

Gila Cliff Dwellings

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Monument
Silver City, New Mexico



Welcome to
our home
in the Gila.



Explore, Learn, Protect:

Be a Junior Ranger

Welcome to Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument!

The Junior Ranger Program will help you:

- **Explore** the homes and stories of people who have lived here.
- **Learn** about the homes and habitats of animals and plants.
- **Protect** all these homes, habitats and stories for the future.



This is what you need to do to earn your Junior Ranger Badge and Certificate:

- Visit the Cliff Dwellings.
- Walk the Trail to the Past.
- Explore the Museums.
- Do all the activities with the **Ranger Hat** symbol and as many of the others as you can. If you are up to the challenge, complete all of them.
- Bring your book to the Visitor Center when you are done.



Note to Parents:

Please encourage your child or children to complete this book to the best of their ability and then **share the Gila Cliff Dwellings story** with their family, friends and classmates.

Every living thing must have:
food to eat
water to drink
shelter for protection
 and **space** to live in.

Who Lives Here?

Food, water, shelter and space make a habitat. Cliff Dweller Canyon has been a habitat for many people, plants and animals for thousands of years.

Can you match each animal to its habitat?

For Example: Bears live in Forests. The line goes through the letter M.

The word search contains the following words:

- Animals:** BEARS, SNAKE, ROADRUNNER, OTTER
- Habitats:** OPEN GROUND, RIVER, ROCKS, FOREST

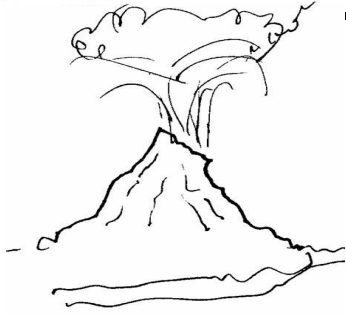
The word search grid contains the following letters:

T
I
S
E
P
Y
O
K
H
X
Q

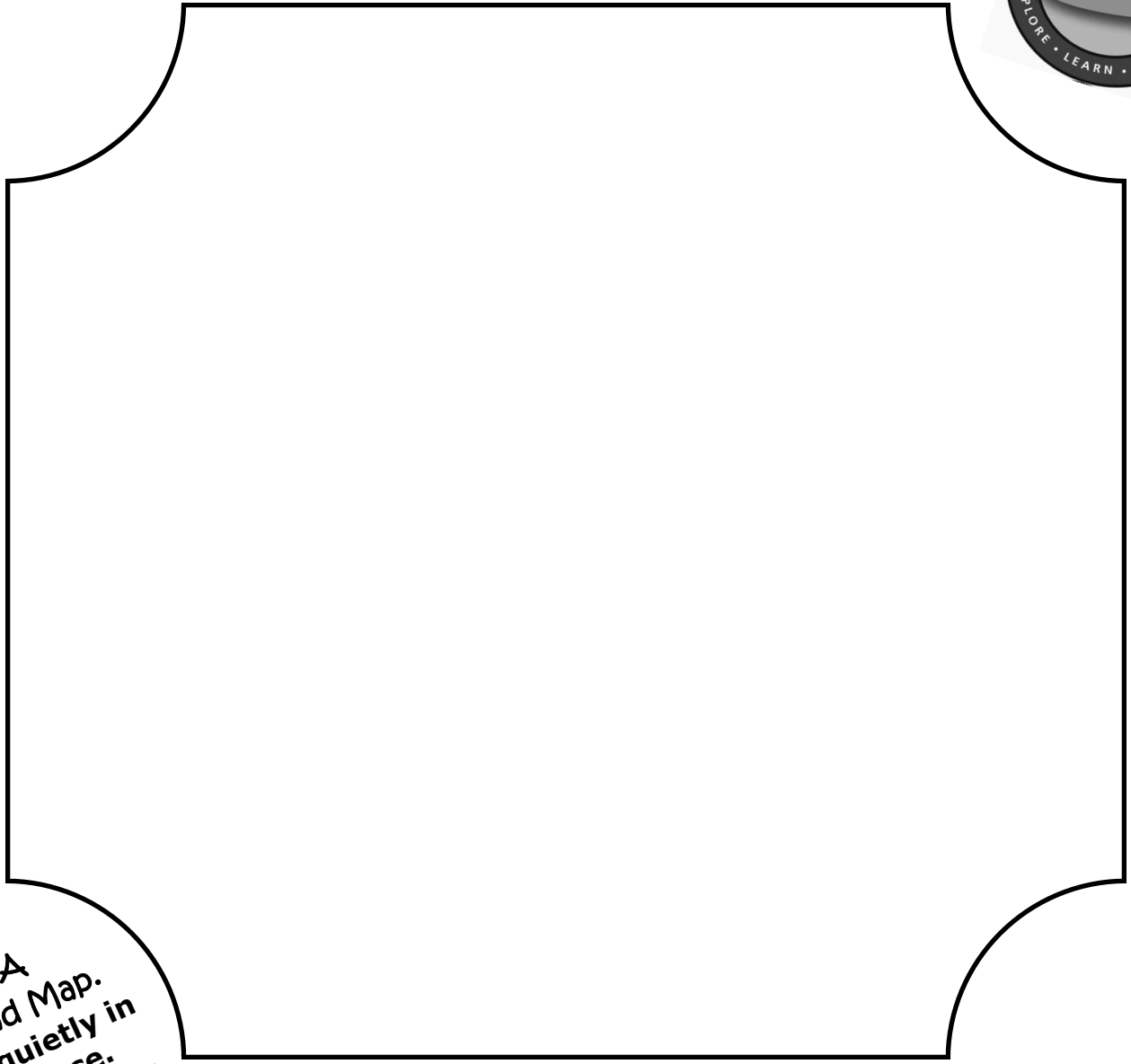
A line is drawn from the 'M' in 'MOUNTAIN' to the 'F' in 'FOREST', passing through the letter 'M'.

