

SPRUCE WOODS Junior Naturalist



Ages 6-9

Hi! Would you like to become a Junior Naturalist? It's easy. Just work on the activities in this booklet and return it to us. Manitoba Provincial Parks will make you an official Junior Naturalist. On the back page, you will find a place to check off everything you do.



Dear Parents:

The Junior Naturalist program is meant to be fun and educational for the whole family. Please provide whatever assistance you feel your children need to become Junior Naturalists.

My name is

I am visiting

Provincial Park

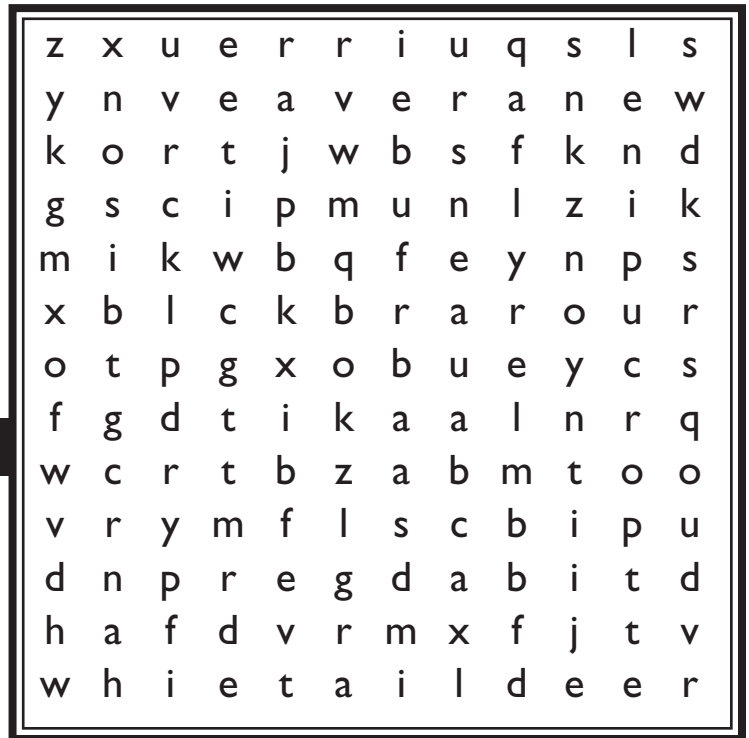
**Circle the
Provincial Park
that you are visiting!**



If you need further assistance in completing these activities, look for a park interpreter at park programs and interpretive centres for help.

In The Beginning...

Thousands of years ago, glaciers covered all of Manitoba. When they receded (melted) they left behind a huge lake called Lake Agassiz. 10,000 years ago, the earliest humans to inhabit North America (called Clovis Man) hunted in this area. People today still hunt in parts of Spruce Woods. Can you find the hidden animals from the word list below? Only the animals you would find today are in the box. Cross out the animals from 10,000 years ago and circle those in the box you would see today.



Words to Find

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| giant beaver | white tail deer |
| woolly mammoth | porcupine |
| bison | mastodon |
| wapiti | chipmunk |
| elk | squirrel |
| black bear | giant ground sloth |
| rabbit | badger |
| fox | beaver |
| giant short faced bear | |

Storytime: Then 'til Now

Words to use:

- aboriginal
- Alpha
- recreation
- spiritual
- Criddle
- scientific
- plants
- Assiniboine
- Seton
- animals
- voyageurs
- 1767

Spruce Woods has been important to many different people for thousands of years. Fill in the blanks to complete the story of the history of Spruce Woods.

_____ people first came to this area to gather plants and animals for food and medicine as well as for _____ ceremonies. In the year _____ independent Fur Traders built a fort along the _____ River and traded for furs with the aboriginal people. Pine Fort or Fort Epinette was an important supply post for many _____ that traveled through the area. The Yellow Quill Trail was a major route for traders. Many of the first settlers came to this area by steamboats like the SS _____. Scientists such as Norman _____ and Ernest Thompson _____ studied the area and were enthralled by the many unusual _____ and animals they found. Today Spruce Woods Provincial Park is a place for _____, _____ study, and a home for many unusual plants and _____.

