circle on the states you would like to visit.

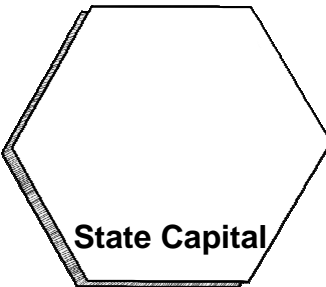
### Learn more about the state you live in.



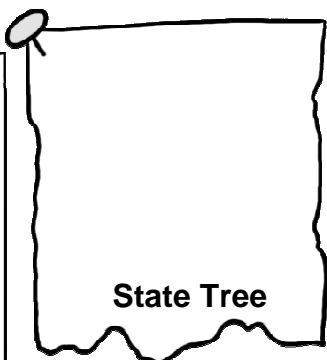
**State Flower**



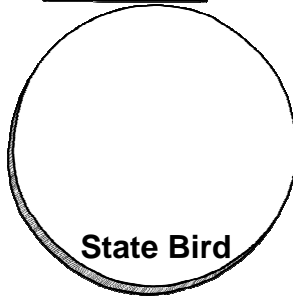
**Name of the state**



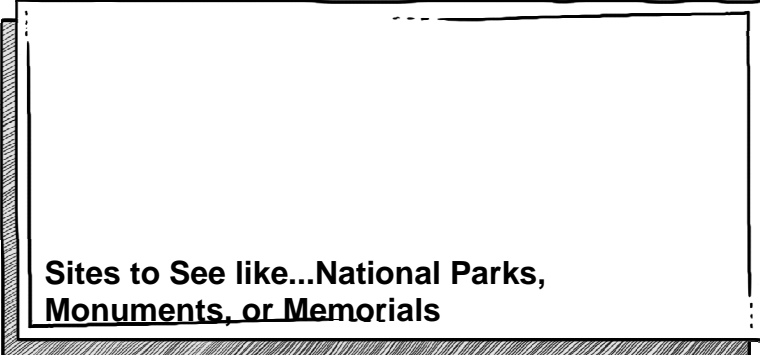
**State Capital**



**State Tree**

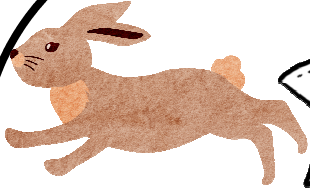


**State Bird**



**Sites to See like...National Parks, Monuments, or Memorials**

Learn more about a National Park. Choose one and research it on the internet or in person.

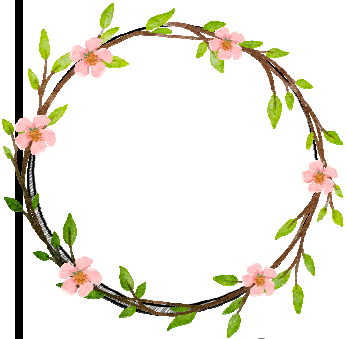
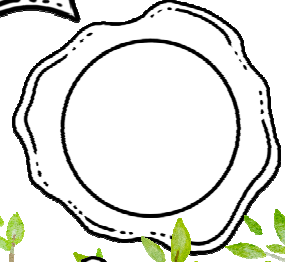


Name of the National Park

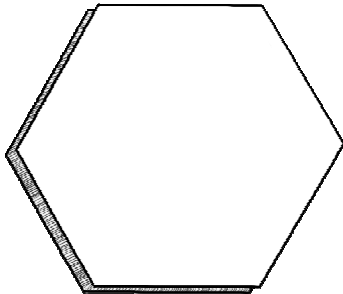
Is it near you?



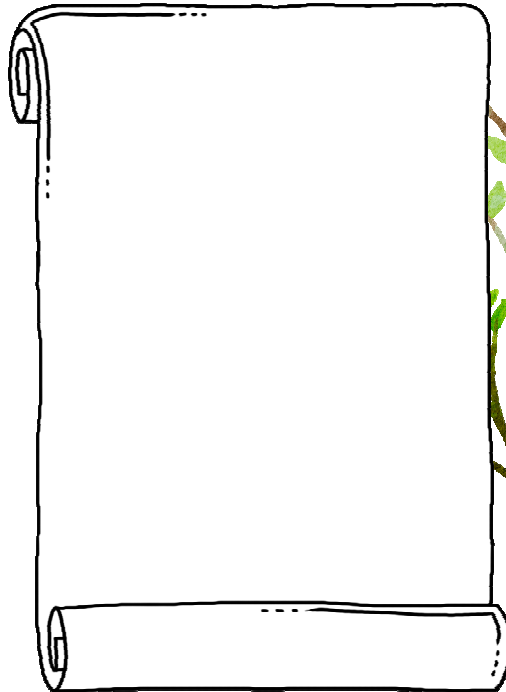
Location (State or States)



