



WASHOE COUNTY

Junior Ranger

Activity Guide

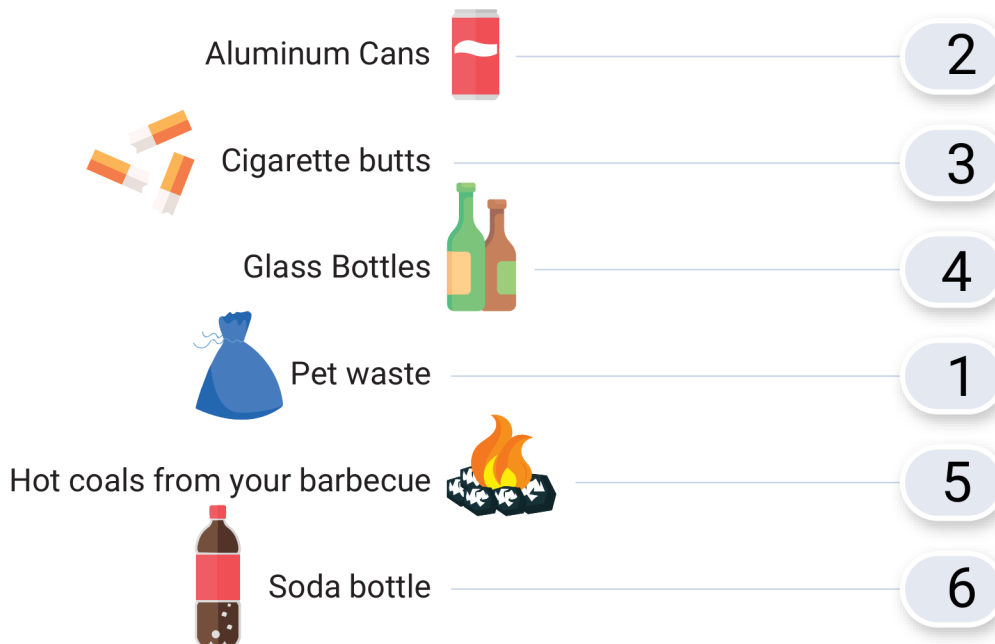
Answer Key



Welcome to Lazy 5 Regional Park

Lazy 5 Regional Park is named after the cattle ranch that once sprawled across this valley. Today, people visit the park to splash in the Melio Gaspari Water Play Park, play pickleball in the Hive, picnic under towering elm trees, or attend free concerts on Wednesday evenings in the summer. Whatever you choose to do at Lazy 5, **please leave the park cleaner than you found it!**

Where should you dispose of your trash?



1

Bring a bag to scoop your pet's waste, then dispose of it in the nearest trash can or dumpster.

2

Crush that can and toss it into a blue recycle bin.

3

Smoking is not allowed in parks, but if you find butts, they should go into the trash.

4

These aren't allowed in parks because they can break and hurt someone, but if you see one, recycle!

5

Pour water on them and leave them in the grill to cool – the Rangers will take care of them!

6

Pour out any liquid and recycle!





Welcome to Galena Creek Regional Park

This park shares its name with a nearby mining town that was named for the mineral [Galena](#), which was found abundantly in the area by miners in the 1860's. The [fish hatchery](#) was built here in 1931 to replenish fish populations locally. This creek is part of the [Truckee](#) River Watershed. [Erosion](#) is caused by flooding of the creek, as is the placement of the many large granite boulders around you. Their worn surfaces create ideal habitat for [lichen](#), a symbiotic relationship between algae and fungus. [Riparian](#) species such as Quaking [aspen](#) and narrow-leaved [aspen](#) grow along the creek, while the arid hillsides are scattered with Greenleaf [manzanita](#). The tallest trees around you are the "Gentle" [Jeffrey Pine](#). The cones of the [white fir](#) are a favorite food for [squirrels](#). The "blood-red" [Snow plant](#) is a rare, protected wildflower that appears here in early spring. Remember to look and listen all around! You may spot a [Stellar's Jay](#) with its crest of black feathers, or you may hear a mountain [Chickadee](#) ordering a cheeseburger! [Mule Deer](#) the park's largest herbivores, can often be seen feeding on grasses and antelope [Bitterbrush](#). Often seen during the twilight hours, [Coyote](#) can have a litter of 1-7 pups per year. The stubby-tailed [Bobcat](#) may be seen hunting near the creek. When recreating in [Black Bear](#) territory, it's best to keep food and trash stored securely. Know before you go! It's always a good idea to [prepare](#) for your next adventure by telling someone your [plan](#), checking the weather [forecast](#) and learning about any rules and regulations to follow.

