

# Spruce Woods

## JUNIOR NATURALIST

AGES 6-9



**Hi!** Would you like to become a Junior Naturalist just like Howie Whooo the Owl? Complete the activities in this booklet to discover more about Manitoba's provincial parks and the great ways for you to explore the outdoors. Once you are done, fill in the back page and return the book to become an official **Junior Naturalist!**

My name is

What are your three favourite things to do in a park?

1

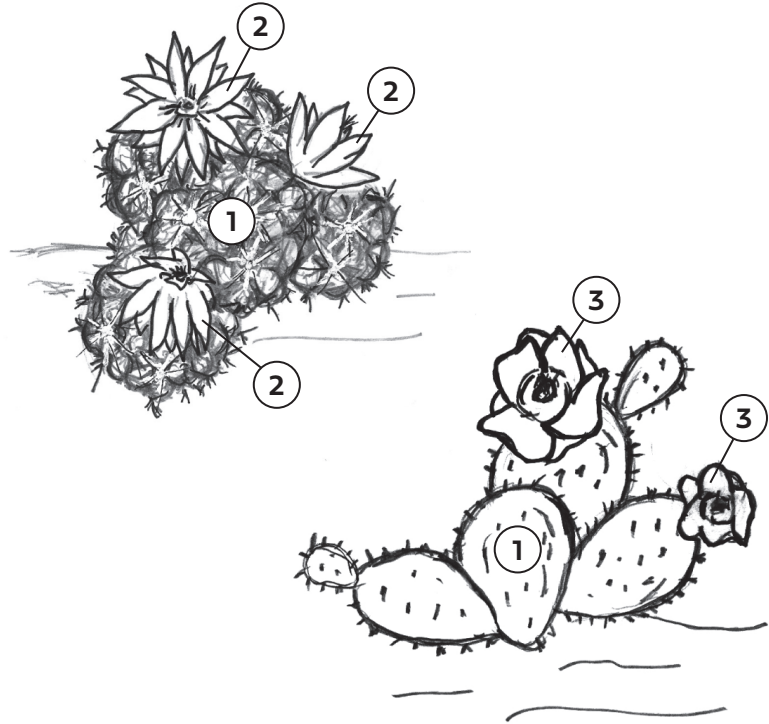
2

3

# 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 Colour the cacti below using this legend:

1 – Green      2 – Pink      3 – Yellow.



## Storytime: *Then 'til Now*

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.

### Words to Use:

1767  
Alpha  
animals  
Assiniboine  
Cridle  
Indigenous  
plants  
recreation  
scientific  
Seton  
spiritual  
voyageurs

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_.



*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:

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| badger             | fox           |
| beaver             | mink          |
| bison              | muskrat       |
| black bear         | porcupine     |
| chipmunk           | rabbit        |
| deer               | racoon        |
| elk                | squirrel      |
| giant beaver       | wooly mammoth |
| giant ground sloth |               |

t	r	e	g	d	a	b	f	t	l
d	e	l	k	e	g	s	n	a	k
a	c	n	h	e	b	z	u	r	n
s	q	u	i	r	r	e	l	k	o
k	n	u	m	p	i	h	c	s	s
o	k	n	i	m	u	f	b	u	i
b	e	a	v	e	r	c	k	m	b
l	f	t	i	b	b	a	r	v	p
r	a	c	c	o	o	n	x	o	f
b	l	a	c	k	b	e	a	r	p

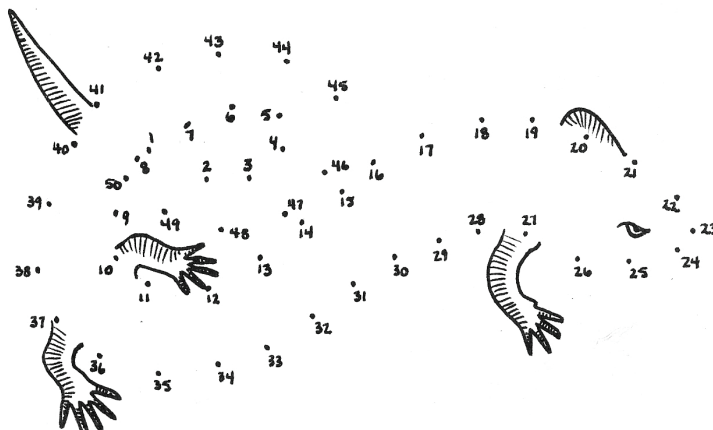
# We Are All Linked

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.



# 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?**

\_\_\_\_\_



## Mini Activity: 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.

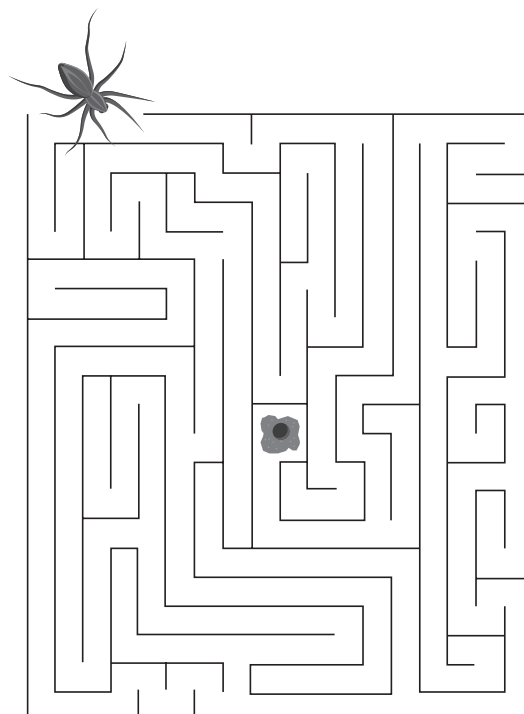
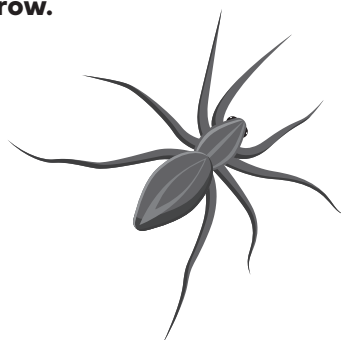
*Remember: leaves of three, leave it be! Can you guess who I am?*

P \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_

# 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.**



# 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 _____	

## Junior Naturalist Notebook

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

# My Journal

Write or draw the things that made your day special!

