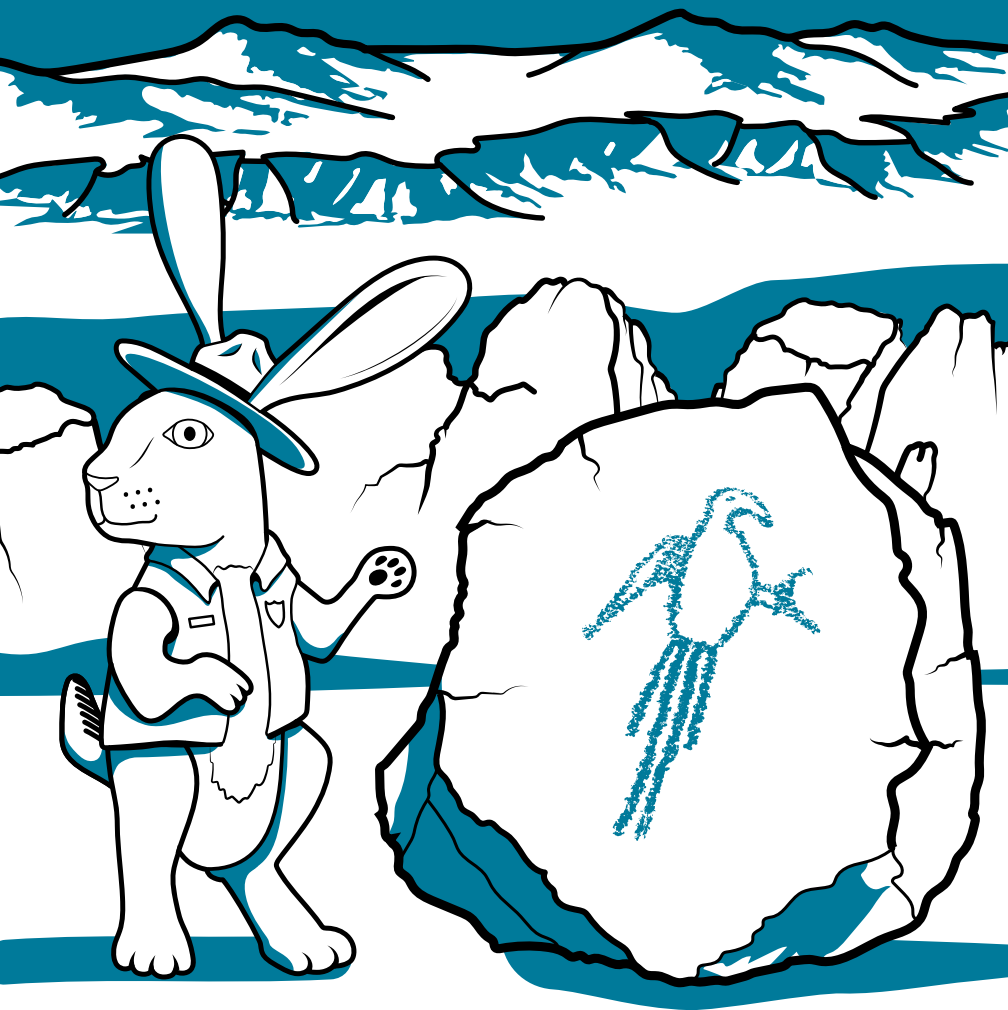


# **Petroglyph** **National Monument** Junior Ranger Activity Booklet

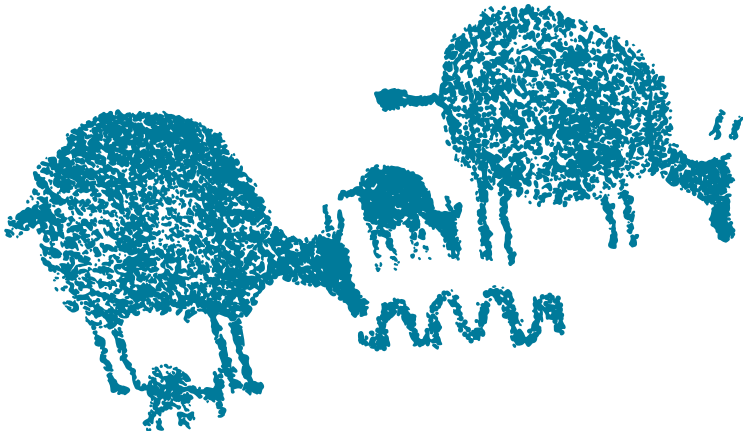


# Welcome to Petroglyph National Monument



This national park site was created in 1990 to protect one of the largest petroglyph sites in North America. Petroglyphs are designs and symbols carved into volcanic rocks; the petroglyphs inside the park were made by Native Americans and Spanish settlers between 400 and 700 years ago.