- Aspen
- Jeffrey Pine
- Bobcat
- Prepare
- Bitterbrush
- Truckee
- Black Bear
- Coyote
- Snow Plant
- Willow
- Stellar's Jay
- Manzanita
- Erosion
- Galena
- Chickadee
- Forecast
- Riparian
- Mule Deer
- Fish Hatchery
- White Fir
- Squirrels
- Lichen
- Plan

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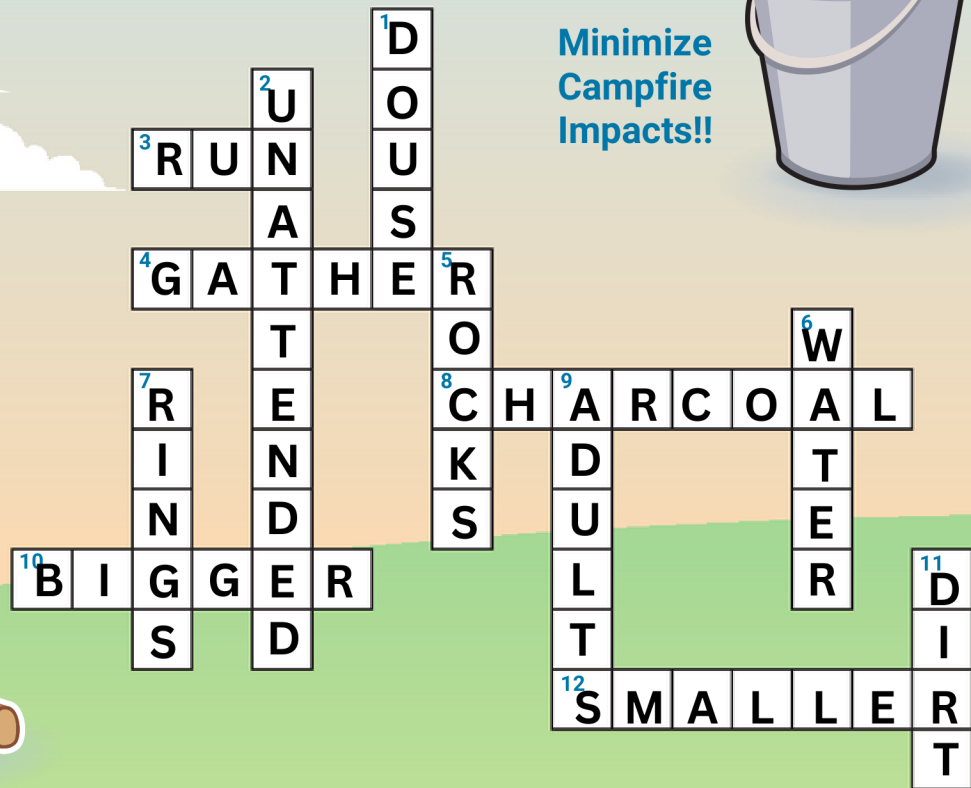




Welcome to Davis Creek Regional Park

Camping at Davis Creek Regional Park is a fun way to experience the great outdoors! While building a campfire is a great way to add to the enjoyment of any camping trip, knowing campfire safety will help you and your fellow campers be safe. Complete the crossword puzzle to learn some important ways to minimize campfire impacts!

Minimize
Campfire
Impacts!!



Across

- 3. It's not a good idea to **run** when around or near a campfire.
- 4. It's best not to **gather** sticks, pinecones, or pine needles from surrounding areas to burn in your campfire.
- 8. **Charcoal** should only be used in fire rings or freestanding park grills.
- 10. Use firewood no **bigger** than the fire ring.
- 12. A safe campfire is knee-height or **smaller**.