Challenge: When the matches are correct and your lines are straight from one dot to the other they will go through letters that will spell a another word for habitat.

What is that word? _____



Imagine Cliff Dweller Canyon before humans arrived. This was a time when nature was very active. The volcano erupted ash and lava. Rivers left deep sand deposits. Other rivers carved out canyons and caves. Seeds grew into plants and trees. Animals roamed freely.



Draw A Sound Map.
Sit quietly in one place.
Listen to the sounds of nature around you.
Draw all the sounds you hear.
Challenge: Do this activity with your eyes closed.

When humans came to Cliff Dweller Canyon their tools, food and shelter came from nature. The caves you will see were first used by hunters and gatherers.
When their food moved, they moved.

Yuccas Are Useful!

Where would you get the things you need if there were no stores? You would have to make everything by hand from the wild plants and other things around you.

At the Visitor Center you will find wild yuccas growing outside and yucca artifacts inside the museum. **Using the word list below, fill in the blanks to see how many ways you can use a yucca.**

Some yucca roots can be sudsy like _____ while others can be baked and eaten like _____.

The _____ and fruits can be eaten raw.

Young and tender stalks can be eaten like asparagus. When they get _____ and tough they can be used as _____ and walking sticks.

The fiber in the leaves can be woven into _____, _____ and _____.

Wordlist:

Baskets Flowers Mats Old Poles Potatoes Sandals Soap

When people started growing corn they began to settle down in one place and build homes. We call the people who built the cliff dwellings the **Mogollon** (Moe Go Yone).



Challenge: The yucca is the state flower of _____

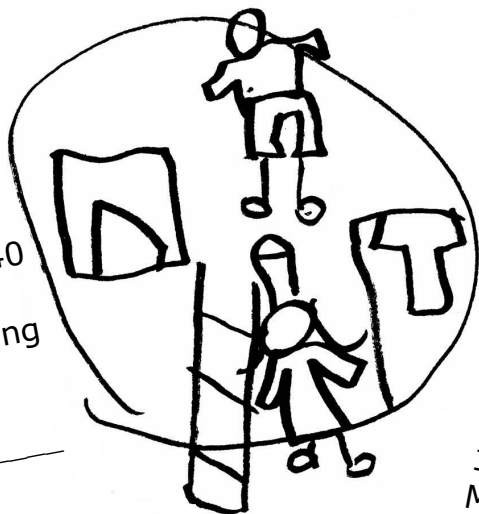
The Mogollon were one of three large cultures in the ancient Southwest. They shared ideas and traded with the Hohokam and ancestral Puebloan (or Anasazi). Each culture was a little bit different. One place to look for differences is in their pottery. You can see examples of Mogollon pottery in the Visitor Center Museum.