These images are an important piece of history because they show how different cultures expressed themselves a long time ago. They are also very important today because they have special spiritual meaning to Native Americans and descendants of Spanish settlers. If you want to learn more about the petroglyphs and natural things in the park, stop by the information center and watch a movie about the park.



# Instructions

This Junior Ranger Activity Booklet will help you become a Junior Ranger at Petroglyph National Monument. If you fill out this booklet, you will be sworn in as a Junior Ranger and earn a special badge. Here's what you need to do:

1. Do the activities marked for your age group.



**If you are age 5 or under,  
you are a lizard.**

**Do all of these activities.**



**If you are between ages 6 and 8,  
you are a kangaroo rat.**

**Do all of these activities.**



**If you are age 9 or over,  
you are a roadrunner.**

**Do all of these activities.**

2. When you're done, scan the booklet and attach it to an email to the email address listed below. A park ranger will check your completed booklet and mail you your Junior Ranger badge!

[petr\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:petr_interpretation@nps.gov)

**Hey adults! If you and your Junior Ranger love geology, check out the Volcanoes Day Use Area on the west side of the park. It doesn't have petroglyphs, but it's great for hiking.**

# Protect and Respect



This activity is very important. Do it before you start your booklet so you know the rules of the park. Fill in the blanks with the words from the word bank, then read the rules.



**SUNSCREEN TRAILS HAT TOUCH FEED  
FUN CANS WATER QUIET**

Stay on the marked \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .

Do not \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ the petroglyphs.

Drink a lot of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .

Wear a \_ \_ \_ and \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .

Do not \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ the animals.

Put trash in trash \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ or take it home.

Speak in a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ voice.

Have \_ \_ \_ !

# What is a petroglyph?



Read about petroglyphs, then answer the questions to test what you've learned.

Petroglyphs are rock carvings made by tapping the rock using a stone chisel and hammerstone. It is estimated about 90 percent of the park's petroglyphs were created by the Ancestral Puebloan people from 1300 through the 1680s. Newer petroglyphs in the park are from the 1700s and were carved by Spanish settlers. No one knows for sure what some of the petroglyphs are. People who live today might think the pictures look very different than what the people carving them thought they were.

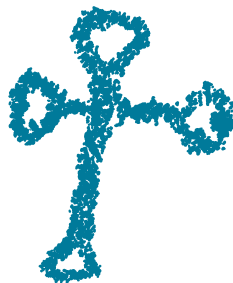
What is a petroglyph?

What tools were used to make the petroglyphs?

Which group of people carved most of the petroglyphs in the park?

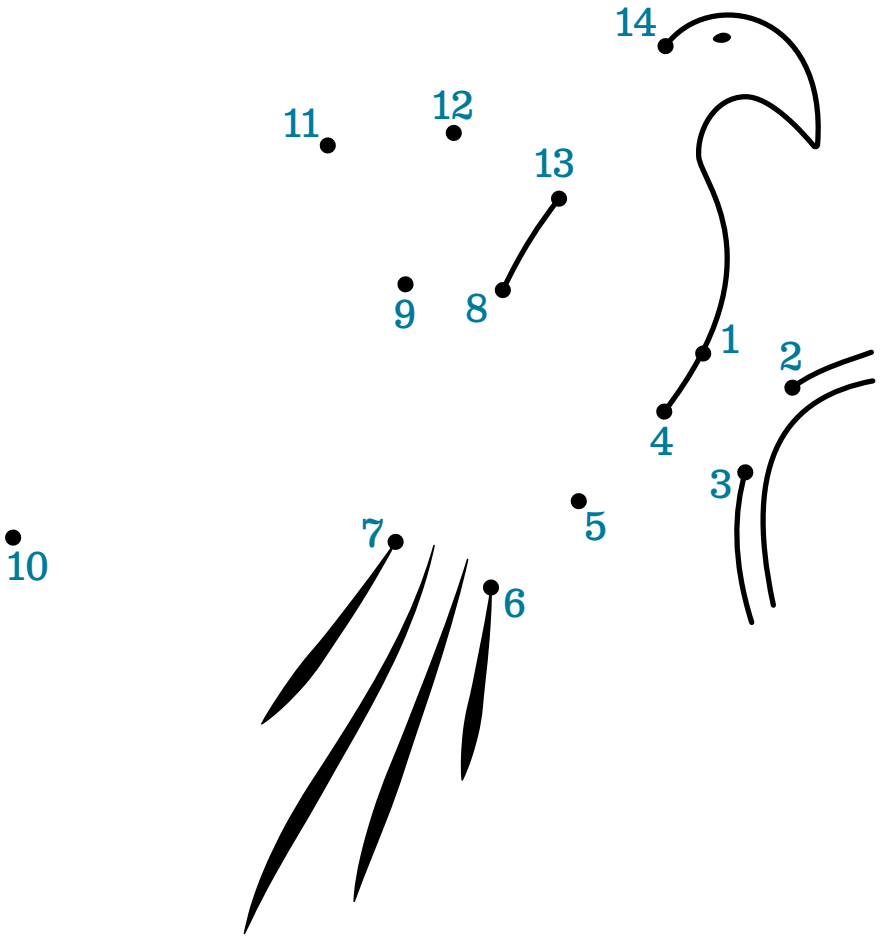
People of which culture carved the newer petroglyphs?