Down

- 1. Always **douse** your campfire before leaving it.
- 2. Never leave your campfire **unattended**.
- 5. Throwing **rocks** into a campfire can cause sparks to fly.
- 6. Always keep a bucket of **water** nearby.
- 7. Only established fire **rings** should be used to build a campfire.
- 9. Only **adults** should build campfires.
- 11. Water works better than **dirt** for extinguishing campfires.

Native Plants

Plants and animals throughout the Great Basin depend on each other for survival. No matter how big or small, whether they be predator or prey, all animals rely on plants to live. In turn, animals return the favor by acting as pollinators and seed distributors for some plants and enrich nutrients in the soil through decomposition. Match the native plants with their animal allies.

Great Basin Wildrye

is a native bunchgrass that can grow six feet tall. Birds love to eat its seeds in the fall, but in the spring, it is irresistible food for this browsing animal.



Palmer's Penstemon

produces showy and fragrant flowers full of nectar for these flying insects.



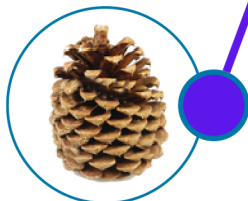
Big Sagebrush

is Nevada's state flower and one of the few plant foods available in winter for this fast-moving mammal.



Jeffrey Pine

is Nevada's tallest tree and its seeds are an important food source for these birds.



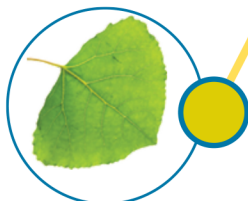
Coyote Willow

grows along riverbanks, helping to keep the water clean, and its leaves are a tasty treat for these energetic animals.

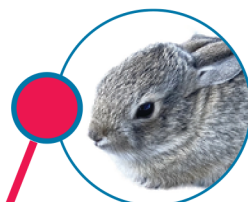


Fremont Cottonwoods

are found in riparian corridors (areas next to rivers) where they help to prevent erosion, shade the water, and provide the bark that feeds this large rodent.



