Activities for Kids!

Hey, kids!

Here's the place for you! We have six different activities and games for you to choose from. Click on the name of the game you'd like to play and get ready for some learning and fun!

Beginner's Level:

Animal Clue Game

How Long Does Litter Last?

Intermediate Level:

Who Brought What?

Santa Cruz River Bingo!

Advanced Level:

Create Your Own Bird Motif!

Become A Birder!

Animal Clue Cards!

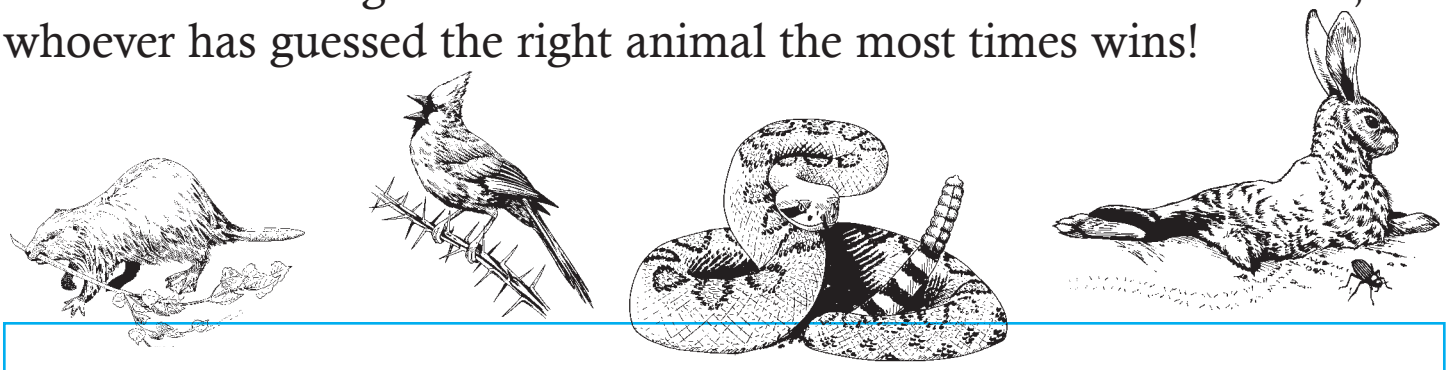
At least 2 players are needed. However, the game can be played in a group, with players taking turns reading the clue cards.

Directions:

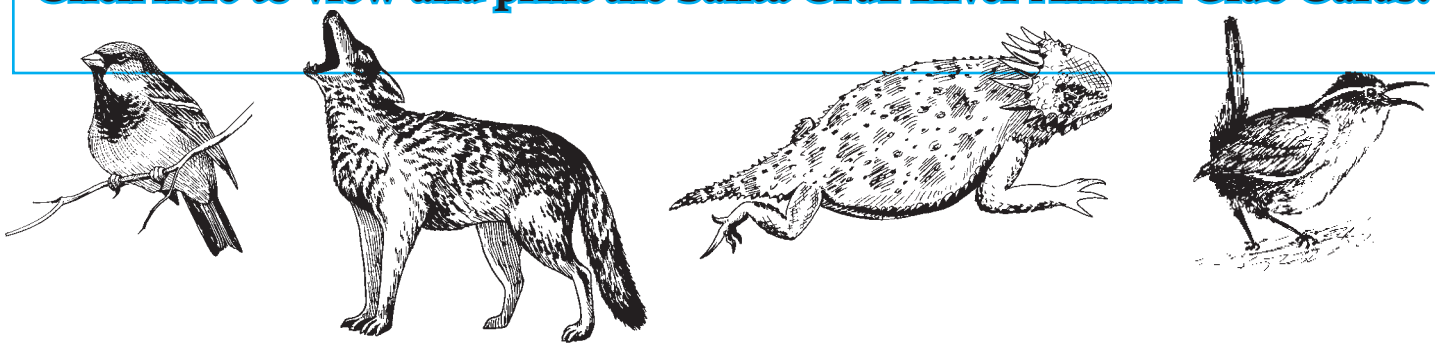
1. Click on the link below to find the Santa Cruz River Animal Clue Cards. Print out the cards, and cut along the dark black lines.

2. Choose one card without showing your partner or other players which Clue card you have. Make sure to read all the clues on the card before asking other players to guess or write down what he or she thinks the mystery animal is.

Take turns reading the clues on the cards. When the cards run out, whoever has guessed the right animal the most times wins!



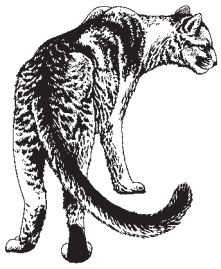
Click here to view and print the Santa Cruz River Animal Clue Cards!



Activity adapted with permission from Sharing Nature with Children, by Joseph Cornell, Dawn Pubs, 1989 .

MOUNTAIN LION

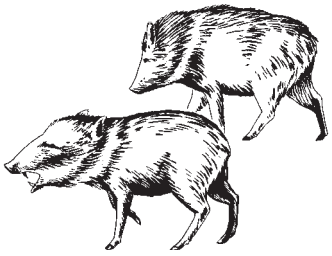
Felix concolor



1. I am grayish-brown in color with lighter areas under my belly.
2. I look for food only at night.
3. Deer is my favorite food but I eat any animal I can catch.
4. I can weigh from 100 to 200 pounds and am 5 feet long not including my tail.
5. I have short round ears and yellow-green cat's eyes.
6. I am also known as a Cougar or Puma.
7. I am the largest cat native to the USA.
8. My cousin, after whom I am named, is known as king of the jungle in Africa.

JAVELINA

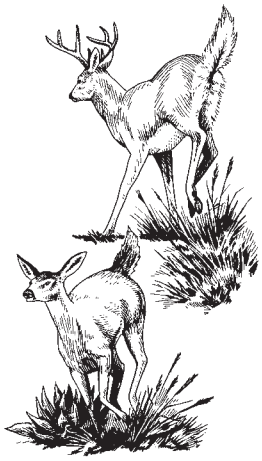
Dicotyles tajucu



1. I am busy both day and night.
2. I have 4 legs, a small tail, and my hair is very coarse and oily.
3. I cannot see well, but I have a good sense of smell.
4. I eat plants, shrubs and roots.
5. I do not like anything that gets too close and will attack if they do.
6. Although most of my teeth are flat, I have two big ones like tusks on an elephant.
7. I am considered to be a sloppy eater.
8. I look like and am often called a pig.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Odocoileus virginianus couesi



1. I have large ears with white on the inside and gray-brown on the outside.
2. My teeth are not sharp and pointed, but flat.
3. I am small for my family and have a white tail.
4. I eat leaves, grass and twigs.
5. After my babies are born, they are left with only their color and spots to hide them.
6. I can run very fast and jump very high, even over fences.
7. Some of my kind have antlers.

