



GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL PARKS

**PARKS
AFTER
DARK**

Activity Book

Do you ever wonder what animals come out to play after park visitors have left for the night?

Print out these activities at home and learn more about who is in the parks after dark!





ANIMAL WORD SEARCH

This volunteer is working late at her summer job in the park. She's helping scientists make a list of animals that come out at night, but seems to be missing her pencil. Can you help her finish up? **Find all the animal words hidden in this word search!** (Could it be a clue about what happened to her pencil?)

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

**BLACK
PAWS
TRASH**

**FUR
STRIPES
WHITE**

**MASK
TAIL
EYES**

RACCOON

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

PROCYON LOTOR

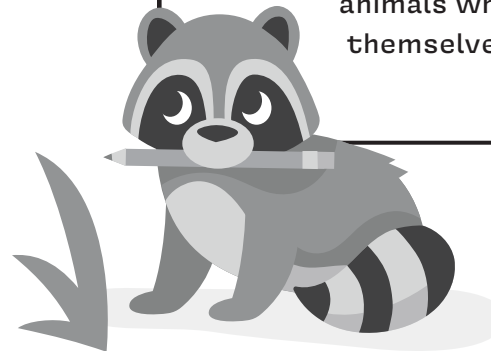


Clever Critters

Known for being very intelligent, raccoons can do all sorts of amazing tasks with their flexible, sensitive paws. In the wild, they can swim, climb trees, and grab food with amazing accuracy. They have been known to use tools (like sticks) to dig and gather food.

Scrappy Scavengers

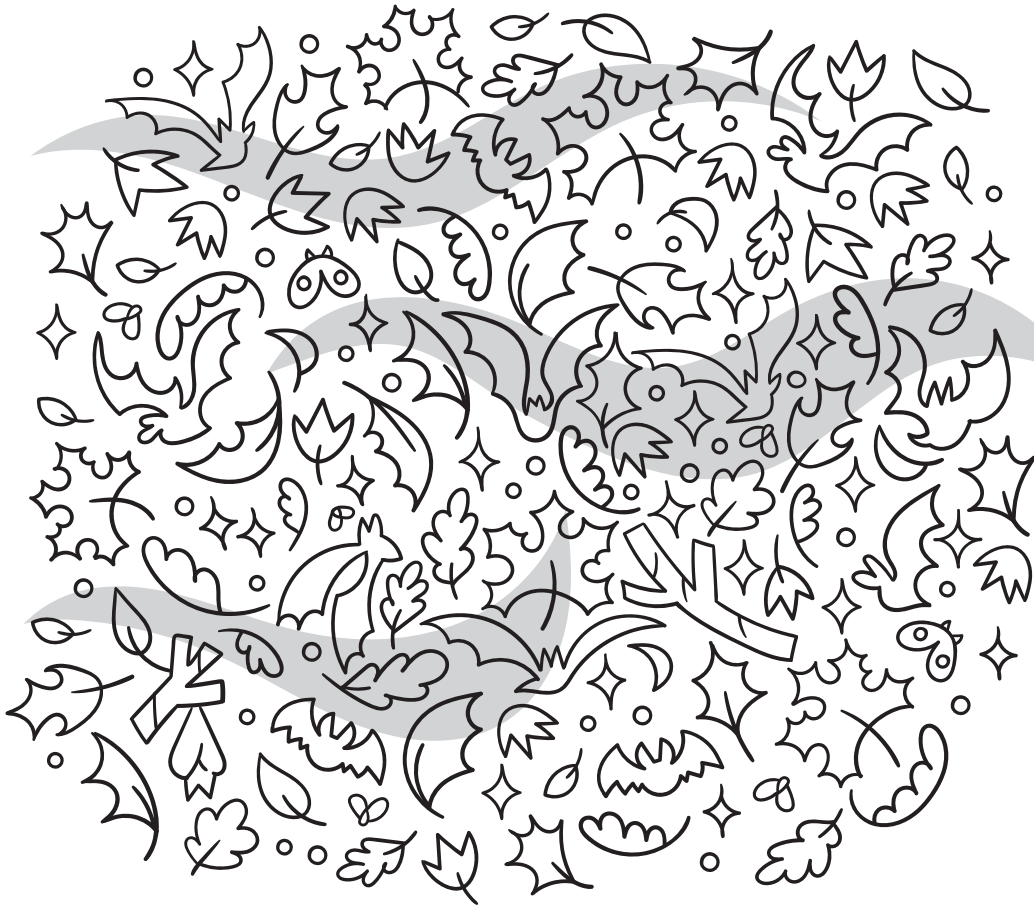
Raccoons might look like adorable little fluff balls, but they are fierce! Tough and adaptable, raccoons live all over the world and can thrive almost anywhere. Here in our urban parks, they are just as good at hunting frogs and fish in the wilderness as collecting scraps of food from garbage bins and trash piles in the city. (They may be cute, but never feed a raccoon! They are wild animals who can take care of themselves.)