Mountain Chickadee



Cottontail Rabbit



Bumblebee



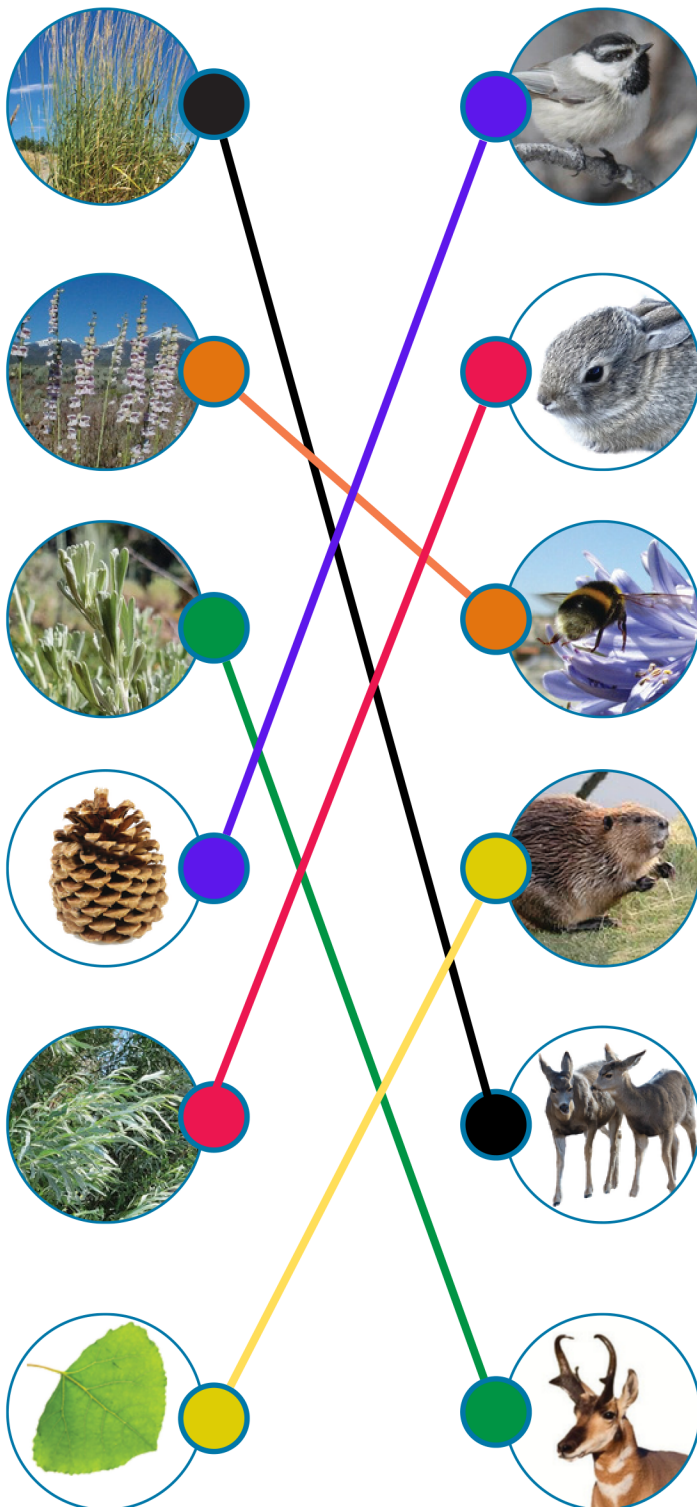
Beaver



Mule Deer

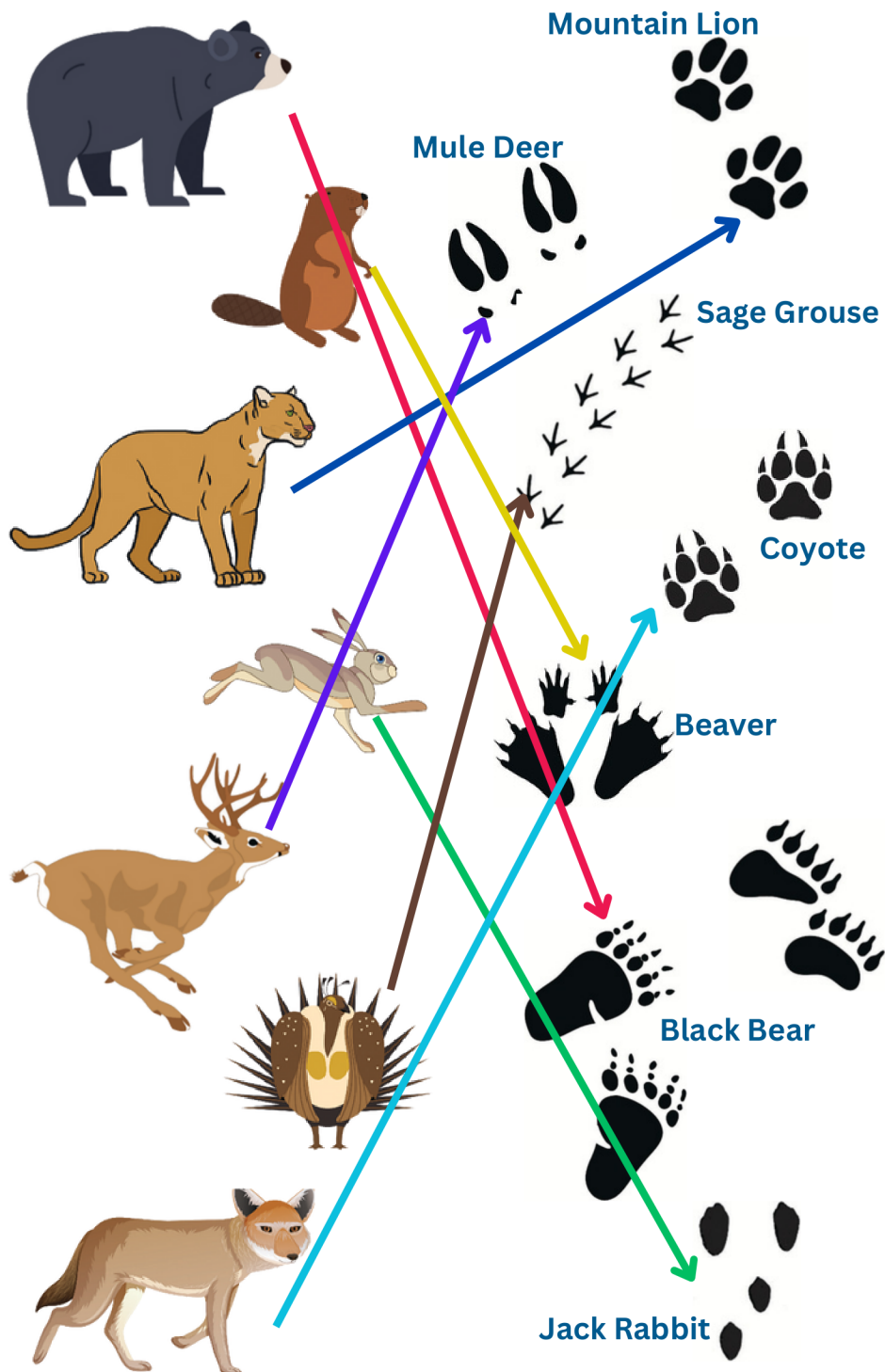


Pronghorn



Who Lives Here?

Biomes are zones where a particular kind of environment exists, such as deserts, forests, and wetlands. The relationship between plants and animals has a lot to do with what type of environment they are in. Herbivores (prey animals) that depend on a certain type of plant for survival may only be found where that plant exists, while carnivores (predatory animals) might roam between one or more biomes as they hunt for their food. Can you tell who lives here by looking at their tracks? Draw a line between the animal and their tracks, and then draw a second line to connect them to their biome. *Hint: There may be more than one possible biome depending on the animal!*



The Truckee River Watershed

Condensation

Have you ever thought about where our water comes from? The Truckee River Watershed is located on the western edge of the Great Basin, which is basically a big sink. But how does it work? Match the bold words with the boxes to discover the magic of our water cycle!