RACCOON

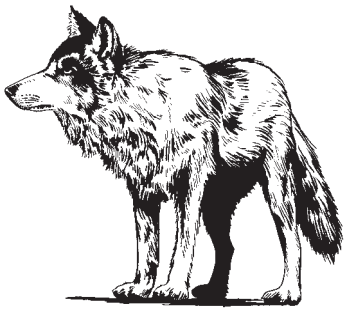
Procyon lotor mexicanus

1. I am warm blooded with four legs.
2. I eat about anything I can get my hands on.
3. I am very nimble and can pick up just about anything with my hands.
4. I hunt and look for food mostly at night. I am about the size of a small dog.
5. I am often found near water where I hunt for and clean my food.
6. I travel in small groups with two or more brothers and sisters.
7. I have a large bushy tail with rings. Some people mistake me for a bandit.

MEXICAN GREY WOLF

Canus lupis

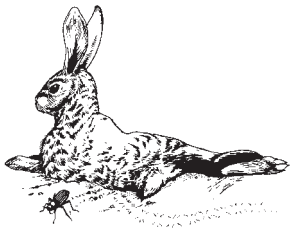
1. I have four legs and I am big.
2. I weigh 60 to 100 pounds.
3. I hunt for my food at night.
4. I prefer meat of larger animals such as deer.
5. I am 5 feet long, have a long nose, and short ears.
6. I can talk with howls, growls and yips.
7. My relatives were once found all over the United States.
8. My species was recently returned to remote parts of Arizona.
9. I look like a dog and some call me Lobo.



COTTONTAIL RABBIT

Sylbilagus audubonii

1. I can run and jump very fast.
2. I do not have a stationary home, but sleep under bushes.
3. My paws are very furry.
4. I am about the size of a small cat.
5. I have flat teeth with two bigger ones in the front.
6. People hunt me for my soft warm fur.
7. People consider me to be cute and imitate me at Easter.
8. Part of my name comes from my tail that looks like a ball of cotton.



STRIPED SKUNK

Mephitis mephitis

1. My ears are small and rounded.
2. I eat almost anything, but prefer insects.
3. I am about the size of a small cat and have a long bushy tail.
4. I am usually a very gentle animal but lots of other animals and people are afraid of me.
5. My body color is black with two white stripes down my back.
6. I have a big tail that helps me if I am being attacked.
7. Some people say I smell bad.
8. When I get mad, I lift my tail and spray.

SPOTTED SKUNK

Spilogale gracilis

1. My ears are small and rounded.
2. I eat almost anything, but prefer insects.
3. I am about the size of a kitten and have a long bushy tail.
4. My body color is black with various white spots on my face and body.
5. I am usually a very gentle animal, but lots of other animals and people are afraid of me.
6. I have a big tail that helps me if I am being attacked.
7. Some people say I smell bad.
8. When I get mad, I lift my tail and spray.

BEAVER

Castor canadensis

1. I am about the size of a small dog.
2. I am known as a great swimmer.
3. My feet are webbed like those of a duck.
4. I have a large, paddle-like tail.
5. I have large front teeth to chew wood.
6. If I don't chew wood, my teeth will grow too big and I will die.
7. Many years ago, people blamed me for starting a disease called malaria and kicked us all out of the southwestern rivers.
8. I was re-introduced to the San Pedro River.
9. I have a flat tail and like to build dams.

GRAY ROCK SQUIRREL

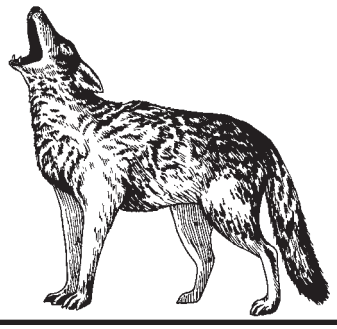
Spermophilus variegatus

1. I am about 20 inches long and grey in color.
2. I spend much of my time in the ground.
3. At the first sign of danger, I will slip quietly into my house and stay there until I am safe.
4. I have sharp teeth and strong claws.
5. I eat seeds, nuts, fruits, berries, grass seeds, cactus fruits, acorns and pine nuts.
6. I am in the same family as rats and mice.
7. I am considered to be cute but sometimes I have diseases like rabies or plague.

COYOTE

Canis latrans

1. I am a mammal found all over the United States.
2. I am a carnivore, but eat all sorts of things.
3. I like to run in groups.
4. I look pretty scroungy in the summer but have a beautiful coat in the winter.
5. I can talk with others of my kind by growls and yips.
6. I have a long dog-like nose.
7. I am often mistaken for my cousin who is the wolf, but he is much larger than I.
8. I am often seen howling at the moon.



BADGER

Taxidea taxus

1. I am short and very strong.
2. I have white markings on my face.
3. I eat mice, rats and squirrels, which I dig out of their homes in the ground.
4. I am a fighter and attack animals and people if cornered.
5. I am about 2 feet long and weigh 20 pounds.
6. I hunt for food only at night, and sleep in a different place every day.
7. I am mostly gray in color, and I have big claws about 1-1/2 inches long.
8. My babies are full grown in three months.

NORTHERN CARDINAL

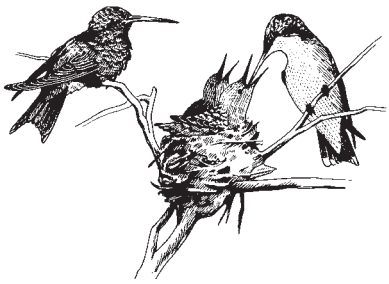
Cardinalis cardinalis

1. If I am male, my face and throat are black.
2. When I choose my mate, we are together forever.
3. I love to sing and whistle all year long.
4. My bill is very strong and shaped like a cone.
5. I have wings and can fly.
6. Seeds are my favorite food.
7. I have a pointed crest on the top of my head.
8. If I am a boy, I look like a Christmas ornament sitting in a tree.
9. My body is bright red!

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD

Archilochus alexandri

1. I am always busy and rarely rest.
2. My home is lined with soft cobwebs.
3. I drink nectar from flowers and eat bugs.
4. Some of my species are about the size of a human's thumb.
5. I can fly forwards and backwards.
6. Sometimes people put food out for me in a glass jar, from which I drink with my long tongue.
7. I am one of the smallest birds and make a humming sound with my wings when I fly.



GILA WOODPECKER

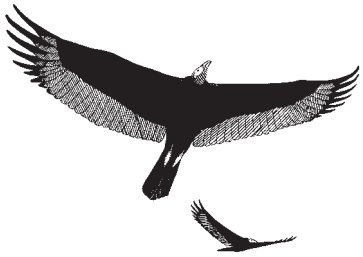
Melanerpes uropygialis

1. My mate and I raise our young together.
2. I am very noisy.
3. As a boy, I have a red spot on my head.
4. I have a zebra striped cape.
5. I live in holes that I make in big trees.
6. I eat insects, cacti, berries, and eggs of other birds.
7. I am very commonly seen along the Santa Cruz River and at Tumacácori.
8. I drum on trees or on your house.
9. Some people call me "Woody."