These are three common questions people ask about the Gila Cliff Dwellings.

1. How Many People Lived Here?

We guess that these dwellings were built for 40 to 60 people. How many people did you see visiting the dwellings today?



2. How Long Did They Live Here?

Scientists can tell when a tree was cut down by looking at its rings. Many trees used in the dwellings were cut in 1280 A.D. By 1300 A.D. the Mogollon began to leave. How many years is that?

3. Why Did They Leave?

No one really knows. Was it too dry or too wet? Did they run out of food? Did they not get along? Write down one reason you think they might have left.

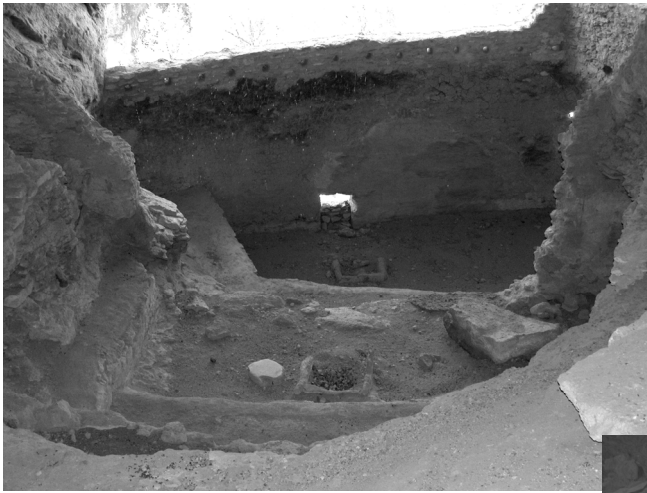
Make a Mogollon Pot at Home.

Make a thin snake of clay. Coil it up. Make it into a cup shape. Using your fingers or a polished rock, smooth the pot. If you want to, you can make a design in the coils. Let your pot harden. Decorate your pot with paint or markers.



A jar, mano and metate (grinding stones), fire pit: _____

Archeologists are people who look for clues, called artifacts, to answer questions about people's homes and lives in the past. That is why artifacts should always be left where they are found. **Label each room as the kitchen, kiva (ceremonial room) or living area based on the artifacts that were found inside.**



Turquoise, macaw feathers, prayer sticks: _____

A basket, cotton cloth, sandal, shell bracelet: _____



Be an Archeologist at Home.

At a friend's house, sit in a room with your eyes closed. Have your friend bring three things from another room to put in front of you. Open your eyes. Can you guess which room they came from? **Switch places.** You are archeologists!

The clues and artifacts left by the Mogollon do not answer all our questions about them. We think they left Cliff Dweller Canyon around 1300 A.D. The Mogollon did not have a written language and their stories left with them. Do you think the pictures drawn on rocks long ago can tell their stories today?

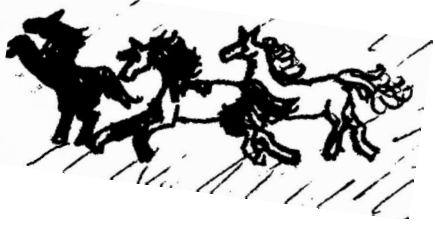


Pictographs — Pictures on Rocks

Look at the pictographs in the dwellings or at the Trail to the Past. Find a figure that you like and copy it.



Show your pictograph to a friend when you get home. Ask them what they think it means.



Did you know that Mogollon is a Spanish word?

In the 1500s and 1600s, Spanish conquistadors came looking for gold and adventure. They brought horses and a written language with them. Many Spanish words are still used by archeologists today.