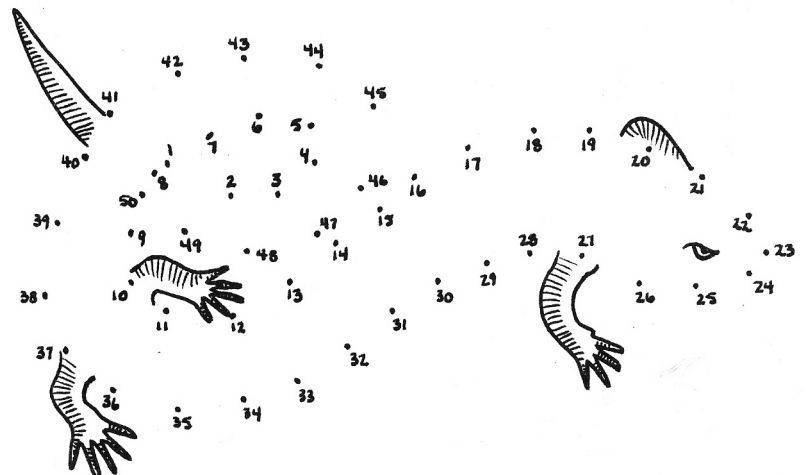
Home is Where There's Habitat

Every animal (including you!) needs food, water, shelter and space to live comfortably and happily. Match the animal to its habitat. (The first one is done for you!)

Habitats	Animals
Oxbow Lake	Elk
Aspen Forest	Skink
Boreal Forest	Fox
Sand Dunes	Owl
Prairie	Red Winged Blackbird
	Wolf Spider
	Coyote
	Squirrel
	Turtle
	Hognose Snake
	Frog

Leapin' Lizard!

Follow the dots to discover Manitoba's only lizard. The Northern Prairie Skink is listed as endangered under Manitoba's Endangered Species Act. "Endangered" is defined as a species at risk of disappearing altogether. The Northern Prairie Skink is endangered because it has specific habitat requirements; it likes the hills of sand in and around Spruce Woods.



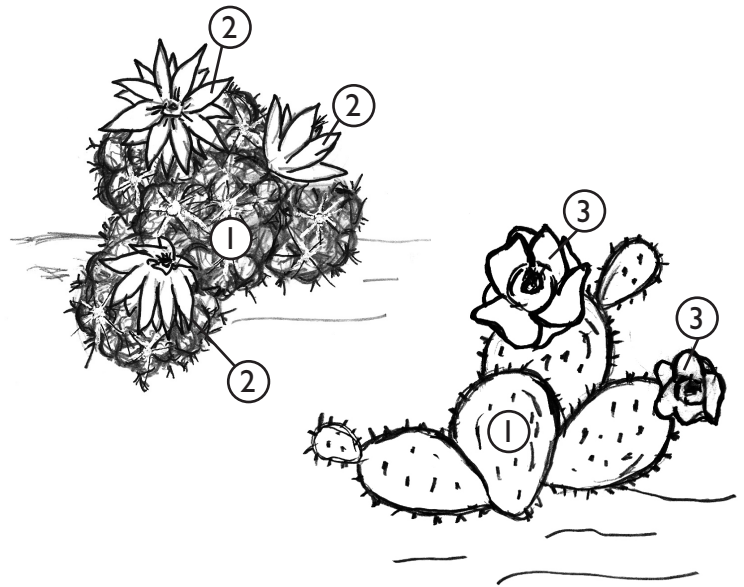
Can you name the other unusual reptile that makes its home in the Spirit Sands?

Cool Cactus

Although the Spirit Sands are sometimes called a desert, there is too much precipitation (rain and snow) here to ever actually be a desert. There are many special plants that make their home in the sand but the most astounding plants are the cacti. Both the pincushion cactus and the prickly pear cactus call Spruce Woods home. They have adapted to the harsh winters and the hot, dry summers. Not many people see them blooming. It is a beautiful sight.

Colour the cacti below using this legend:

1 = green 2 = pink 3 = yellow.



Who am I?



Another plant that grows in the sand as well as all over Spruce Woods is one you want to avoid. You can keep safe by staying on the trails. If you do run into this plant, be sure to wash with soap and water. Remember: leaves of three, leave it be! Can you guess who I am?

P _ _ _ _ I _ _

Alphabet Hike

Let's go on an Alphabet Hike! Choose any one of the trails in Spruce Woods Park to go hiking on. Take along a parent or a friend to enjoy the hike with. While hiking, try to find things that begin with each letter of the alphabet. You can find more than one thing for each letter; however, they must be natural~ not manmade. Your discoveries can be something you see, hear, touch or smell.