TURKEY VULTURE

Cathartes aura

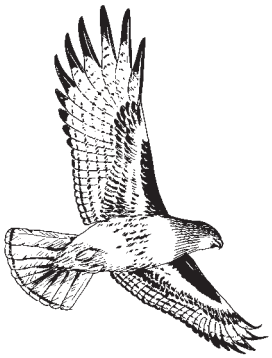
1. I am very quiet and rarely talk.
2. I live on cliffs or in trees with my friends.
3. In the morning, I sit stretched out and sun bathe to dry off.
4. You often see me from the highway circling in the sky.
5. I soar with "V" shaped wings and I hardly ever flap them.
6. I eat only dead animals.
7. I have no feathers on my head, which is bright red like a turkey.



RED–TAILED HAWK

Buteo jamaicensis

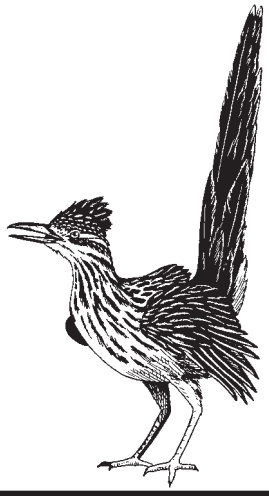
1. I have two legs.
2. I hunt rabbits, snakes and small mammals.
3. I am very large for my family.
4. My claws are big and sharp for grabbing my food.
5. My call is a high pitched whistle or screech (one falling note).
6. You may see me soaring above the highways, treetops or cliffs or on telephone poles.
7. Some people mistake me for an eagle.



GREATER ROADRUNNER

Geococcyx californianus

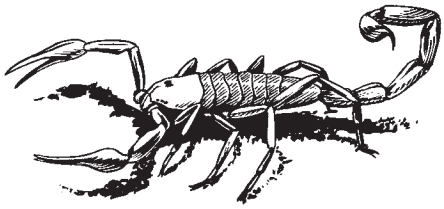
1. I eat all kinds of things, including lizards.
2. I live in desert bushes and grasses.
3. Sometimes you can hear my call which sounds like the clanking sound of coo coo-ah coo-ah.
4. I have a long body and tail.
5. I have two legs.
6. My feathers are dark brown with a little bit of green.
7. Although I have feathers, I don't usually fly.
8. I am known to run on roads.



GIANT DESERT HAIRY SCORPION

Hadrurus arizonensis

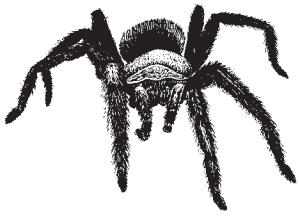
1. I am a southwestern desert arachnid.
2. My mother carries her young on her back.
3. I eat tiny insects.
4. I am found in desert washes, rocky areas, the open desert, and even in your house.
5. I am light brown with some yellow coloring.
6. I have two pincers with which I can hold and grab things.
7. I am poisonous, and you will be in pain if I sting you.
8. My tail curls and has a stinger at the



TARANTULA

Aphonopelma chalcodesa

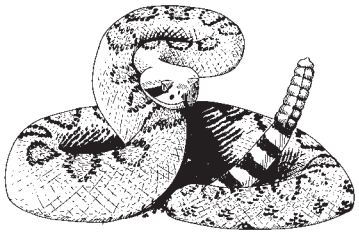
1. I have black hair on my body and legs.
2. My coloring varies from different shades of brown to black.
3. I live under the ground.
4. The female in my species will live in the same tiny cave her entire life.
5. I am very large for my species.
6. Even though I don't usually bite, I scare people so I have been in some movies.
7. Although my venom is poisonous to animals, I rarely hurt humans.
8. I have eight legs.



WESTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE

Crotalus atrox

1. I can be found in the western part of the United States.
2. I come out to hunt usually at night.
3. I mostly eat rats, mice and gophers.
4. I produce poison and can be dangerous.
5. I am cold blooded.
6. I have two fangs and no other teeth.
7. When I am frightened, I will curl up like a garden hose, raise my tail and rattle it to warn you not to come close to me.
8. I have diamond shaped patterns on my back.



HORNED LIZARD

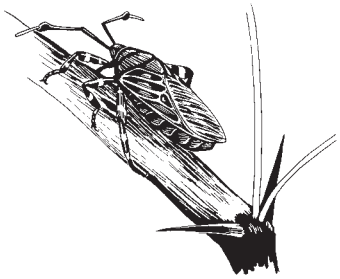
Phrynosoma solare

1. I am found only in the western United States and Mexico.
2. I like to eat insects and love ants.
3. I like to bury myself in the sand.
4. I am cold blooded.
5. When frightened I squirt blood from my eyes.
6. I have very rough skin that looks like scales.
7. Although I am only 3-1/2 to 6-1/2 inches long, some say I look like a small dinasour.
8. Some call me a toad, but I am really a lizard.

GIANT MESQUITE BEETLE

Thasus gigas

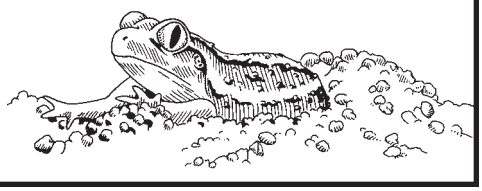
1. I am found in desert areas above the ground and in the mesquite trees.
2. I am very large for my type of creature.
3. I love sucking up plant juice.
4. I have two antennas and six legs.
5. I am red, white and black.
6. I can be found in bunches on mesquite branches.
7. I am a fussy eater and will only drink the juice of the mesquite tree.



SPADE-FOOTED TOAD

Scaphiopus couchi

1. I spend most of my time underground.
2. I love to eat insects.
3. My rear feet resemble a spade.
4. I am cold blooded.
5. I will come out when it rains during the summer months.
6. I will lay my eggs in the water.
7. Kids like to catch me.
8. My skin is a dull brown, green and slippery.
9. I get around by hopping.
10. There is a story about me turning into a prince.



How long Does Litter Last?

At least 2 people are needed for this activity or the game can be played in a group.

Directions:

1. Click on the link below and print out the page with the trash information. Cut the page up into strips, so that each strip has a trash item, its name, and the amount of time it will last.

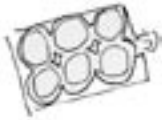
2. Divide the strips up equally among players.

3. Players take turns reading the trash item and asking others to guess how long trash items will last before returning or decomposing into nature. For each piece of trash, only three guesses are allowed.

The player who guesses the closest amount of time wins each round. Whoever wins the most rounds wins the game!

Click here to go to and print the litter page!

Go on a trash hunt and try to find examples of different types of trash such as glass and plastic bottles, paper, plastic, tin and aluminim cans, orange or banana peels, styrofoam, etc. Use these instead of the cards.

	Orange / Banana Peels	*Up to 2 years*
	Wool Socks	*1-5 years*
	Cigarette Butts	*1-5 years*
	Plastic Coated Paper	*5 years*
	Plastic Bags	*10-20 years*
	Plastic Film Container	*20-30 years*
	Nylon Fabric	*30-40 years*
	Leather	*Up to 50 years*
	Tin Cans	*50 years*
	Aluminum Cans & Tabs	*80-100 years*
	**Plastic Six Pack Holders**	*100 years*
	Glass Bottles	*1,000,000 years*
	Plastic Bottles	*Indefinitely*
	Styrofoam	*Indefinitely*

WHO BROUGHT WHAT?