## 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:

Oxbow Lake

Aspen Forest

Boreal Forest

Sand Dunes

Prairie

### Animals:

Elk

Skink

Fox

Owl

Red Winged Blackbird

Wolf Spider

Coyote

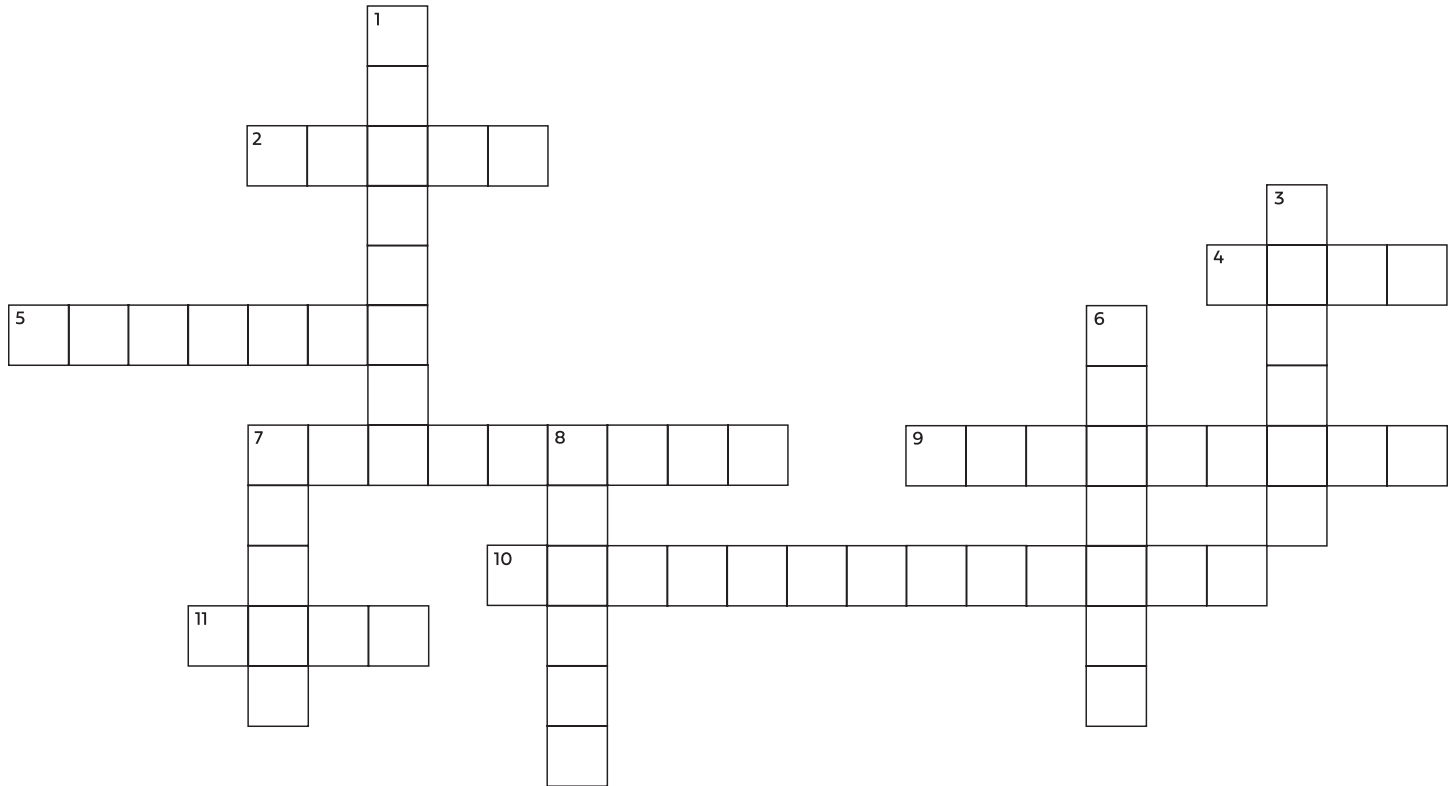
Squirrel

Turtle

Hognose Snake

# Junior Naturalist Crossword

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



## 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.



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

## Did you enjoy doing this activity booklet?

If so, you can do other Junior Naturalist/Park Explorer booklets 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:

**Manitoba Parks**  
Spruce Woods Provincial Park  
Box 900  
Carberry, MB, R0K 0H0

## Junior Naturalist Activity Checklist:

- My Three Favourite Things
- Cool Cactus
- Storytime: Then 'til Now?
- In The Beginning...
- We Are All Linked
- Leapin' Lizard
- Who am I?
- Wolf Spiders are A-MAZE-ing
- Alphabet Hike
- Junior Naturalist Notebook
- My Journal
- Home is Where There's Habitat
- Junior Naturalist Crossword

Junior Naturalist: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult: \_\_\_\_\_

## You are almost an official Junior Naturalist!

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_