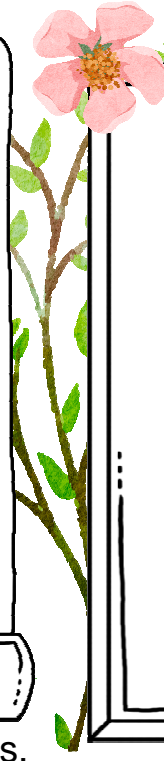
Approximate Size  
acres/miles etc.



Any lakes, waterfalls,  
other water features



Monuments or Special Sites.



Types of Trees or  
Leaves.

What did you like best about this National Park? Campsites,  
Recreation areas, canoeing, fishing, scenic trails, etc





# LIST OF NATIONAL PARKS IN THE UNITED STATES

Explore the below parks over the internet or in person. Maybe you have already visited some of the parks.

Use your state passport, on the next page, to write down cool facts, terrain or anything unique about the parks.

Use the blank pages to note other parks in the same state you visited or explored. It could be a park in your neighborhood.

<b>Alaska</b> Denali Gates of the Arctic Glacier Bay Katmai Kenai Fjords Kobuk Valley Lake Clark Wrangell – St. Elias	<b>Arizona</b> Grand Canyon Petrified Forest Saguaro  <b>Arkansas</b> Hot Springs	<b>California</b> Channel Islands Death Valley Joshua Tree Kings Canyon Lassen Volcanic Pinnacles Redwood Sequoia Yosemite
<b>Colorado</b> Black Canyon of the Gunnison Great Sand Dunes Mesa Verde Rocky Mountain	<b>Florida</b> Biscayne Dry Tortugas Everglades	<b>Hawaii</b> Haleakala Hawai'i Volcanoes <b>Idaho</b> Yellowstone
<b>Kentucky</b> Mammoth Cave	<b>Michigan</b> Isle Royale	<b>Minnesota</b> Voyageurs <b>Missouri</b> Gateway Arch
<b>Montana</b> Glacier	<b>Nevada</b> Great Basin	<b>New Mexico</b> Carlsbad Caverns
<b>North Carolina</b> Great Smoky Mountains	<b>North Dakota</b> Theodore Roosevelt	<b>Ohio</b> Cuyahoga Valley
<b>Oregon</b> Crater Lake	<b>South Carolina</b> Congaree	<b>South Dakota</b> Badlands Wind Cave
<b>Tennessee</b> Great Smoky Mountains  <b>Texas</b> Big Bend Guadalupe Mountains	<b>Utah</b> Arches Bryce Canyon Canyonlands Capitol Reef Zion <b>Virginia</b> Shenandoah	<b>Washington</b> Mount Rainier North Cascades Olympic <b>Wyoming</b> Grand Teton Yellowstone

\*American Samoa and Virgin Islands territories each have a National Park

## **Alaska**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **Arizona**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **Arkansas**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **California**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **Colorado**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **Florida**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **Hawaii**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **Idaho**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **Kentucky**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

<div><div>Michigan</div><div>Park:</div><div>Date:</div><div>Cool Facts/drawings:</div></div>	<div><div>Minnesota</div><div>Park:</div><div>Date:</div><div>Cool Facts/drawings:</div></div>	<div><div>Missouri</div><div>Park:</div><div>Date:</div><div>Cool Facts/drawings:</div></div>
<div><div>Montana</div><div>Park:</div><div>Date:</div><div>Cool Facts/drawings:</div></div>	<div><div>Nevada</div><div>Park:</div><div>Date:</div><div>Cool Facts/drawings:</div></div>	<div><div>New Mexico</div><div>Park:</div><div>Date:</div><div>Cool Facts/drawings:</div></div>
<div><div>North Carolina</div><div>Park:</div><div>Date:</div><div>Cool Facts/drawings:</div></div>	<div><div>North Dakota</div><div>Park:</div><div>Date:</div><div>Cool Facts/drawings:</div></div>	<div><div>Ohio</div><div>Park:</div><div>Date:</div><div>Cool Facts/drawings:</div></div>