Below are lots of goods that were exchanged between the Native Americans and the missionaries. Can you decide who brought what? Print this page, then circle all of the things which came from the missionaries. Underline those that were used by the Indians throughout the Americas before the Europeans came.

Example: Rice = Spanish Avocados = Native Americans

Agave	Cocoa	Onions	Squash
Avocados	Corn	Peanuts	Sheep
Bananas	Devil's Claw	Pigs	Sweet Potatoes
Barley	Grapes	Pineapple	Sugar
Beans	Horses	Potatoes	Tomatoes
Beets	Mesquite	Prickly Pear	Turkey
Cabbage	Oats	Pumpkins	Vanilla
Cattle	Olives	Rice	

Bonus Activity:

HELPFUL AND/OR HARMFUL?

The European settlers introduced many new ideas and items. Some impacted the lives of the Native Americans in both helpful and harmful ways. Can you tell which ones might have been helpful or harmful? After printing this page, draw a line between each thing they brought and the descriptions of how they might have helped or hurt.

(Hint: there may be more than one answer.)

Disease	Makes good wine.
Vegetables	Tastes great but not too good for you.
Cattle	Unwanted plants came with this fruit.
Grapes	A permanent source of food.
Sugar	Lots of people died from this.
Horses ← Example →	Better than walking!
Wheat	Ate too much grass.
	Provided variety to their diet.

Native Americans brounght = agave, avocados, beans, coaoa, corn, devil's claw, mesquite, onions, potatos, prickly pear, pumpkin, squash, sweet potatoes, turkey.

Santa Cruz River Bingo!

Directions:

1. Click on the links below and print copies for every person playing of both the Santa Cruz River Bingo Board and the Santa Cruz River Critters sheet.

2. Each player carefully cuts out the Santa Cruz River Critters and mix up the 24 different pictures.

3. Each person pastes the animal squares onto their blank Santa Cruz River Bingo Board in whatever way they wish, making their own board different from the other players.

4. Print one copy of each of the four pages of Species Cards and cut along the dark black lines to make a set of the 24 animals . Put all the cards into a hat and mix them up.

5. Play as you would regular bingo, using bingo chips, beans, etc. or other markers. Have the bingo caller read about a mystery animal from a Species Card picked randomly from the hat. Once finished, players may raise thier hands to try and guess.

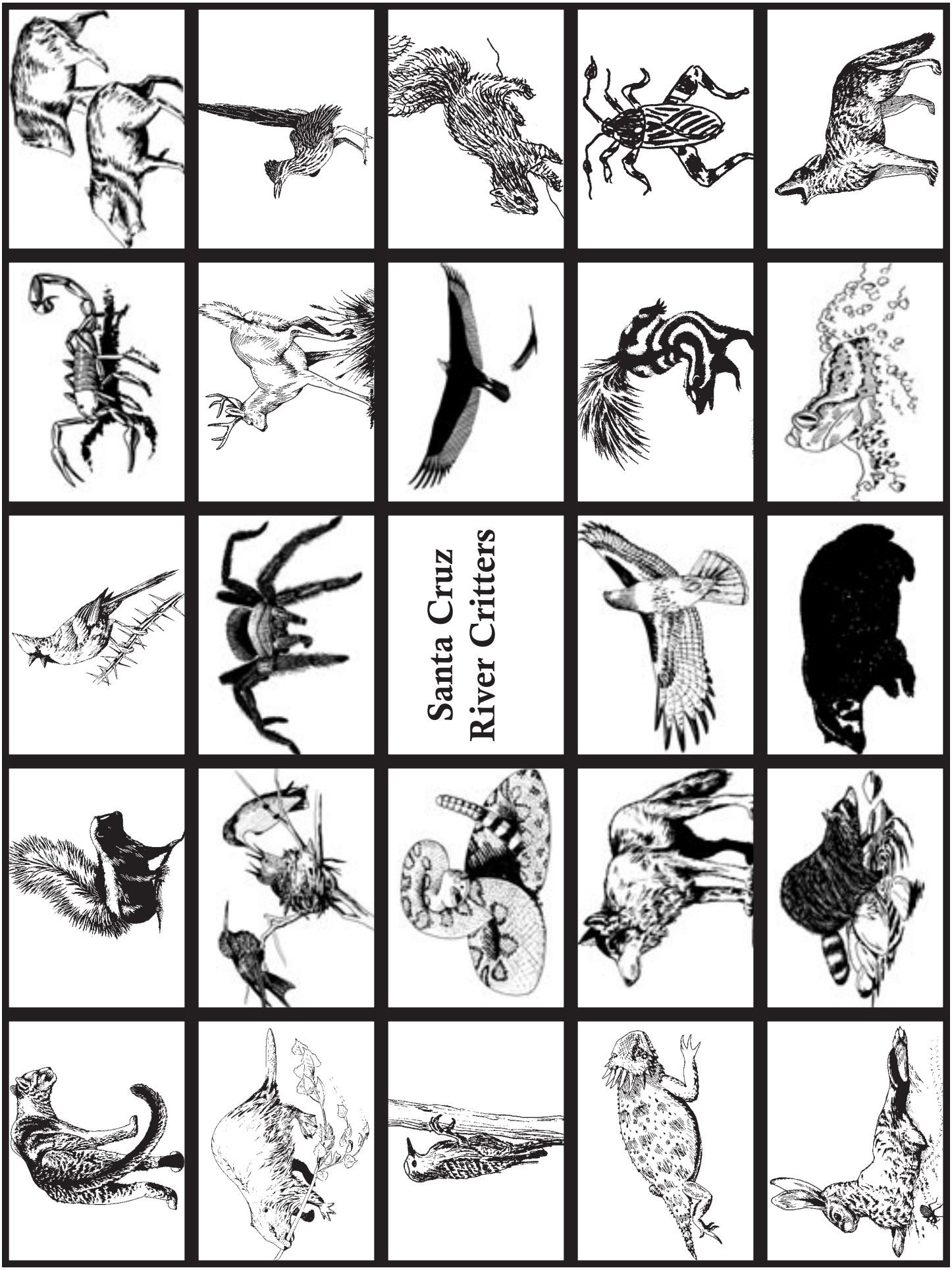
Click here for the Santa Cruz River Bingo Board!

Click here Santa Cruz River Critters!

Click here for the Species Cards!

You may also substitute reading the Species Cards by using pictures of the animals cut from an extra copy of the Santa Cruz River Critters. The reader calls out the name of the animal instead of the description.

		Santa Cruz River Bingo Board		


Santa Cruz
River Critters

MOUNTAIN LION

Felix concolor

Description: The largest cat in the United States - over five feet in length from the tip of his nose to the tip of his tail. It can weigh between 100 and 200 pounds. Lives mostly off deer and smaller prey.
Habitat: Lives mostly in the mountains but also can be seen in the desert. In Arizona, prefers rugged, heavily vegetated areas such as the Chiricahua Mountains.