Spanish Word	English Meaning (Say it this way)
Gila	Spanish version of the Apache word for spider or mountain (Hee la)
Mano y Metate	Grinding stones (Mah no ee mah Tah tay)
Mogollon	Last name of a Spanish governor in the 1700s that was used to name the mountains and ancestral culture in this part of New Mexico (Moe Go Yone)
Olla	Large pot (Oy ah)
Plaza	Open area (Plah za)
Pueblo	Village (Pweb low)
Viga	Roof beams (Vee gah)

Use the **Spanish word list** for the word search.

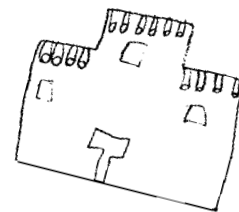


Challenge: Find the Spanish Words
Busca las palabras en español

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



Can you say:
 My home is your home
 in Spanish (español)?
Mi casa es su casa.



In the late 1800s and early 1900s, horses, open lands and the promise of new homes brought settlers to the West. Some wanted to get away from colder climates of the North or crowded cities of the East. Others came to trap animals, look for minerals, explore new territory, farm, ranch and start businesses.



Billy the Kid
A Silver City, NM Teen

Apache children help to hunt and prepare food for their families.

Settler children brought in firewood, fed chickens and livestock, planted gardens and tended cattle and sheep.

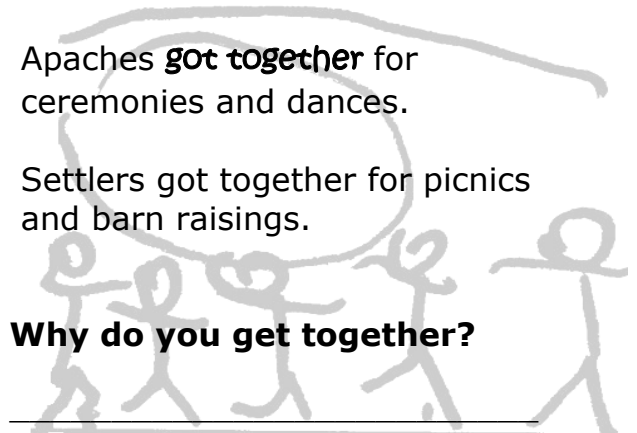
What are your chores?



Apaches **got together** for ceremonies and dances.

Settlers got together for picnics and barn raisings.

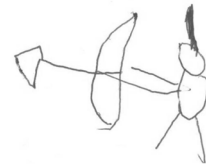
Why do you get together?



Apaches used storytelling to teach their children, enjoyed arrow contests, and raced on foot and horseback.

Settlers liked to throw horseshoes, race hoops and **play** ball games.

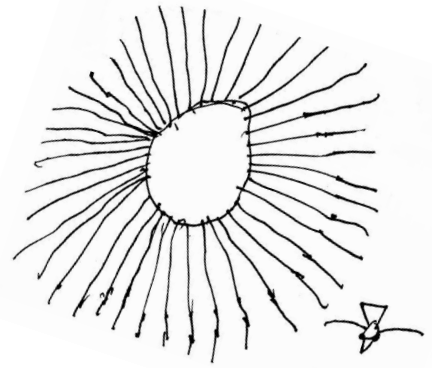
What is your favorite toy or game?



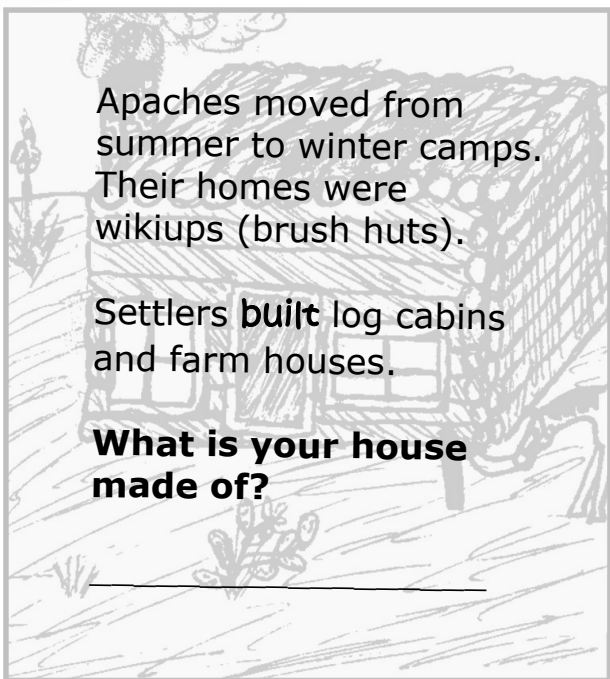
Apaches used the pulp of the agave plant (mescal) as a base for many of their foods.