A _____

J _____

S _____

B _____

K _____

T _____

C _____

L _____

U _____

D _____

M _____

V _____

E _____

N _____

W _____

F _____

O _____

X _____

G _____

P _____

Y _____

H _____

Q _____

Z _____

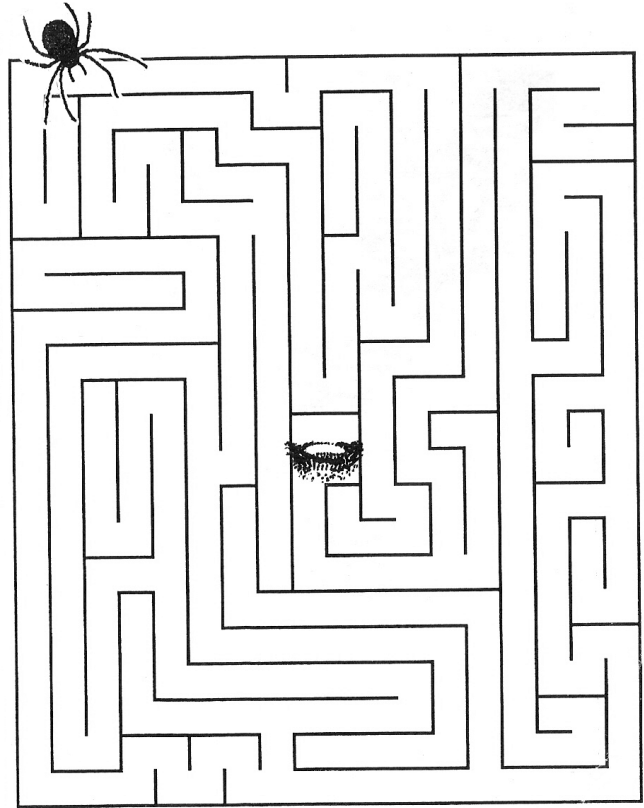
I _____

R _____

Wolf Spiders are A-MAZE-ing!

The handsome wolf spiders that live in the Spirit Sands are expert hunters. They dig burrows down into the sand. Unsuspecting insects fall into the hole and become dinner. Watch for these spiders and their burrows along the trail.

Help the wolf spider find its burrow.



Junior Naturalist Notebook*

Draw or write down some of the things you saw on your guided walk.

*A naturalist or a scientist uses notebooks to write or draw what he or she sees and learns.

My Journal *

This is what I did for fun today.

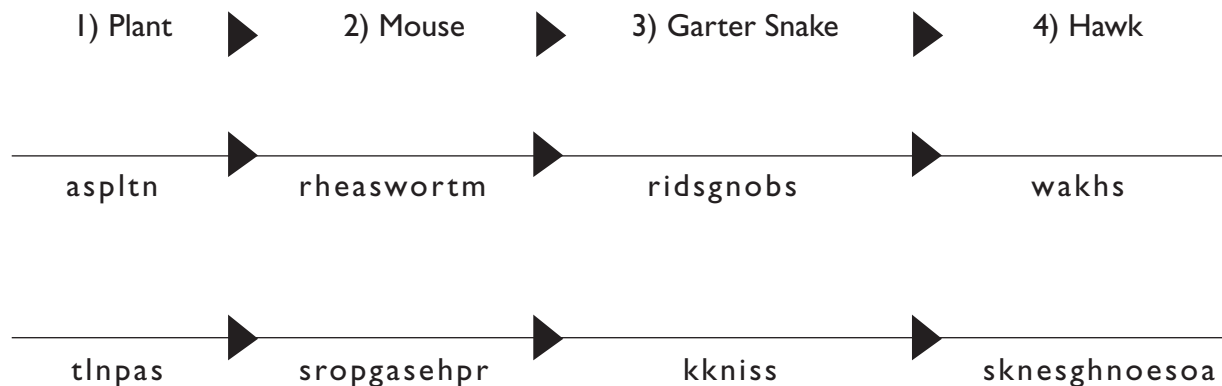
* This is your special place to put down the things that made your visit special. (Write or Draw!)