Notes: Also known as Puma or Cougar, they are very shy and try very hard to stay hidden from humans. The lack of understanding of the mountain lion's habits, along with folklore, has made most people very afraid of this animal.

JAVELINA

Dicotyles tajucu

Description: Weighs 35-50 lbs; very coarse salt and pepper colored hair. Looks and acts like a pig but is not. It belongs to the old world Peccary family.
Habitat: Found in Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico (also in South America) living in deserts and lower elevation mountains. Preferred foods are cactus, grass, shrubs, roots and tubers. Any place you find these types of plants and cactus you most likely will find javelina.
Notes: The javelina has very bad eyesight but a great sense of smell. Has a musk sack that lets out a very strong odor that other javelina can smell from great distances. This is how they can find their herd if they get lost.

WHITE-TAILED DEER

Odocoileus virginianus couesi

Description: Adult deer weigh 100 pounds or less. Their hair is tan-gray with white under parts. They are named for their white tail which can only be seen when it's up. The fawns are born with spots on their cinnamon-colored coats, which aid them in hiding from predators. They lose these spots in six months.
Habitat: High desert mountains, with rough wooded habitat. Food sources include grass, twigs, leaves, berries, and acorns.
Notes: Sometimes mule deer are mistaken for white-tailed deer. When the mule deer's tail is down it is white with a brown tip. On the white-tailed deer, you only see the white when the tail is up.

RACOON

Procyon lotor mexicanus

Description: About the size of a small dog, it has gray fluffy hair with dark markings, a large bushy tail with rings and dark marks around the eyes making it look like a bandit. The raccoon has human-shaped paws that are used to grab objects and clean food.
Habitat: Found mostly in woods and forest environments. It is a very intelligent and curious animal and can be found going through trashcans and even inside houses looking for food.
Notes: The raccoon eats just about everything and is called an omnivore. Basically nocturnal but can also be seen in the day.

MEXICAN GREY WOLF

Canus lupis

Description: Often mistaken for a German Shepherd dog at first glance, but has longer legs, a shorter, straighter tail, bigger ears, and a longer snout. Has a light colored coat with a lot of gray, black, white and some tan.
Habitat: Wolves were hunted and trapped almost to extinction. The Mexican Grey Wolf lives in the high elevation desert or lower elevation mountains. Its main source of food is white-tailed deer.
Notes: The wolf is a very intelligent animal and learned very quickly to prey on domestic animals - a cause of their demise. Mexican Grey Wolves were re-introduced into the White Mountains in 1999.

COTTONTAIL RABBIT

Sylbilagus audubonii

Description: Gets its name from its fluffy white tail that looks like a cotton ball. Smaller than many rabbits, it has fur that is light grayish-tan with some white. It has clear brown eyes and moderately long ears and is the size of a medium cat.
Habitat: The cottontail lives in grassland, creosote brush, desert and mesquite forest. Although very common to the Arizona desert, they can be found in North Dakota, California, Montana, and Texas.
Notes: The cottontail defends itself from predators by running fast and darting in different directions. It will also lie very still and quiet so that predators and other threatening animals do not see it.

STRIPED SKUNK

Mephitis mephitis

Description: About the size of a cat. The striped skunk is distiguished by two white stripes down the back, a big bushy tail and a small head. Males are larger than females.
Habitat: The striped skunk can be found in most of the United States and Mexico in the desert, grassy plains and woodlands. The skunk moves slowly using ground cover as camouflage.
Notes: Although usually docile, when threatened, the skunk's defense is to spray a terrible odor up to 12 feet away. Four types of skunks are found in Arizona: striped, spotted, hooded and Hognosed. Skunks are primary carriers of rabies, dead or alive.

SPOTTED SKUNK

Spilogale gracilis

Description: This small nocturnal animal averages a total length of about 16 inches. The body color is black with various white spots on the face, four narrow white stripes along the front half of the back, a white blocked rump, and a tail that is half black and half white.
Habitat: They live in burrows or rock crevices in any location where there is lots of ground cover. Their diet consist of insects, lizards, rodents, birds' eggs and cactus fruits.
Notes: Their defense consists of stamping their front feet, turning around, hoisting their tail and emitting a replusive odor. They can spray up to 12 feet away.

BEAVER

Castor Canadensis

Description: About the size of a medium sized dog with webbed rear feet, a tail shaped like a paddle and large front teeth. The fur is brown and thick.
Habitat: Found in mountains and waterways in the western United States. At one time, beavers were found throughout the United States but were depopulated by the fur trade. This species has been reintroduced to the San Pedro River.
Notes: In the southwestern riparian areas, the beaver was removed or extirpated both for furs and because they were an assumed agent of malaria (mosquitos breed in still water). Beavers must chew wood, or their teeth may grow too big resulting in death.

GRAY ROCK SQUIRREL

Spermophilus variegatus

Description: These squirrels' coats are a mixture of dark grays and yellowish-browns with lighter gray on their front quarters, dirty white underneath, and bushy tails. They are large for ground squirrels, and can be up to 20 inches long.
Habitat: They get their name from their favorite habitat of rock with good cover of trees & bushes into which they blend well. They live in dens which can vary from rock slopes to human dwellings.
Notes: They always have a lookout point near their dens on which they perch to survey the surroundings. If there is any danger they will let out a loud shrill whistle as a warning.

COYOTE

Canis latrans

Description: About the size of a medium sized dog, with longer legs and bigger ears, weighing 20 to 50 lbs. The fur is tan and yellow with some black and white. The winter fur is full and thicker and the summer coat is often thin and sick looking.
Habitat: Common throughout the United States. Adapts to open plains, forest, desert and brush areas. Prefers small game but will eat about anything.
Notes: Often at night, either a lone coyote or a pack can be heard howling. Coyotes are very adaptable and have survived many difficult times. In many native cultures, the coyote is known as the trickster.

BADGER

Taxidea taxus

Description: A carnivore about two feet long, weighing 15 to 20 pounds. It is stocky shaped, with short legs, gray fur and distinct facial markings. Its legs are powerful, and it has long claws to dig and quickly unearth mice and squirrels.
Habitat: Found throughout the Sonoran Desert region. They live in underground burrrows and move from den to den frequently, often every day.
Notes: Badgers are solitary and fierce, and most other animals avoid them because they are such good fighters. They eat only at night and roam over very large areas. Baby badgers stay with their mother for three months.

CARDINAL

Cardinali cardinalis

Description: Up to 7 1/2" long, the male is a bright Christmas red with a black face. Both male and female have distinct head crests and red beaks. The female is pinkish-peach colored.

Habitat: They are usually found in the mesquite-bosque and shrubs near the Santa Cruz River. They stay in southern Arizona year-round but are harder to spot in winter along the Santa Cruz.