Do we know what all of the petroglyphs are?



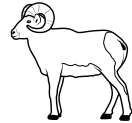
# Connect the Dots

Follow the numbers and connect the dots to make a macaw petroglyph. Petroglyphs of macaws are found in many places in the park. Macaws are a type of parrot from southern Mexico and South America. They were very important to Ancestral Puebloan people. They traded them and used their feathers for decorations and special ceremonies.



# Pueblo Pair-Up

For hundreds of years, Ancestral Puebloan people have made crafts and petroglyphs decorated with wild plants and animals from this area. Below are six different crafts and petroglyphs. Draw a line from the craft or petroglyph on the left to the animal it shows on the right.



Between 1275 and 1300, Ancestral Puebloan people traveled a long way to get away from droughts and settle in the Rio Grande Valley. They grew corn, beans, and squash along the river. They trapped and hunted animals in the mountains. They gathered plants and seeds on the mesa. They traded with other people for shells, copper bells, and macaws. Today more than half of the 19 New Mexico pueblos are still along the Rio Grande.

# Rock Hounds



When you visit Petroglyph National Monument, it's hard not to think about rocks. Rock formations and petroglyphs are all around you. To learn more about these rocks, read the story below. Then look for the **turquoise** words in the word search on the next page.

If you hike the Mesa Point Trail, you'll have an amazing view of the surrounding landscape. It may seem quiet now, but this landscape was formed by **volcanoes**—volcanic eruptions with flowing lava.

About 20 million years ago, parts of Earth's **crust** pulled apart in this area. Big blocks of land fell down into this crack in the ground. This created a giant "trough" of land called the **Rio Grande Rift**. It is about 40 miles wide near Albuquerque. Can you see the mountains to the east of Albuquerque? These are the **Sandia** Mountains, which are at the eastern edge of the Rio Grande Rift. Over the years **sand**, gravel, and other sediments piled up across the Rio Grande Rift, forming these mountains.

The area around this park is sometimes called West Mesa. A **mesa** is a flat "table" of land. It is called this because "mesa" is the Spanish word for table. West Mesa formed more than 200,000 years ago when hot, moving rock called **magma** came up out of cracks in Earth's surface. When magma reaches the surface, it's called **lava**. The lava spread over sandy rock like icing over cake, creating the mesa. As the lava cooled and hardened it became a volcanic rock called **basalt**.

Lava continued to shoot up out of a few spots. This created the volcanic **cones** you see on the west side of the park. Can you see the three biggest cones? These are called the **Three Sisters**. They are sacred to some Native Americans and descendants of Spanish settlers.

On the east side of the park is a 17-mile-long slope called an **escarpment**. Imagine if you ate just the cake, but left the icing. The icing would fall down without the cake holding it up. That is what happened at the escarpment. Moving water cut away, or **eroded**, the





sandy, rocky soil under the basalt. Without the soil holding it up, the basalt fell down and broke into pieces. This is why the escarpment is filled with large basalt **boulders**, or big **rocks**.

Did you notice the boulders in the park are all dark colors? They are black or dark brown and shiny. This shiny surface is called **varnish**. It formed over many years as sun and rain reacted with **minerals** in the rocks. A long time ago, people realized they could chip away the varnish and find a lighter color underneath. That's how **petroglyphs** were made by the Ancestral Puebloan people, Spanish settlers, and early American Western settlers.

