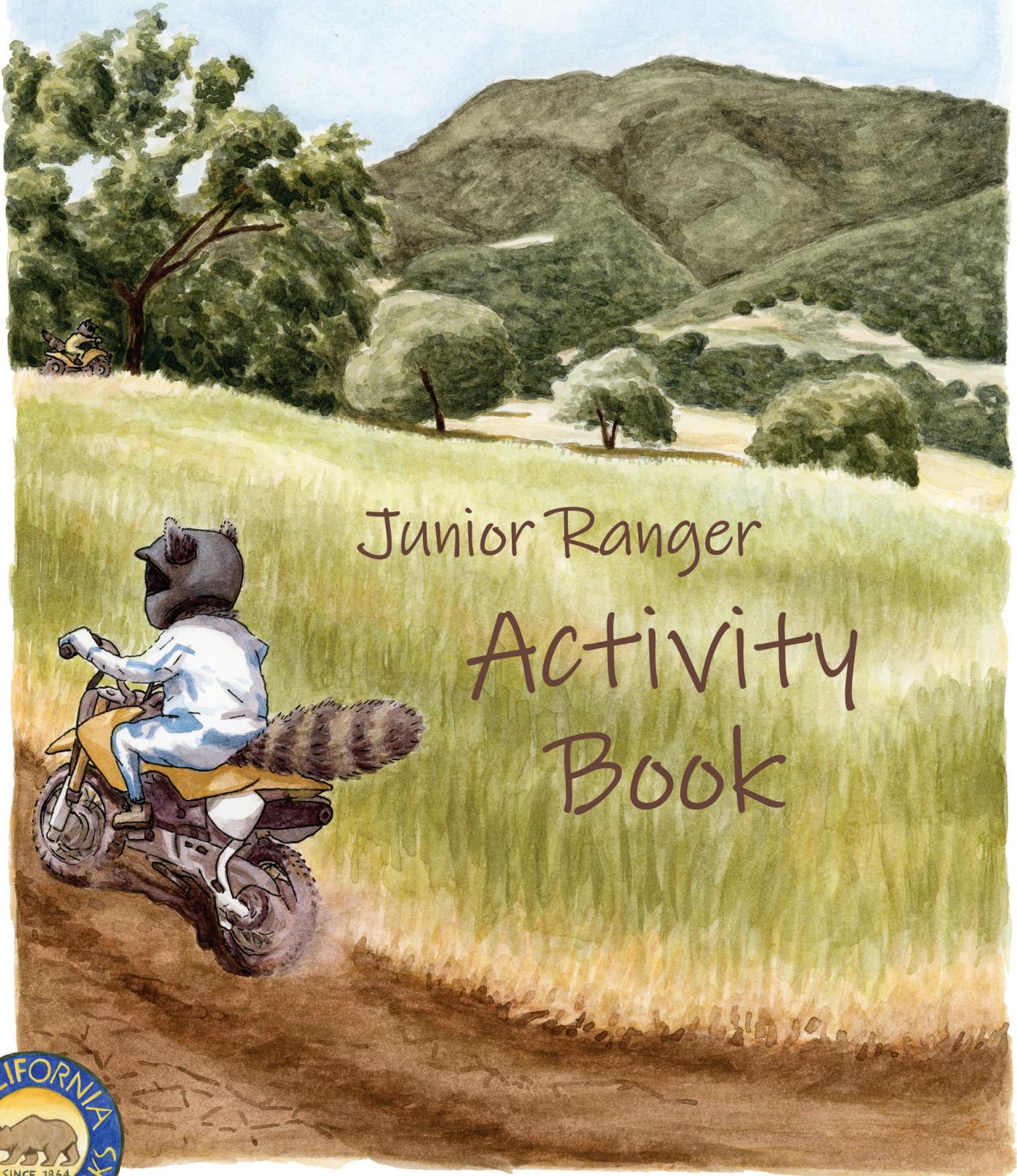


Hollister Hills  
State Vehicular Recreation Area



Junior Ranger  
Activity  
Book



Your Name Here:

---

# Welcome to Hollister Hills SVRA!

Are you ready to learn more about why Hollister Hills is a great place to discover the outdoors?

Complete this activity book and become a Junior Ranger! Learn how to ride safely and respect the landscape around you. This will ensure this land is available for you and your family to enjoy for years to come.

Rider safety, local plants, wildlife, geology, and history are some topics you will explore in this activity book. If you have any questions, park rangers will be happy to help.

When you are done, bring your completed activity book to the kiosk at the park entrance to receive your official Junior Ranger badge.