## **Oregon**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **South Carolina**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **South Dakota**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **Tennessee**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **Texas**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **Utah**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **Virginia**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **Washington**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

## **Wyoming**

**Park:**

**Date:**

**Cool Facts/drawings:**

<b>Park:</b> <b>Date:</b> <b>Cool Facts/drawings:</b>	<b>Park:</b> <b>Date:</b> <b>Cool Facts/drawings:</b>	<b>Park:</b> <b>Date:</b> <b>Cool Facts/drawings:</b>
<b>Park:</b> <b>Date:</b> <b>Cool Facts/drawings:</b>	<b>Park:</b> <b>Date:</b> <b>Cool Facts/drawings:</b>	<b>Park:</b> <b>Date:</b> <b>Cool Facts/drawings:</b>
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# Archaeology Tools

Match the tool picture to the name and description.



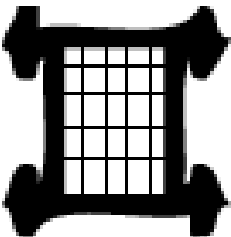
**Trowel:** A small hand tool used by archaeologists to slowly and carefully remove soil from the site.



**Magnifying glass:** A small hand tool used to view artifacts in more detail.



**Tape Measure:** This tool is used to keep accurate measurements when recording artifact locations.



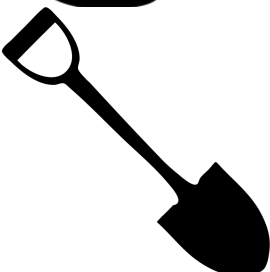
**Brushes:** A tool used to lightly sweep away loose dirt from artifacts.



**Shovel:** A digging tool used to move large amounts of dirt from a site.



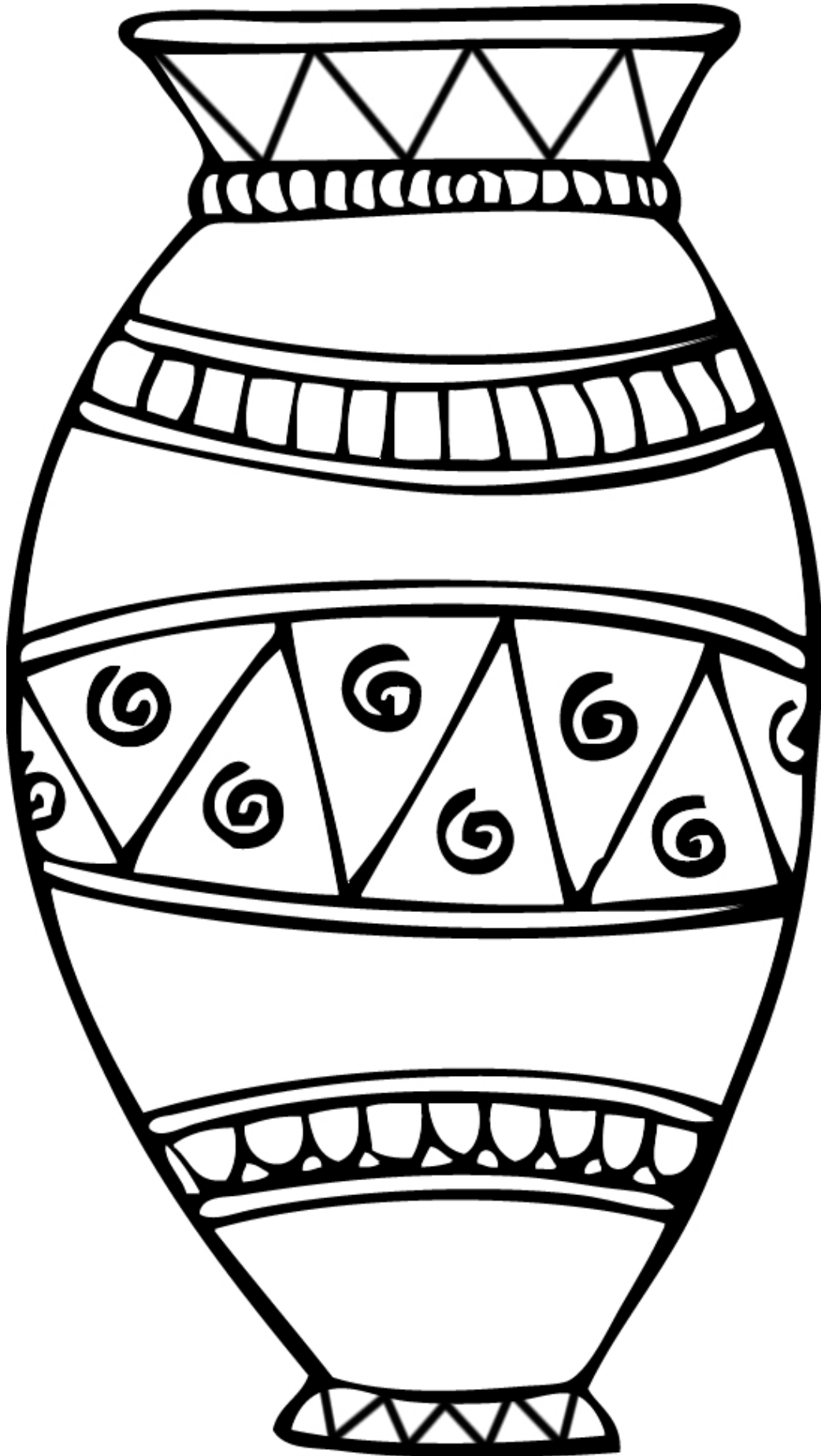
**Screen:** Tool used by archaeologists to recover small artifacts. Dirt is sifted through a mesh screen, allowing artifacts to be caught in the mesh while the dirt falls through.