Precipitation

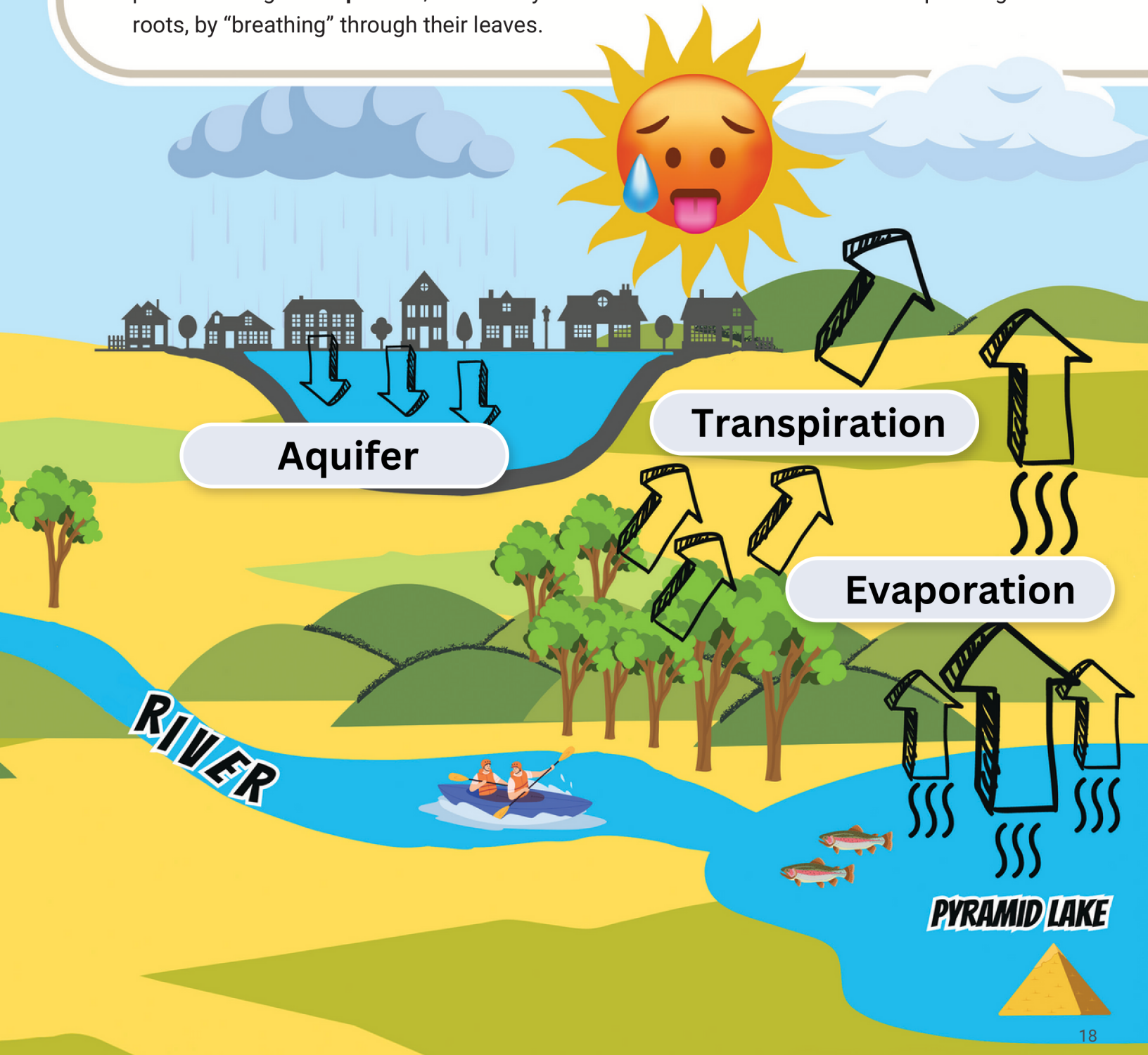
Runoff

TRUCKEE

Clouds that are formed by **condensation** over the Pacific Ocean are pushed by wind over the Sierra Nevada Range. As this happens, they become so condensed that they begin to form water droplets that fall as **precipitation** in the form of rain and snow. Snow that accumulates in the Sierras melts to form creeks and streams. Known as **runoff**, the creeks and streams that flow down the western slope of the mountains will flow toward the Pacific Ocean, while those that flow down the eastern slope will flow toward the Lake Tahoe Basin, which is the beginning of the Truckee River.



As the river winds its way into the Truckee Meadows, it is combined with other creeks and streams along the way, while some water will percolate into the soil to form an underground **aquifer**. Meanwhile, snowmelt that settles in Washoe Valley to create Washoe Lake joins runoff from Galena Creek, Thomas Creek and others as they flow into Steamboat Creek on the east side of the valley, combining with the Truckee River near Lockwood. The river continues east, eventually making the 121-mile journey to Pyramid Lake. The sun will heat the lake, causing **evaporation** to take place, where the water will again condense in the atmosphere. Plants also contribute to this process through **transpiration**, where they release water that was once soaked up through their roots, by “breathing” through their leaves.



Trails for Everyone!

There are miles of amazing trails all over Washoe County, for every ability and activity! There are flat trails, steep trails, forest trails, desert trails and everything in between. They connect us to nature and to each other. Trails belong to us all. No matter what kind of trail, or where it might lead, there are a few things to remember when visiting these special areas:

Always come prepared – bring proper clothes, shoes, water (for pets too!) and tell someone your plan. **Staying on existing trails is important because it protects habitat and reduces erosion.** Avoid creating new trails or shortcuts. It's important to know and follow any rules and to be considerate of others on the trail. Pack it out! Do your part to keep the trails clean for other visitors and wildlife. Bicyclists should yield to hikers, and everyone should yield to equestrians.

If you encounter a rider on horseback, approach slowly and talk to the horse and the rider, especially if you are on a bicycle. Any time you need to let someone past you, it is best to move to the downhill side of the trail.

Draw an arrow in the direction of the trail visitor who should yield to the other and circle the one who should always have the right-of-way.

ecntcon idnolwhl tshsrotcu tiyaibl nireso
(connect) (downhill) (shortcuts) (ability) (erosion)
citsbiyscl xigtisen liyed fewlidli
(bicyclists) (existing) (yield) (wildlife)