Notes: They are ground feeders. The male is protective of his mate and surroundings and is known to attack his own reflection in windows because he thinks it is an intruder.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD

Archilochus alexandri

Description: About 3" long, a small metallic-green bird with a black throat and white collar below it. With the sun shining just right, a purple patch will flash below his very long beak.

Habitat: These tiny birds winter in Mexico and then will travel as far north as Montana. Along the way they feed on nectar from brightly colored flowers.

Notes: The nest of the hummingbird is found in the fork of a branch and is only 1" high and 1-1/2" across. They can fly forward and backward, up and down. Their wings move so fast they make a humming sound, giving them their name.

GILA WOODPECKER

Melanerpes uropygialis

Description: This woodpecker has black and white zebra like stripes on the back and tail. Only the male has a bright red cap.

Habitat: They live year-round in the southwestern desert, woodland and cottonwood groves along the rivers. They eat insects, fruits of cactus, berries and the eggs of other birds.

Notes: The Gila Woodpecker is very common to the Santa Cruz River and can often be heard squawking.

TURKEY VULTURE

Cathartes aura

Description: Large black bird (25") with a bald, red head. When flying they have a wingspan of 6' and its wingtip feathers are spread apart, resembling fingers.

Habitat: They are found in open arid country, canyons and grasslands throughout the world. They are scavengers and feed on dead animals or carrion.

Notes: They soar high in the sky on thermal currents and can spot food from 2-1/2 miles away. Some Indian tribes thought the birds were messengers of the gods because of the way they soared higher and higher until they disappeared.

RED-TAILED HAWK

Buteo jamaicensis

Description: A large brown bird (18" long) with pale streaked breast, a dark belly band and a rusty red tail. They have a 4 foot wingspan, sharp claws or talons and a strong beak.

Habitat: Commonly found in open country, deserts and mountains. Often seen circling lazily in the air or perched on poles watching for their dinner which is usually mice, rabbits and other small animals.

Notes: They build a bulky platform nest of sticks that they defend by diving and screaming at intruders.

GREATER ROADRUNNER

Geococcyx californianus

Description: A large (22") ground bird with brown streaks, a shaggy crest, a very long tail, heavy beak and long blue legs.

Habitat: They live year-round in the Southwest deserts and mesquite shrub lands. Although they do fly, they prefer to run, hence, the name roadrunner. They are great hunters and eat the fruit of cactus, scorpions, tarantulas and snakes including rattlers.

Notes: We know them best from the Roadrunner cartoon with Wiley E. Coyote. Among Native Americans and Hispanics they were thought of as courageous and great hunters.

GIANT DESERT HAIRY SCORPION

Hadrurus arizonensis

Description: This arachnid is 5-1/2 inches long, with two pinchers and a stinger tipped "tail" that curves over its back when threatened. It is tan all over, with a yellowish back and brown hair on its legs and body.

Habitat: Found in the desert along dry river washes, rocky areas and in more familiar places like in desert gardens and work sheds. This scorpion lives where it can prey on small, soft-bodied insects.

Notes: The female will carry her young on her back for 10-15 days. The young will shed their skin several times before they reach maturity. Scorpions are venomous, and a person can get very sick if stung.

TARANTULA

Anphopelma chalcodesa

Description: These spiders are very hairy with long legs. Their color varies from dark brown to black with some grey. The female has hooks that look like large fangs and both male and female have a tight cluster of eight eyes.

Habitat: They are found in many parts of Arizona but mainly in the southwestern desert areas. They live in sandy washes and open desert areas in burrows. Their diet consists of insects and small rodents, such as mice, lizards and small snakes.

Notes: A tarantula's bite, although painful, is not life threatening. It will only bite if provoked. Females live 20 years and males live 8-10 years.

WESTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE

Crotalus atrox

Description: Up to six feet long. Its name comes from the dark diamond shaped blotches on its back. Skin color is tan, yellow and very light pink. Like all rattlesnakes, the head is shaped like an arrow.

Habitat: Southeastern California to Arizona, New Mexico, to Arkansas and Northern Mexico. Lives in caves or under the ground. Lies on top of rocks, along trails, under bushes, and near open washes.

Notes: Although very dangerous, the snake is just as afraid of you as you are of it. The rattle is a warning. Be careful and leave it alone and it will leave you alone. Rattlesnake help keep rodent and rat population in balance by hunting them at night.

HORNED LIZARD

Phrynosoma solare

Description: This lizard has many scales and is crowned with sharp looking spines. Its color varies from tan to shades of dark brown and orange. The body is flat and close to the ground.

Habitat: These lizards can be found throughout Southern Arizona and into parts of Northern Mexico. They prefer rocky, sandy areas with shrub brush and succulents. They eat bugs and love ants and sometimes will eat very small snakes.

Notes: When threatened, they will squirt blood from their eyes. Their bodies will become very rigid when picked up.

GIANT MESQUITE BUG

Tassus gigas

Description: This bug is large and can be scary to look at. It has two long antennas and six legs. The color of this bug varies between black and red.

Habitat: The main area you find these bugs is any place where mesquite trees grow. Their diet consists mostly of the juice found in mesquite trees.

Notes: They can feed so much on the mesquite tree by sucking the juices that this beetle can actually kill part or sometimes the whole tree.

SPADE-FOOTED TOAD

Scaphiopus couchi

Description: Generally considered to be a small to medium sized toad with a white belly. The upper part of his body is yellowish green with different shades of marbling. The eardrum is clearly outside with no hump between the eyes. The body is plump and long.

Habitat: This toad can survive dry conditions so it is found in desert areas where mesquite and creosote grow. They live in other mammals' burrows and loose soil or sand. Their diet consists of insects and the larvae of insects.

Notes: Their voice is very loud like a bleating lamb and can be heard from a long way.

Create Your Own Bird Motif!

Click on the link below to read an O'odham story and see pictures of real bird symbols and motifs (prehistoric drawings). Think about the bird symbols of today, then imagine how othe peoples and cultures throughout time symbolized birds.

Click here to read the O'odham story and see bird motifs!

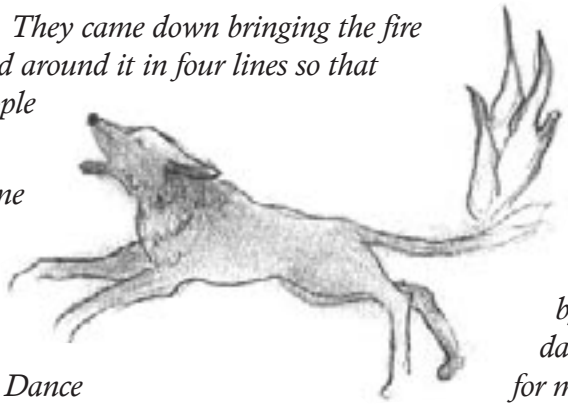
Now it's your turn!
Draw, paint, or use clay to create your very own bird motif! Make sure you keep in mind what your bird symbol means and how it might affect the culture its a part of. Be creative and have fun!