**Bucket:** Used to carry dirt from the area of site to the screen.

Answers: Tape Measure, magnifying glass, trowel, screen, brushes, bucket, shovel

**Archaeology Finds:** Cut out the below vase. You can color it or leave it black and white. Cut it into at least 10 random pieces. Mix the pieces the up and place them on a table for the participants to view.



# Archaeology Finds

Some parks have areas where archeologists are observing and digging for artifacts from the past. This includes pieces of pottery, old coins, jewelry, toys, and glass items to understand how people lived. Archaeologists are like detectives. They piece together the items they found and discover what type of item, color and pieces that may be missing.

## Observation

View the pieces that you received from a pretend dig. They are paper images of what you may have found in a dig. Try placing them together like an archaeologist would.  
Answer the following questions as you are placing the pieces together.

Date of Discovery	
How many pieces of the item are they?	
Do they have any designs on the pieces that would help you match it together?	
What do you think the item is?	
What do you think it was used for?	
What do you think it was made of? (metal, clay, glass, wood, etc.)	
Name two tools you think were used to retrieve the item from the site?	

## Logging Information

Draw some of the pieces that may distinctive designs.  
What other information would you like to log on the discovery?

# Paleontology Tools

Match the tool picture to the name and description.



**Chisel:** A small hand tool used to break away the stone around the fossils that are embedded in stone.



**Magnifying glass:** A small hand tool used to view artifacts in more detail.



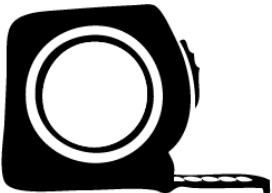
**Walkie-Talkie:** Most paleontology digs are in different locations from each other so we need a walkie-talkie to keep in touch with each other.



**Brushes:** A tool used to lightly sweep away loose dirt from fossils.



**Pickaxe:** A tool used for breaking up rocks or the ground.



**Rock Hammer:** Tool used to break or split up rocks.



**Tape Measure:** Used to measure the fossil size and area.

Answers: Walkie-Talkie, magnifying glass, chisel, rock hammer, brushes, tape measure and pickaxe