How many words can you find? Words can be written in any direction—forward, backward, up, down, and even diagonal.

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

How many words did you find?



# Who Am I?



Many different types of plants and animals live in the high desert of Petroglyph National Monument. They are used to living in intense heat and cold and without much water. Read about some of these plants and animals below and match them to their picture on the next page.

I move fast but have no feet. I feed on mice and lizards. When people come too close I rattle my tail.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

I have wings, but I don't like to fly. Usually I just run very fast—up to 15 miles per hour! I eat lizards, snakes, insects, and small mammals.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

I look a little bit like a dog, but I'm a wild animal. I eat almost anything I can find, like mice, rabbits, cactus fruit, and more.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

I look like a worm, but I walk on many small legs instead of on my belly. I eat plants and animals that died and put their nutrients back into the soil. If I get scared, I curl up into a spiral.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

I'm the most common shrub in the park. I grow in sandy soil. My thin leaves smelly really good.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

My fur is brown and gray with patches of rust, just like the rocks where I live. I have a long bushy tail. I usually eat the seeds and berries of plants, but sometimes I eat eggs or young birds.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

I have long ears and a short tail. During the day I sleep in the shade. I come out at night to eat tasty plants.

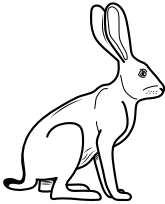
Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

Even though I am only a few inches tall, I can go 10 feet in one jump. I eat dried seeds and don't need to drink much water because I make my own water while digesting my food.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_

I am edible and taste like my name. The people who used to live here ground my seeds into cereal and mixed me with other ingredients to make bread.

Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_



black-tailed  
jackrabbit



roadrunner



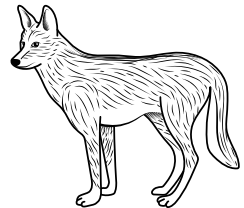
four-wing saltbrush



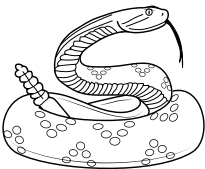
desert  
millipede



rock squirrel



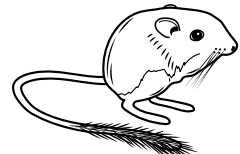
coyote



rattlesnake



sand sage



kangaroo rat

# Spanish Scramble



In the 1500s, people from Spain came to this region to claim the land for the king of Spain. For a long time after, Ancestral Puebloans and Spaniards fought to control this land. Eventually both groups of people stayed, and today you can see both Ancestral Puebloan and Hispanic culture in local architecture, art, food, language, and religion.

Below are sentences containing Spanish words that people still say in this part of New Mexico. See if you can translate the Spanish words into English by unscrambling the letters **INBOLD**.

The mighty Rio Grande (ree-oh gron-day) flows through New Mexico to the Gulf of Mexico.

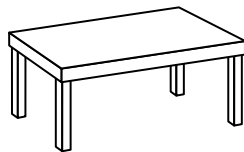
Rio Grande means \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .

**I B G E R I R V**



Petroglyph National Monument is on a flat-topped piece of land called a mesa (may-suh).

Mesa means \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . **E A B L T**



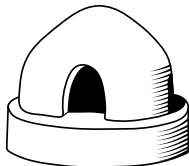
At first the town of Albuquerque only had a church, houses, and government buildings on four sides of a central plaza (pla-za).

Plaza means \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . **Q S E U R A**



Ancestral Puebloan women baked their bread in an outdoor horno (or-no).

Horno means \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . **E O N V**



Ancestral Puebloans hunted deer, antelope, and rabbits in the bosque (bo-skay), a cottonwood forest growing along the Rio Grande.

Bosque means \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . **T R E F S O**



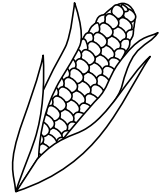
El Camino Real (el coe-me-no re-al) stretched from Mexico City to Santa Fe and was the only way to exchange food, cloth, seeds, and tools.

El Camino Real means \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .  
**O Y A L R D A R O**



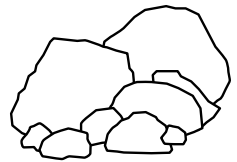
Thanks to the Ancestral Puebloan people, maize (may-ease) became a key part of the Hispanic diet.

Maize means \_ \_ \_ \_ . **O R C N**



The part of Petroglyph National Monument with the most petroglyphs is called Piedras Marcadas. Marcadas means marked and piedras means

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . **S K R C O**



As you travel around New Mexico, you might see carved religious figures called santos (san-toes).