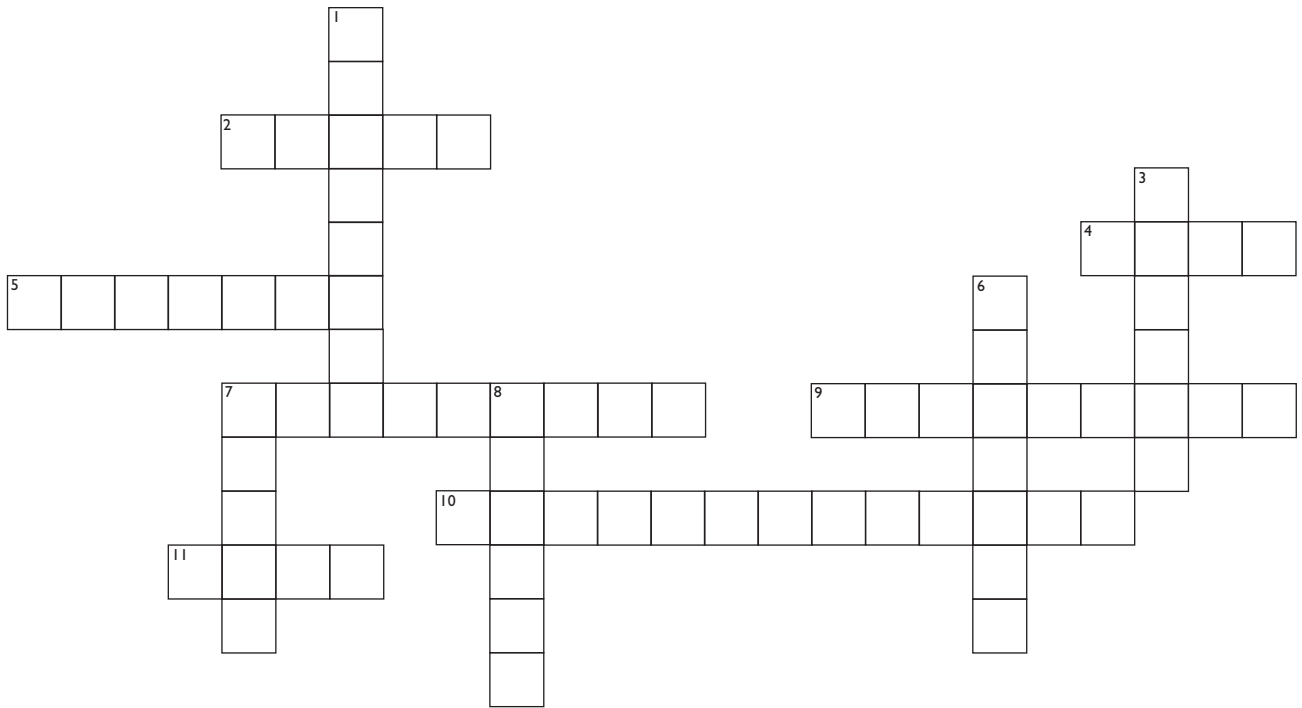
We Are All Linked

We depend upon our environment for our survival and the plants and animals depend upon one another too. #1 below shows a food chain in the forest: mice eat plants, snakes eat mice, hawks eat snakes and when hawks die, they decompose which helps to provide nutrients for plants to grow. We call this a food chain. A food chain shows how each living thing gets its food.

Unscramble the names of the living things below to complete the other food chains.



Junior Naturalist Crossword



Across

2. Manitoba's only lizard.
4. A soaring bird at the top of its food chain.
5. A home where every living thing can find food, shelter, water and space.
7. Many of the first settlers to this area got here by this.
9. The men who paddled canoes to move furs across the country.
10. The Spirit Sands is not a desert because it gets too much _____.
11. If you touch poison ivy be sure to wash with this.

Down

1. The name of the fort that was built by independent fur traders along the Assiniboine River.
3. Grows in the Spirit Sands even though it is not a desert.
6. Made of snow and ice and once covered all of Manitoba.
7. Name of one of the scientists who studied this area.
8. Home for a wolf spider.

Need a Hint! All the answers are hidden in your booklet.

Ask an Interpreter!

Do you have a question for a park interpreter about an animal that you saw during your visit? Send us your questions and we will answer them and send it back with your completed booklets.

My question is:



Junior Naturalist Checklist of Activities:

- Map Activity
- In The Beginning...
- Storytime: Then 'til Now?
- Home is Where There's Habitat
- Leapin' Lizard
- Cool Catus
- Who Am I?
- Alphabet Hike
- Wolf Spider Maze
- Naturalist Notebook
- Journal Activity
- We Are All Linked
- Crossword
- Ask an Interpreter



Junior Naturalist: _____
Adult: _____

Check off the boxes of each activity you have completed. Return the completed booklet to receive your official pin and certificate. (Your book will also be returned to you.)

Did you enjoy doing this activity book? If so, you can do other Junior Naturalist / Park Explorer books at the following locations:

Whiteshell
Spruce Woods
Birds Hill
Hecla
Grand Beach

Completed booklets can be returned to campground offices, park interpreters or mailed to the address below:

Junior Naturalist Program
c/o Spruce Woods
Box 900, Carberry, Manitoba
R0K 0H0

YOU ARE ALMOST AN OFFICIAL JUNIOR NATURALIST!

Child's Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Province _____
Postal Code _____