# Paleontology Finds

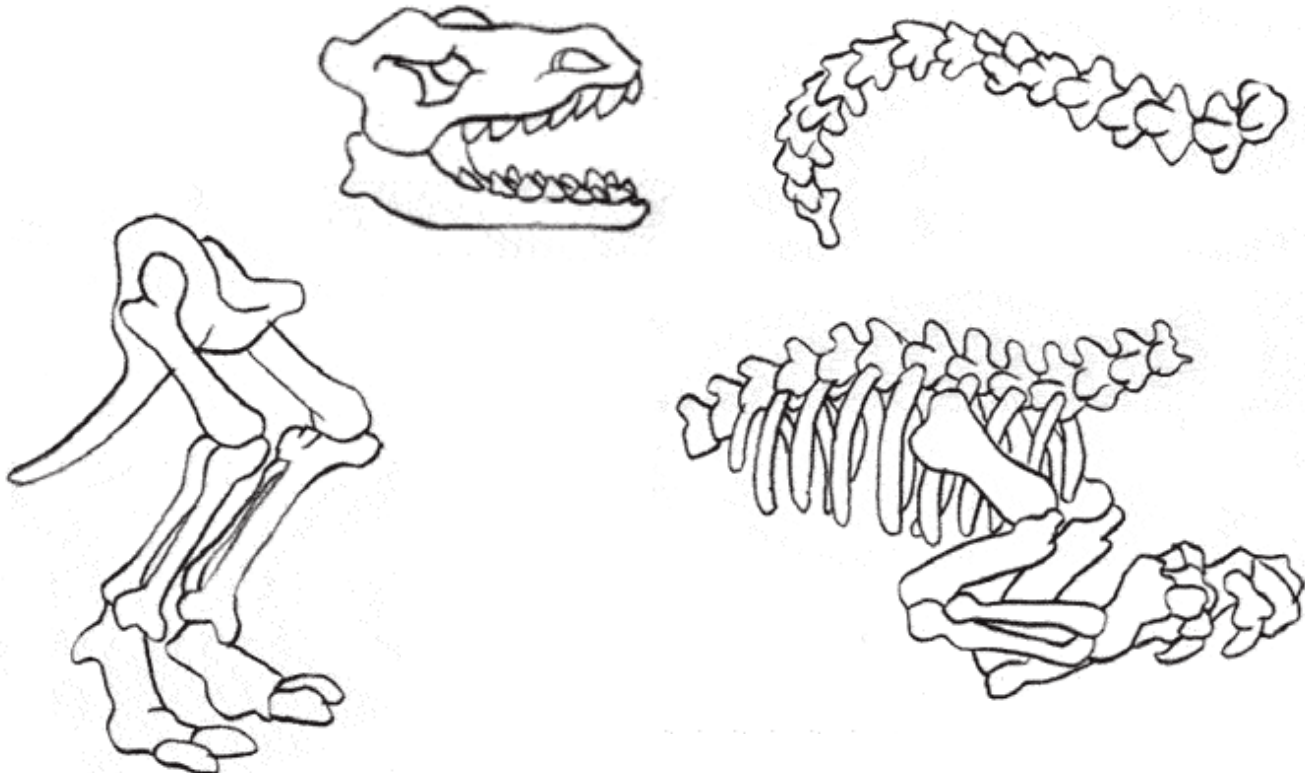
A paleontologist uses fossils to understand the story of Earth's history. Some parks feature an area where you can learn about paleontology, the study of fossils of animals and plants.

## Observation

View the fossils below of a dinosaur. You can cut around the different fossil sections and place them together to help you determine what type of dinosaur it is.

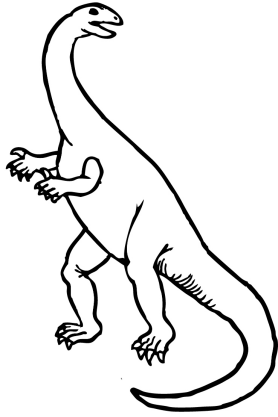
Answer the following questions to place in your log after your fossil finding.

Date of Discovery	
How many different fossil images are they?	
Special details of the head: Does it have sharp teeth?	
How many bones are in the tail? Curved or straight tail?	
Anything unique about the feet? (size, quantity, etc.)	
Do you think this dinosaur is small or large?	
Name any other unique qualities that will help you determine the type.	
What type of dinosaur is this? Use the dinosaur cards on the next page to assist you in identifying it. Did it eat meat or plants?	