The O'odham Story of Ca Kai Choo and Bun
As passed down to Nathan Allen

Tohono is the home of Ca Kai Choo (quail) and Bun (coyote). Ca Kai Choo often played tricks on Bun. One time they took some of his body fat while he slept. Bun awoke and was angry! He chased the Ca Kai Choo, but they flew to safety, into their little holes along the akimel (river). Bun went to the first hole and reached in. He grabbed the first Ca Kai Choo and growled, "Are you the one who did this to me?" A tiny peep, "No! try the next hole," was heard. And so Bun went from hole to hole until he came to the last one. "Was it you?" Again a tiny peep, "No! try the next hole." Bun stuck his paw into the next hole full of hanum (cholla)! Bun howled with pain as the Ca Kai Choo ran away with glee and laughter. Again Ca Kai Choo had gotten the best of Bun, their worst enemy!

How the People got Fire - An Apache Story (From Goddard 1918)

"There were people living here on the earth. Coyote, birds, or hawks were all people. There was no fire and the only ones who had fire would not give it away. The others, many people, were without fire. Martens, living in the tops of tall pine trees were the only ones who had fire but they would not give any of it away. Those who were living below them [asked] how they should get fire. They decided to play hide the ball and sent out invitations for everybody to come to the game. They gathered under the trees and shouted to the martens to come down and bring some fire [so they could] play hide the ball. They came down bringing the fire with them. They put wood on the fire at the camping place and stood around it in four lines so that there was no way anyone could run off with the fire. None of the people who didn't have fire were in the center of the circle."



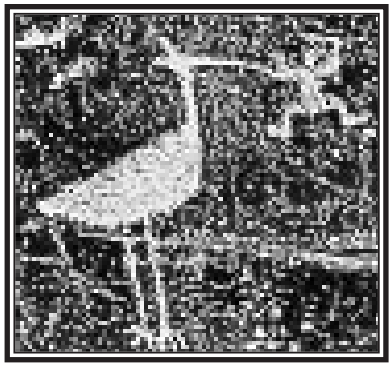
"Coyote, who was lying down some way off, said he would get the fire and run off with it. They were playing and having a good time. Those who owned the fire were winning and they began to dance. Coyote had a torch prepared by tying bark under his tail. He got up and came to those who were dancing. 'Have a good time my cousins,' he said. 'My foot pains me. Dance for me. Separate and let me through to the fire.' They were dancing and having a good time [and ignored him]. When it was nearly daylight, Coyote said that he was going to dance. He told the others to dance vigorously, bending their knees. He urged them to do this repeatedly. Finally, he danced and switched his tail into the fire. They called to him that his tail was likely to catch on fire. He assured them that it would not."

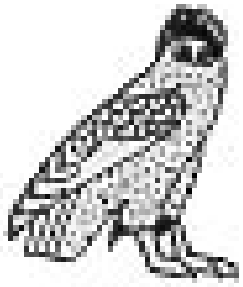
"Then day broke. He stuck his tail in the fire again and it took fire. 'Your tail is burning cousin.' He jumped over four lines of dancers who were in circles around the fire and ran off. The people who were stingy of their fire ran after him. Coyote passed the fire to Night Hawk who jumped on it and went with it. . . Night Hawk kept flying and jumping. Those who had the fire nearly caught him for he was exhausted. . . He gave the fire to Roadrunner who ran away with it. . ."

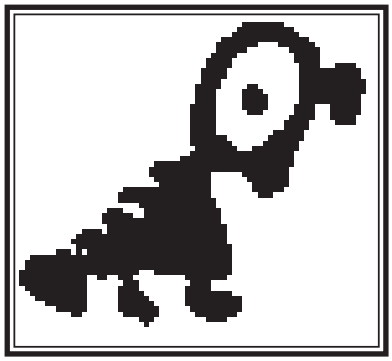
"Roadrunner ran on carrying the fire [and] those who were pursuing him nearly overtook him. He was exhausted. When they caught him, he gave the fire to Buzzard who flew away with it. [They chased Buzzard] until he was worn out. He gave the fire to Hummingbird.

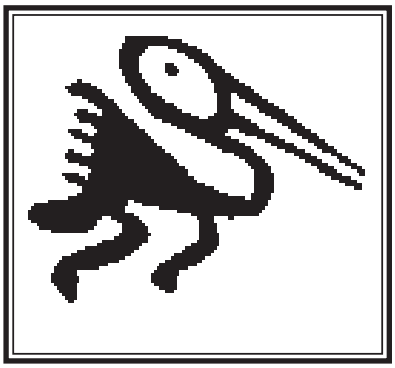
"They saw the smoke of a fire arising in the distance from the top of a mountain. It was Hummingbird who had set the fire. There was a fire too on the top of another mountain. Eveywhere, fires were burning. It was Hummingbird who had accomplished all this. Those who had owned the fire turned back saying it was now impossible to recover the fire."

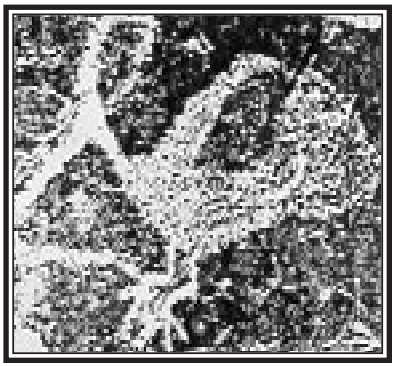
"The People who had been without fire were now all supplied with it. They were happy about it and expressed their thanks to Coyote."



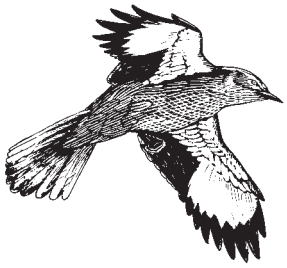








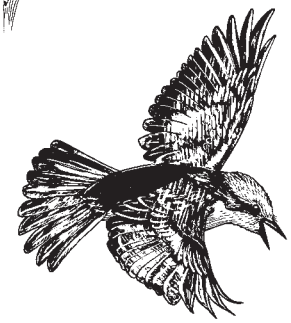
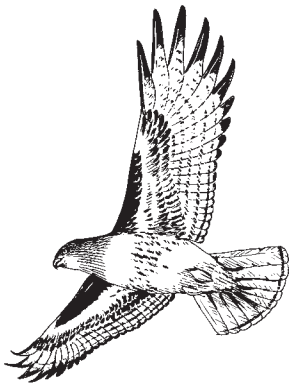
Become A Birder!

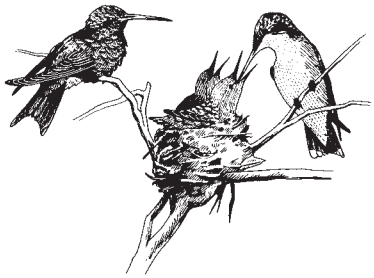
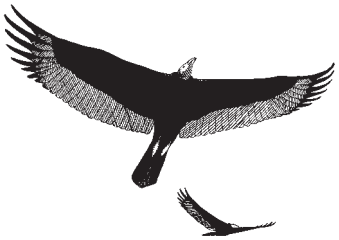


This activity can be played alone.
However, it is best in groups.