Santos means \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ . **S S T I N A**

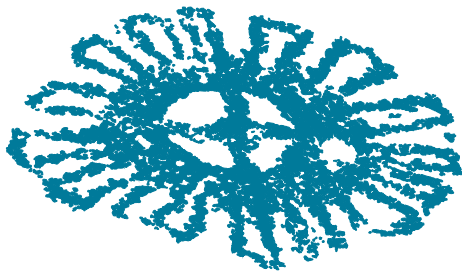


# In Your Own Words



Did you enjoy learning about Petroglyph National Monument? What did you learn that you didn't know before? What will you tell your friends about what you learned?

Use the space below to write about what you learned. You can write a letter, a poem, a story, or a song.



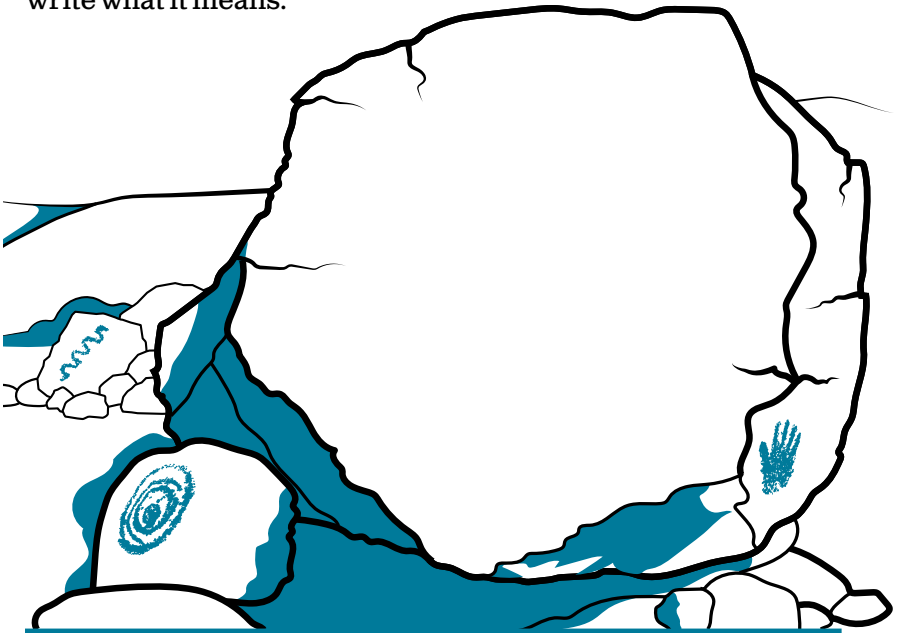
**How can you help protect the plants, animals, and petroglyphs?**

**What is one question you would like to ask the park ranger?**

# Make Your Mark

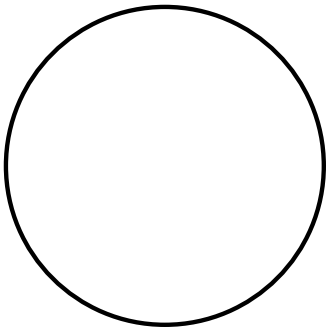


This booklet talked about petroglyphs a lot, but there is another kind of rock art—a pictograph. A petroglyph is a picture carved or scratched into a rock. A pictograph is a painting on stone made from natural paints. Petroglyphs can be found on any dark rock. Pictographs are usually found in caves or other areas where they are protected from rain and other weather. Think about everything you learned today about rock art, then draw your own petroglyph or pictograph in the space below and write what it means.



My petroglyph or pictograph means...





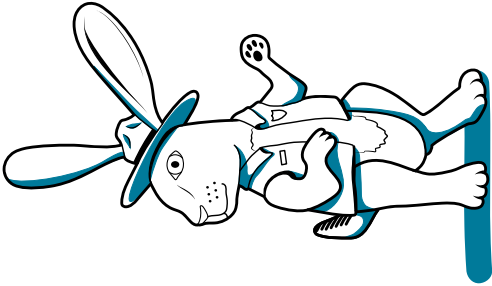
This document certifies that

.....

is an official Junior Ranger at

## **Petroglyph National Monument**

Park Ranger .....



# Junior Ranger Pledge

**I, \_\_\_\_\_,**  
**give my pledge as a**  
**Petroglyph National Monument**  
**Junior Ranger to protect and**  
**preserve the cultural and natural**  
**resources of this park, today and in**  
**the future.**

**Western**  
National Parks  
Association



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