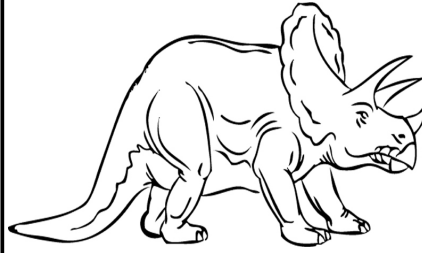
## Plateosaurus



**Diet:** Plants

**Size and Weight:** About 27 feet long and 1,500 pounds

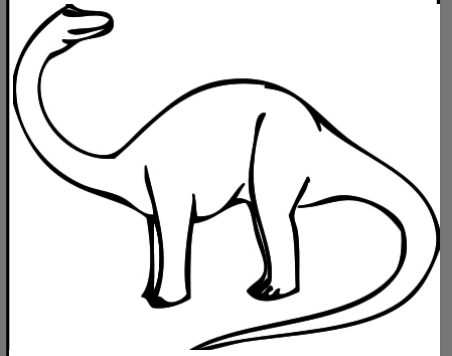
## Triceratops



**Diet:** Plants

**Size and Weight:** About 20 feet long and 5-7 tons

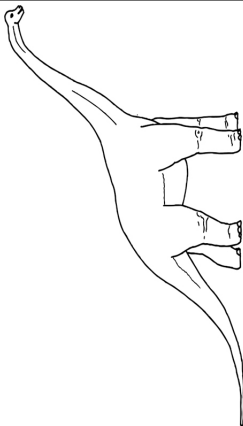
## Brontosaurus



**Diet:** Plants

**Size and Weight:** About 72 feet long and up to 15 tons

## Brachiosaurus



**Diet:** Plants

**Size and Weight:** About 85 feet long, 45 feet tall and 61 tons

## Velociraptor

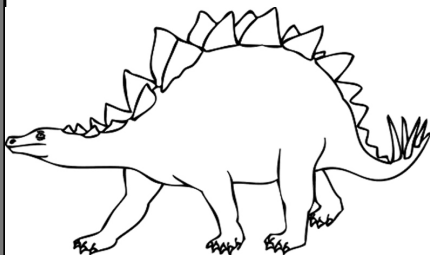
Also known as a raptor



**Diet:** Meat

**Size and Weight:** About 6 feet long, 3 feet tall and 33 pounds

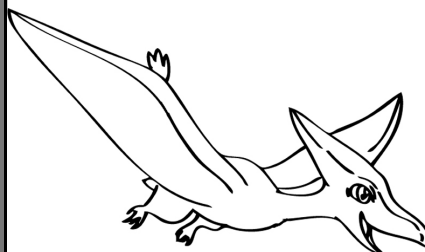
## Stegosaurus



**Diet:** Plants

**Size and Weight:** About 21 feet long and 6,800 pounds

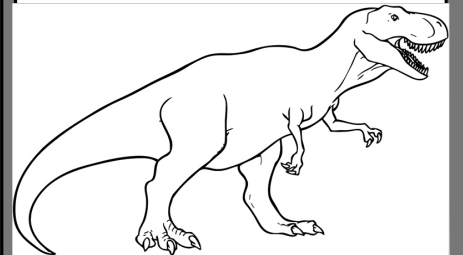
## Pterodactyl



**Diet:** Plants

**Size and Weight:** About 30 feet wide wingspan and 155 pounds

## Tyrannosaurus Rex



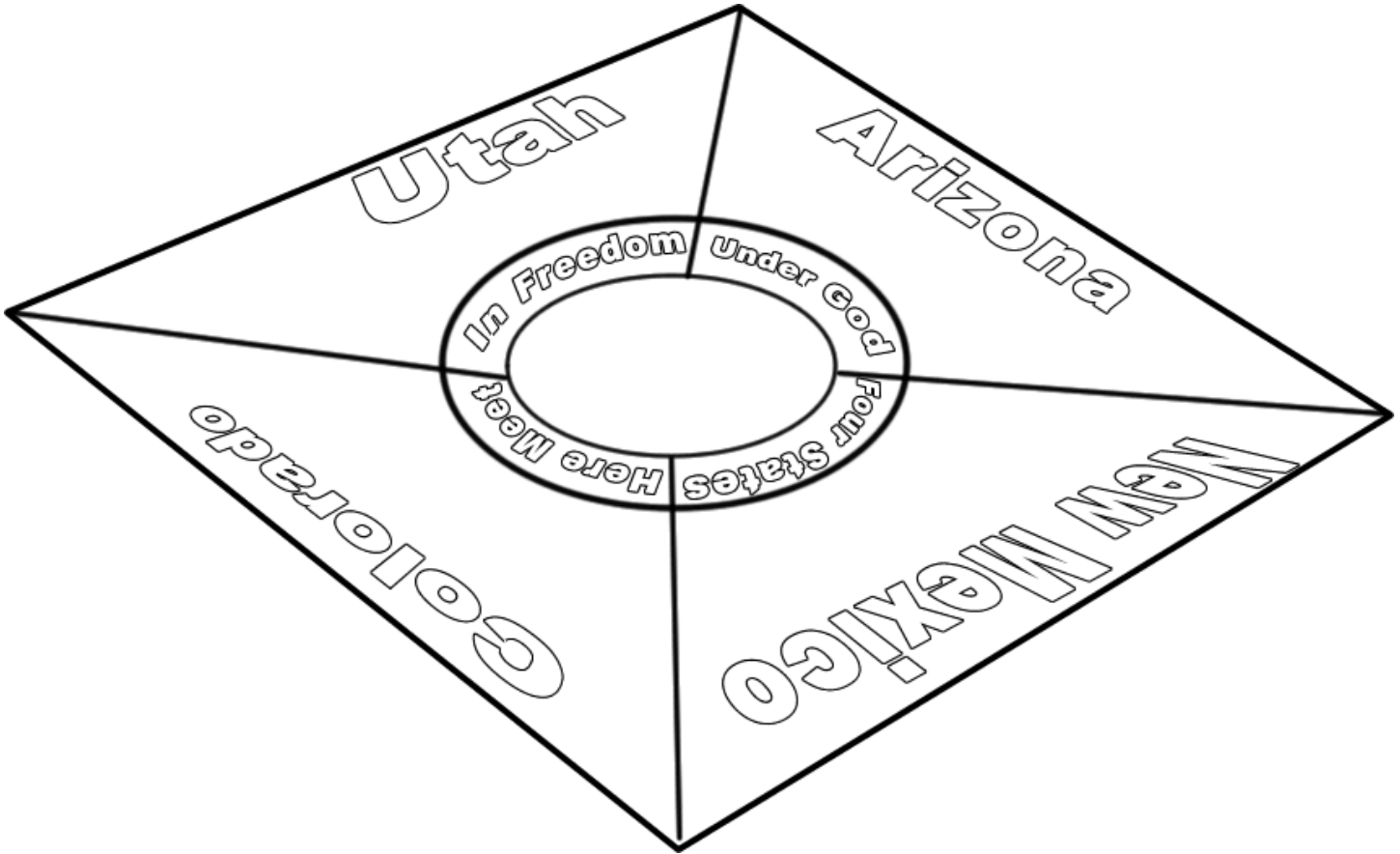
**Diet:** Meat

**Size and Weight:** About 40 feet long and 12 feet tall up to 5-7 tons

# The Four Corners Monument

Color it any color you like.

For extra, you can draw your self on the monument.



There is only one location in the United States where you can stand in four states all at one time. Those states are Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah, that all meet in a single spot. Place one foot in Colorado, one foot in Arizona, one hand in Utah, and one hand in New Mexico.