Settlers started their day with flour biscuits.

What is your favorite food?



Deer



Apaches moved from summer to winter camps. Their homes were wikiups (brush huts).

Settlers **built** log cabins and farm houses.

What is your house made of?



The Apache called the headwaters of the Gila River home long before the settlers or the Spanish arrived. All these different groups of people had the same basic needs—food, water, shelter and space. Though the Apache fought for their homeland, they were outnumbered and forced to move. Over time, many Apache returned to the area. Today people of Native American, Spanish, Mexican, pioneering and other cultures all live here.

Be a Happy Camper! If you are camping here, the Gila is now **your** home. Remember that you are sharing it with other campers **and** all the plants and animals that live here.



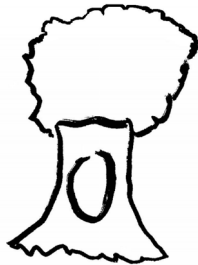
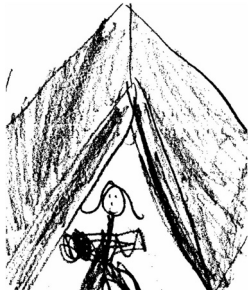
Draw a line to show who is happy when you follow these rules:

Only gather firewood that is already dead and on the ground.

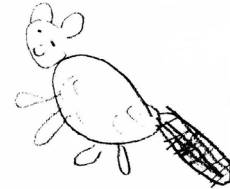
Keep soap and trash out of the river.

Pack It In — Pack It Out!
Keep your campsite clean and take all your trash with you.

Enjoy the dark night sky and look at all the stars.



Bever



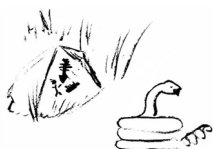
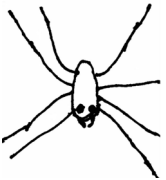
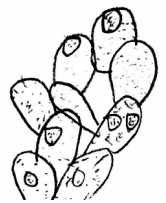
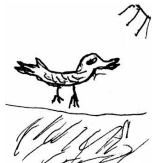
Lizards are fun. You can often find them camouflaged on the rocks. If you do see any, please don't disturb them. This is their home.

“When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

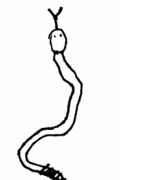
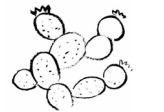
Aldo Leopold



Every plant, animal, rock and artifact is at home right where you find it. Since you can't take these things with you, **use this page to create memories out of pictures, words or poetry** to remember what you smelled, tasted, felt, heard or saw today.



Welcome



The Gila National Forest began as a forest reserve in 1899. **The Gila Cliff Dwellings** were set aside as a national monument by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1907. A large area of the forest around the Cliff Dwellings was set aside as **The Gila Wilderness** in 1924. As caretakers and protectors of these federal lands it is our job to protect the natural and cultural homes in them so that all people today and in the future can explore and learn from them.

Circle the National Parks, Monuments and Historical Parks in New Mexico you have visited.