Click on the link below to bring up the Twelve Birds of Tumacacori Clue Cards. Print the two pages of cards and cut them out. Have one person read the clues aloud. Everyone else should write down the name of the mystery bird. Once all the Clue Cards are gone, the player with the most correct answers wins!

Click here to see and print the Twelve Birds of Tumacacori Clue Cards!

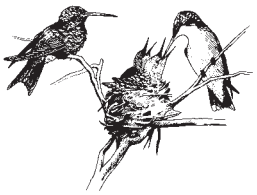



Activitiy from the 7th Grade ENCOUNTERS book, available at the Tumacacori National Historical Park.

BLACK CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD

Archilochus alexandri

1. If you are quick you can see me in open woodlands, parks or gardens.
2. I build a very tiny cup-shaped nest lined with spider webs.
3. I can fly backwards.
4. I am usually seen visiting flowers for their nectar.
5. I am only 3 1/2 inches long with a metallic green band below my black throat and white collar.
6. My wings beat so rapidly they make a humming sound.



BEWICK'S WREN

Thryomanus bewickii

1. I live in the open woodland.
2. I make my nest in the center of a brush pile.
3. I scratch on the ground turning over leaves to find spiders and other insects.
4. I am 5 1/4 inch from head to tail.
5. My tail is long and tilts upward.
6. I have a bold, white eyebrow and a light brown back.
7. The first part of my name sounds the same as a certain automobile maker.

NORTHERN CARDINAL

Cardinalis cardinalis

1. I am a year-round resident of riparian thickets and dense shrubs.
2. My call sounds like "tik, tik, tik"
3. My nest is cup-shaped in shrubs.
4. In the wintertime I flock with others of my kind in groups of up to 70 birds.
5. I eat seeds, fruit and insects.
6. My beak is red & conical shaped.
7. I am 9 inches from head to tail.
8. I have brilliant red feathers and black eyes, mask, and chin.
9. I have a red crest on top of my head.

GILA WOODPECKER

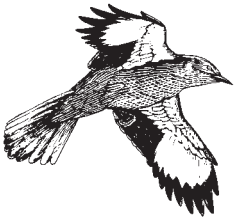
Melanerpes uropygialis

1. I can be seen all year long in woodland areas
2. I have a very loud call that sounds like "churrrr"
3. My nest is a cavity or hollow in trees.
4. In flight I show two large, white wing patches.
5. I am a 9 inch bird with a zebra-colored back and light brown head.
6. The male of my species has a red cap.
7. I hang on to the side of a tree trunk and look for insects.

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD

Mimus polyglottus

1. I live year round in most any habitat.
2. My nest is cup-shaped in low shrubs.
3. I eat foods such as insects, crayfish, snails, berries, & small fish.
4. In flight I show my white wing patches.
5. I am a slim, gray, 10 inch bird from head to long tail.
6. Snakes like to eat me.
7. The un-mated males of my species sing all night long in the spring.
8. I have a powerful voice and I can imitate just about any sound from sirens to other birds' songs.



MOURNING DOVE

Zenaida macroura

1. My habitat is open woodlands and agricultural fields with trees.
2. I am very common in many backyards.
3. I make a plate-shaped, flimsy nest in trees or on the ground.
4. I walk along the ground picking up seeds and grain that is not harvested.
5. I am 12 inches from head to tail.
6. My wings whistle when I fly.
7. I have a small head and large brown body.
8. I make a "coo, coo" sound.
9. People think of me when they think of love.

PHAINOPEPLA

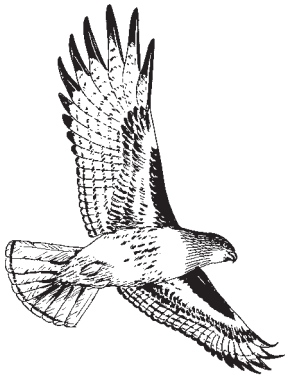
Phainopepla nitens

1. I sit at the top of a tree in semi- arid and riparian woodlands.
2. My nest is cup-shaped and built in shrubs.
3. I like insects and berries, but especially mistletoe berries.
4. One of my calls sounds like "pre-tee-bird."
5. I make acrobatic maneuvers by fluttering, dodging & swooping in flight.
6. You can see my white wing patches when I fly.
7. I look like a small cardinal, but am black with a red eye.

RED-TAILED HAWK

Buteo jamaicensis

1. I am a very common sight along and above highways.
2. I build nests that provide me with a view on cliffs or in tall trees.
3. I eat birds, reptiles, insects, and rodents.
4. You can usually hear my squeal or high pitched "keeeeerrrr"in open country or woodlands.
5. I soar in wide circles on 22 inch long wings.
6. My tail is wide with reddish upper tail feathers.



GREATER ROADRUNNER

Geococcyx californianus

1. I make clicking sounds as I walk along in open areas, fields or woodlands.
2. My nest is cup shaped in low trees, cactus or shrubs.
3. I am a great hunter of insects, lizards, snakes, rodents, and birds.
4. I also eat fallen seeds and cactus fruit.
5. My large feet have two toes forward and two toes backward.
6. My head is adorned with a shaggy crest.
7. I can run up to 15 miles per hour.

SAY'S PHOEBE

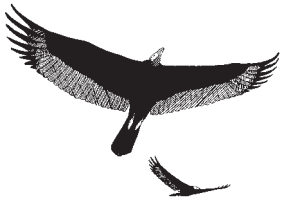
Sayornis saya

1. I can be seen in open woodland near water.
2. I build my cup-shaped nest under roofs, on outdoor light fixtures, and in trees.
3. My call is like a downward "pweerrr".
4. I hover in flight and catch insects on the wing, but I also eat berries.
5. You might see me flying just above the surface of water.
6. I am gray-brown on the back and have a peach colored belly.

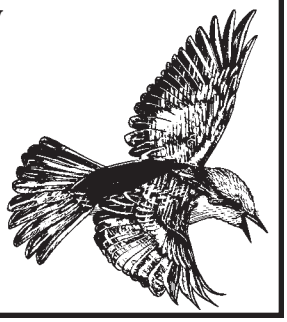
TURKEY VULTURE

Cathartes aura

1. I live in a communal roost with hundreds of my own kind.
2. You won't find me building nests to lay my eggs. I use a hollow stump or cave floor to lay them.
3. I soar high on 6 foot wings in wide circles with a rocking, unsteady, tilting flight.
4. I eat dead food that I find along road sides or anywhere an animal has died.
5. I have no feathers on my red head.
6. I do not make a call or song.
7. I am 27 inches long with black & gray wings.



VERMILION FLYCATCHER

Pyrocephalus rubinus

1. You can usually see me in riparian woodlands.
2. I like to hover above water or land, catching insects in the air.
3. My nest is cup-shaped built between the fork of a tree branch.
4. When I am sitting I pump my tail up and down.
5. I make a "pita zeee" sound.
6. I have a bushy crest on my head.
7. The male of my species has beautiful flaming red underparts and a black back.