

INVESTIGATIONS AT BALCONES CANYONLANDS

3rd
grade +



There's all sorts of interesting things hidden at Balcones. Help us find some of them by doing a scavenger hunt!

All these items can be found along the Creek Trail and Pond & Prairie Trail at Doeskin Ranch.

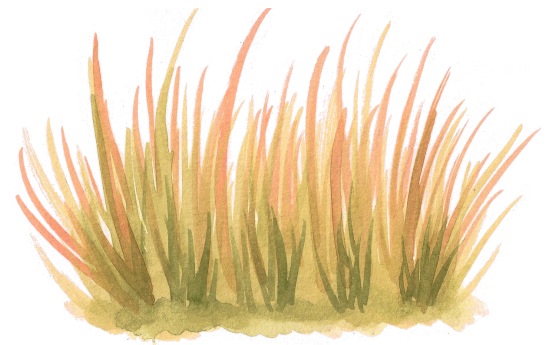
Please stay on the marked trails and remember to only take photos of these items.



Indigenous people lived and continue to live in Central Texas. Originally populated by the Coahuiltecan people, the Tonkawa, Comanche, Lipan Apache, and other tribes still call this place home. We are grateful to be able to experience this landscape and recognize the past and continuing presence of Native peoples in this area.

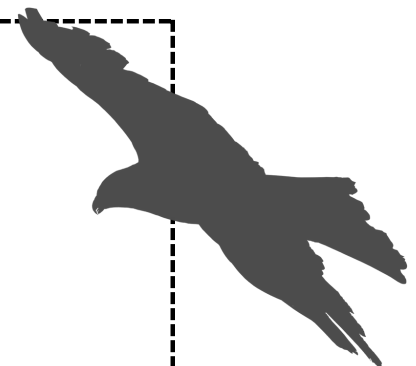
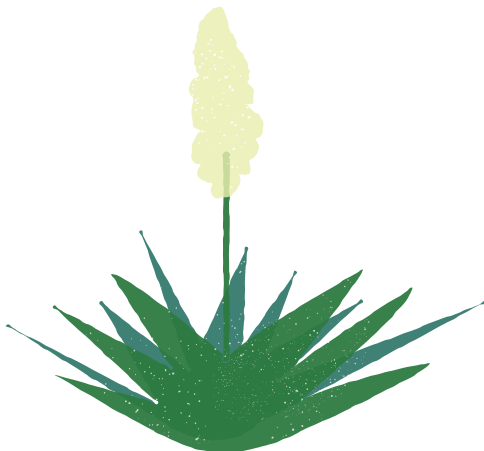
1. Find three different kinds of plants with spines. Only two of them can be cactus.

2. You will walk by an old wooden building. What do you think this structure was used for?



3. Find evidence of fire. Fire can be good for nature because it can make conditions better for some plants like grasses and bushes to grow. What do you think can happen if too many years go by without a fire?

4. Yucca are plants with tough, sword-shaped leaves and a big stem coming out of the middle. Find and draw a yucca.



5. Stop at a pretty spot and quietly observe for at least one whole minute.

What do you see?

What do you hear?

What do you smell?

How do you feel?

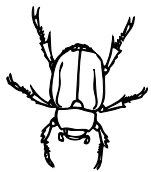


6. Birds like to use stringy tree bark from trees like Ashe juniper to make nests. Find a tree with easy to peel bark that a bird would like.

7. Find an area with lots of grass but no trees. What do you think happened here? (Hint: remember question 3)



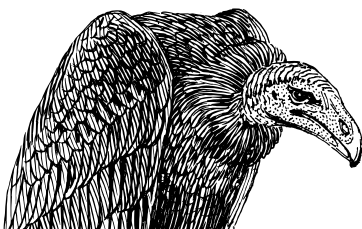
8. Find a bug, any bug! Draw it here.



9. Find an acorn. How many acorns do you think a Texas live oak makes every year?

A. 100 B. 1,000 C. 5,000 D. 10,000

10. What was your favorite thing you saw on this hike? Draw it!



Bonus: "Cedar Fever" is when a certain tree blooms and causes allergies in humans. This tree is not a cedar though. What is it?