GOING BATTY!

This researcher is studying bats! She wants to learn how they fly, so she's going to catch a few and attach special radio transmitters to them that will show her how they move. But it's dark in the forest at night, and she can't see very well. Can you help her spot all the bats?



BIG BROWN BAT

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

EPTESICUS FUSCUS



Amazing Appetites

It takes a lot of food to fuel the busy bats in the park. Incredibly, these fuzzy fliers can eat their weight in insects each night...which could mean thousands of bugs!

Plant Pals

Elsewhere, some types of bats eat fruit. In fact, more than 500 species of plants depend on these sweet-toothed critters to help with pollination. Can you guess some of their favorite snacks? Try bananas and mangoes!



HOO GOES THERE?

This scientist uses special cameras that take pictures in the dark to see which critters roam the parks when it's nighttime and the rest of the world is asleep. Can you figure out H0000 his camera saw? **Connect the dots to find out which animal is in the photograph!**



NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
STRIX OCCIDENTALIS CAURINA



Bashful Birds

Did you know that owls are very shy? If you see an owl in the forest, try to be as still and quiet as you can. Lots of noise at owl nests can draw in predators like ravens and foxes, or cause curious baby owlets to accidentally tumble to the ground. Want to be a good nest neighbor? Bring your binoculars and give owls and their families lots of space.