The Four Corners Monument also known as Navajo Tribal Park..

There is a small entrance fee for visitors, per car, to enter the site. There is also a Native American trading post adjacent to the monument to purchase souvenirs.

# Statue of Liberty

In 1876, sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi of France designed the Statue of Liberty. The statue was created out of copper. The pedestal and statue were finished 10 years later in April of 1886. Did you know that when the Statue of Liberty arrived in America, it was in 350 different pieces, and packed in 214 crates? It took four months to make the Statue of Liberty whole again. The Statue of Liberty weighs 250 tons and is 151 feet tall. It was a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States. There are 354 steps (or 22 stories) to the top of the Statue of Liberty.

**Color the picture of the Statue of Liberty.  
Draw yourself standing beside her.**

It is 111 feet and 6 inches from the bottom of her dress to the top of her head, so how big do you think you would be standing next to her?



# Scavenger Hunt

Find 5 different trees, plants or flowers.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_



Find 4 animals on your hike or signs of animals.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_



Find 5 insects or signs of insects along your hike.

Example: Leaves eaten by an insect.

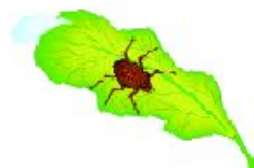
1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_



Where did you take your hike? \_\_\_\_\_