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Aztec Ruins | Chaco Culture | Pecos |
| Bandelier | Gila Cliff Dwellings | Petroglyph |
| Capulin Volcano | El Morro | Salinas Pueblo Missions |
| Carlsbad Caverns | Fort Union | White Sands |



**National Forests
In New Mexico**



- Apache-Sitgreaves
- Carson
- Cibola
- Gila

- Lincoln
- Piedras
- Sante Fe



Ask The Experts

What makes Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument a special place:

To Your Parents? _____

To Park Rangers or Volunteers? _____

To You? _____



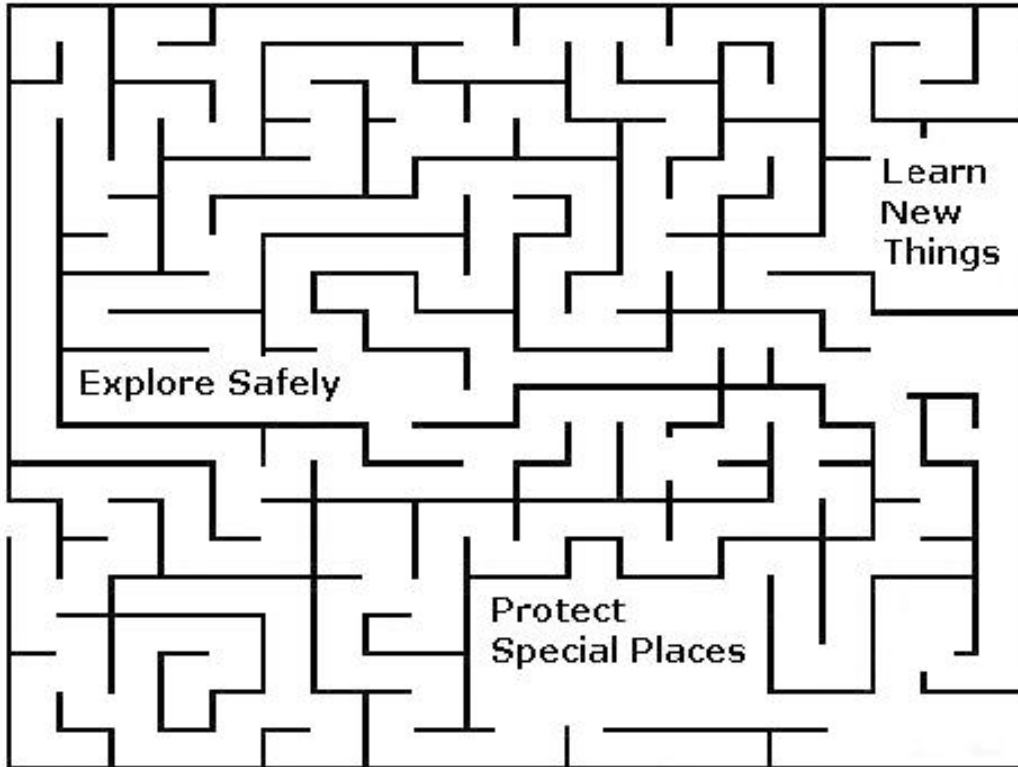
“It’s a way to let our minds sail through time while our eyes feast on the simple yet complicated dwellings of the past.” Bella Bjornstad, Age 10, Gila Hot Springs, NM



The A-MAZE-ing Junior Ranger Journey



Start Here



End Here

As a Junior Ranger, I promise to help protect the stories, homes and habitats found at Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument

While I am here by:

And after I get home by:

So that my children and my grandchildren can enjoy it too.

Signed: _____ Date: _____



These are some fun things you can do now that you are a Junior Ranger.

- Make up a **song** or design a **skit** about the Gila Cliff Dwellings and perform it for your parents, relatives, friends or classmates. Pretend you are a tour guide, a Mogollon family or an archeologist discovering the caves and tell your story.
- Take this book with you to school so you can **share its story**.
- Become a **WebRanger**. Visit www.nps.gov/webrangers
- Ask about Junior Ranger programs in **other parks** you visit.
- Become a member of the **10% Club**. 10% of the people do 90% of the work and have 100% of the fun. Pledge to spend 10 minutes a day or 60 minutes a week to improve your own habitat.

Thank You

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What Does the National Park Service Symbol Mean?

The Arrowhead shape represents historical and archeological treasures.
The Tree represents all vegetation.
The Mountains represent land formations, scenery and recreational opportunities.
The Bison represents all wildlife.
The Lake represents clean water and recreational opportunities.
The National Park Service was founded in 1916.