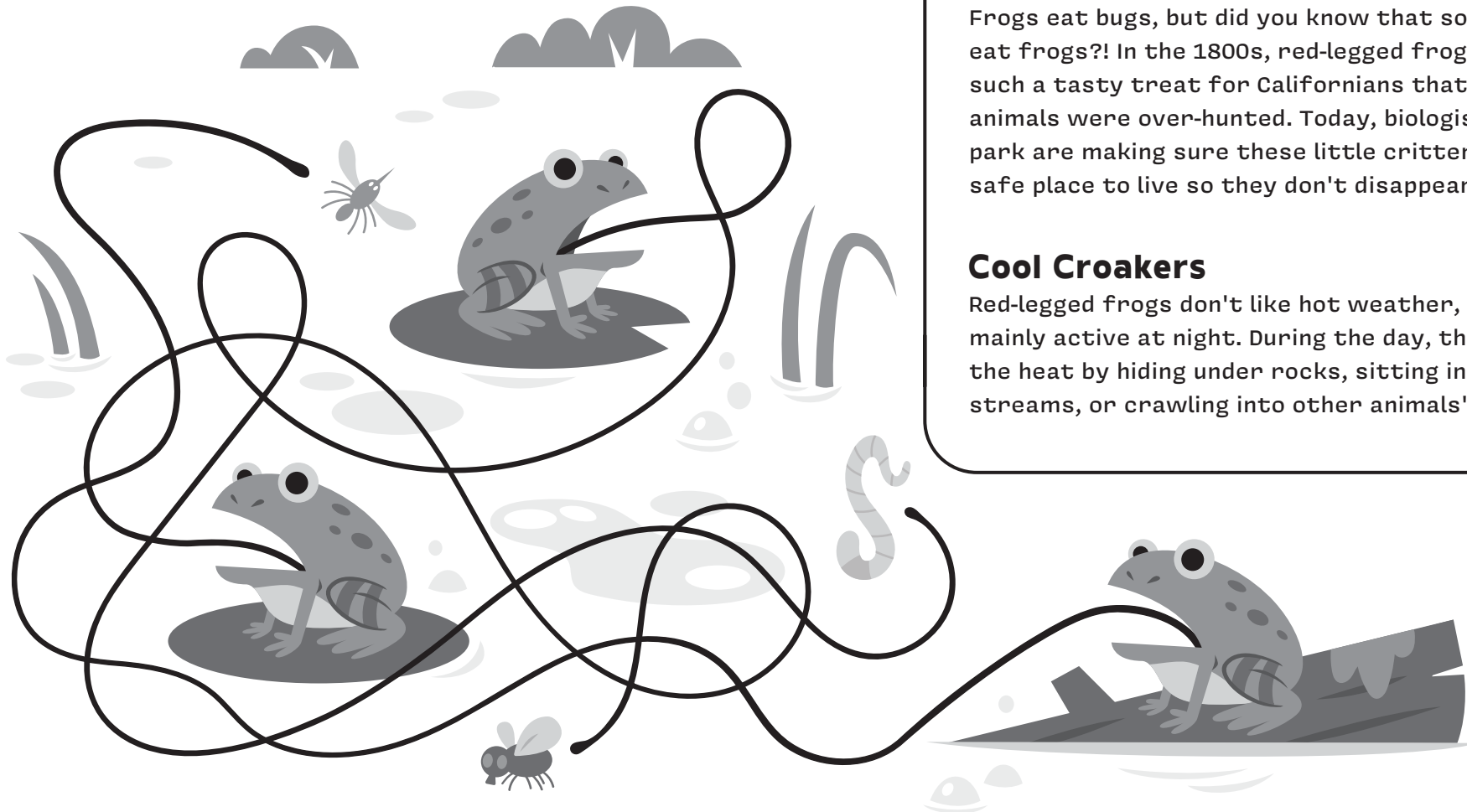
Sunrise, Sunset

Because owls are active at night, going birding first thing in the morning or last thing in the evening is your best chance to spot one. Listen for the northern spotted owl's distinct four-note call: "Hoot...who-who...hooooo."



TONGUE-TIED TREATS

You might think that insects are annoying, but did you know that they are a tasty treat for many hungry frogs in our park? Help this group of California red-legged frogs catch their next meal. **Connect each frog to his or her favorite snack!**



CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

RANA DRAYTONII

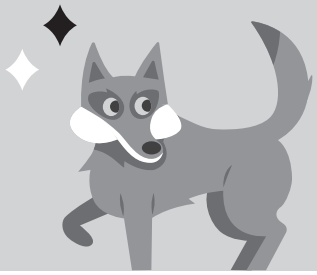


Appetizing Amphibians

Frogs eat bugs, but did you know that some people eat frogs?! In the 1800s, red-legged frog legs were such a tasty treat for Californians that the poor animals were over-hunted. Today, biologists in the park are making sure these little critters have a safe place to live so they don't disappear entirely.

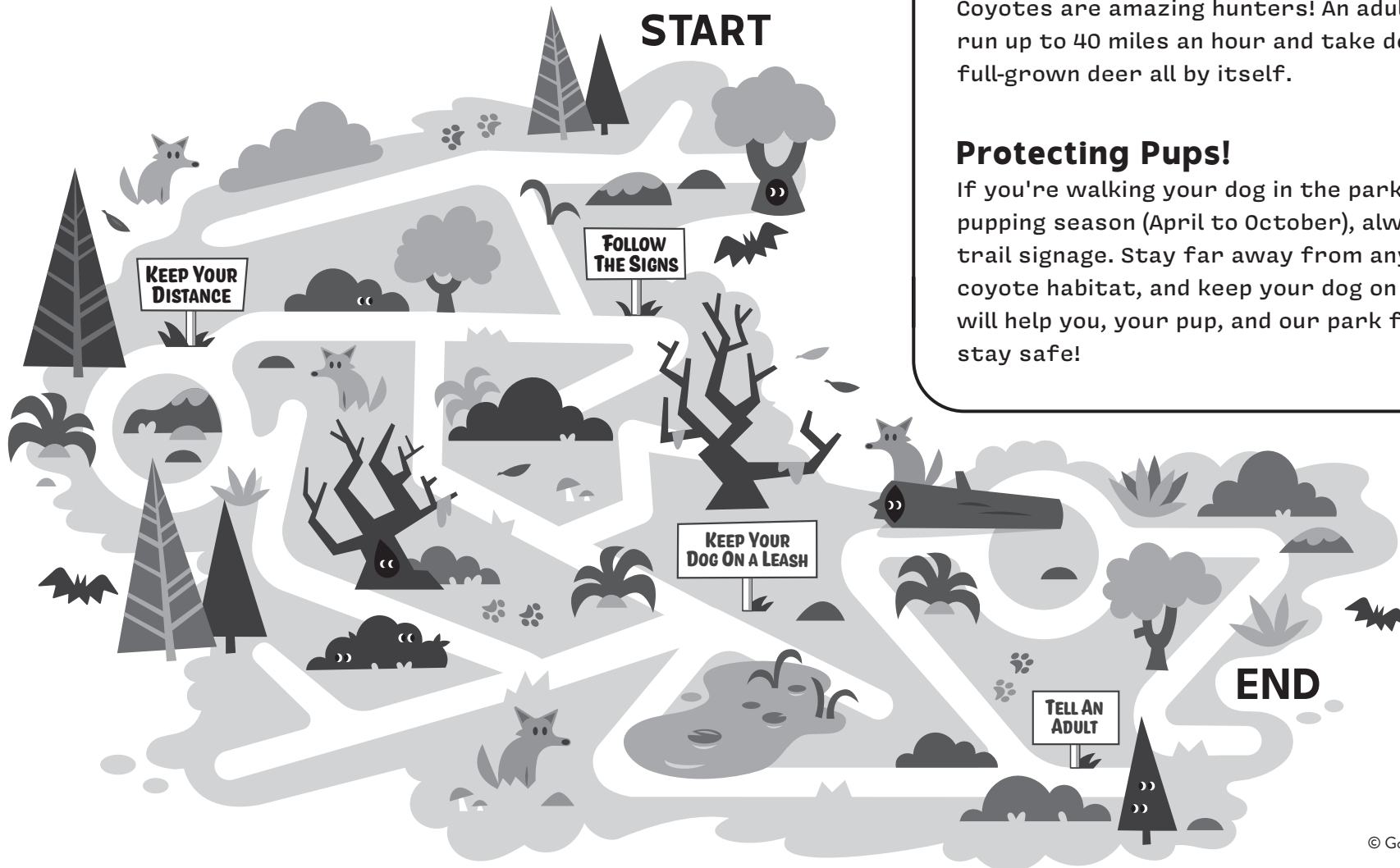
Cool Croakers

Red-legged frogs don't like hot weather, so they're mainly active at night. During the day, they beat the heat by hiding under rocks, sitting in rivers and streams, or crawling into other animals' burrows.



CAREFUL COYOTES

It's almost nighttime, and this coyote is looking for some food for her babies. Can you finish your walk in the park while giving her and her kits some safe space? **Follow the signs to find a way through the forest!**



COYOTE

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

CANIS LATRANS



Super-predator Superpowers

Coyotes are amazing hunters! An adult coyote can run up to 40 miles an hour and take down a full-grown deer all by itself.

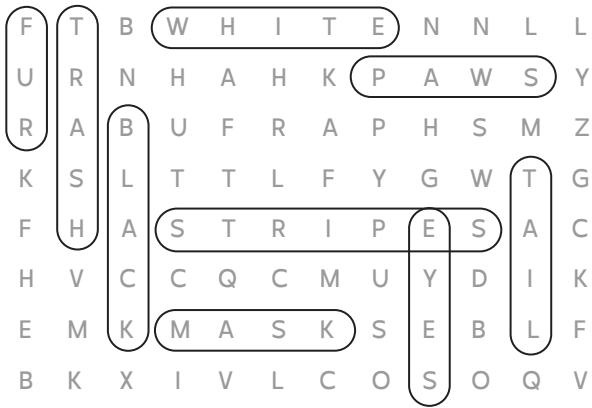
Protecting Pups!

If you're walking your dog in the park during coyote pupping season (April to October), always check trail signage. Stay far away from any marked coyote habitat, and keep your dog on a leash. This will help you, your pup, and our park furry friends stay safe!

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

How did you do? Check your answers below.

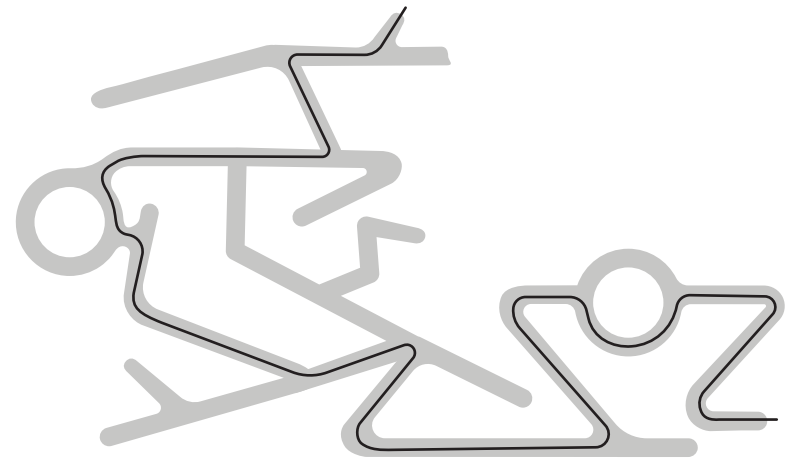
ANIMAL WORD SEARCH



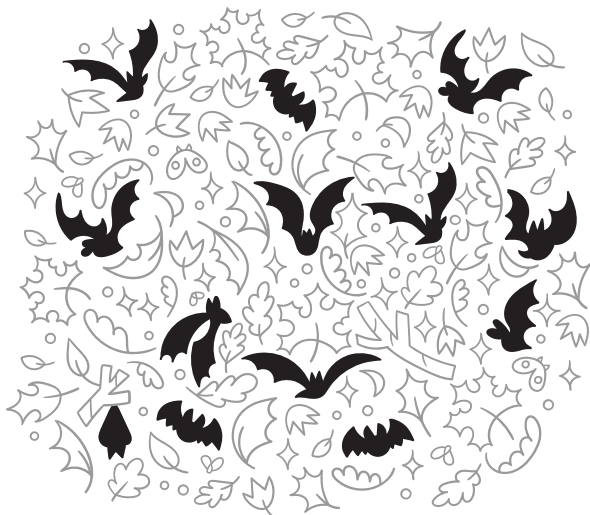
HOO GOES THERE?



CAREFUL COYOTES



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