Ride safely and have fun!



# Dirt Bike & ATV Safety Gear

Draw yourself with the safety gear listed below. If you are unsure, ask a ranger!

Helmet

Goggles

Chest protector

Long sleeve shirt

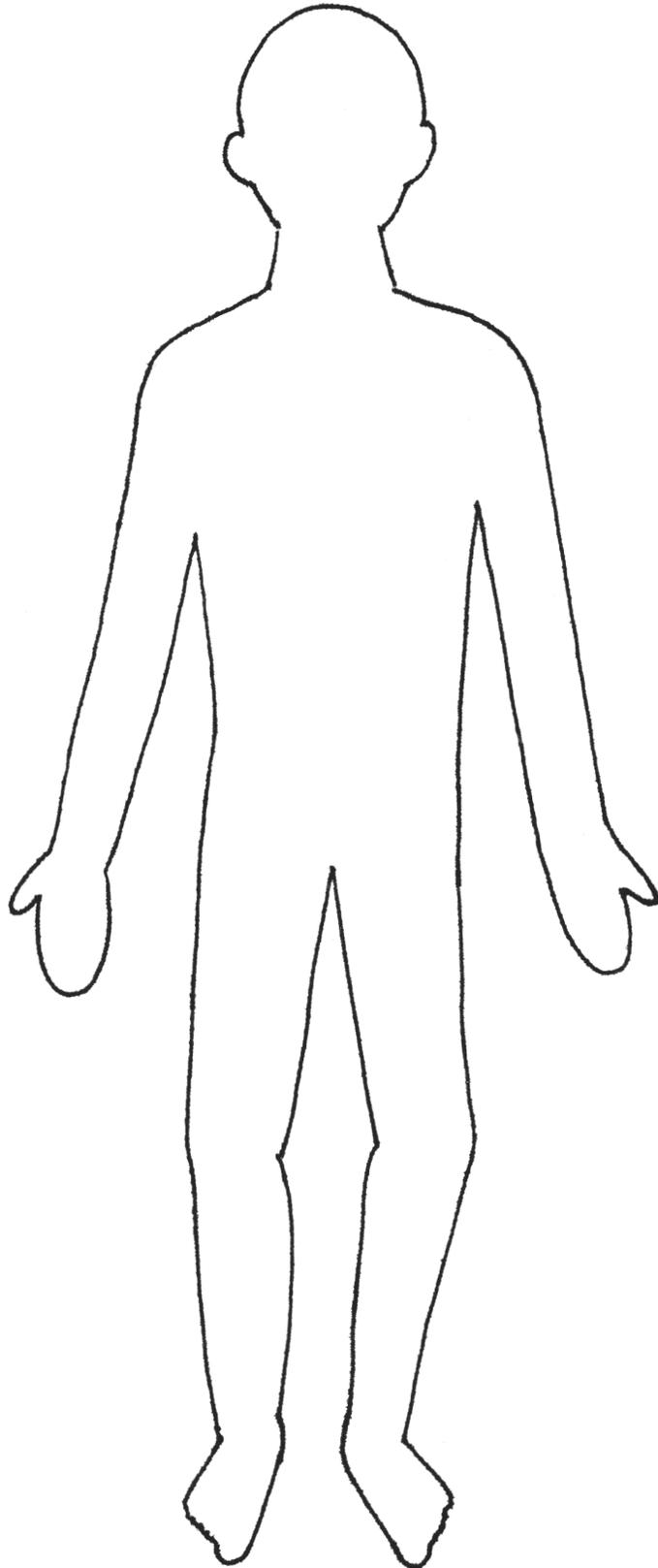
Elbow pads

Gloves

Riding pants

Knee pads

Boots

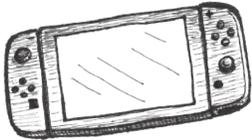


# Being Prepared Helps Keep You Safe

What should you take in your backpack before riding on the trails?

Circle the most important items that you should always bring.

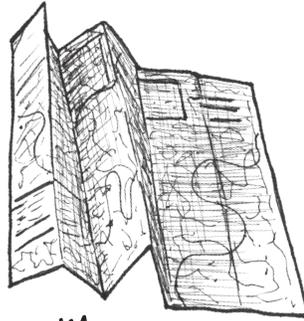
~~Cross out~~ the 3 things you do not need when riding.



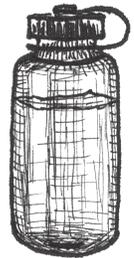
Video games



Snacks



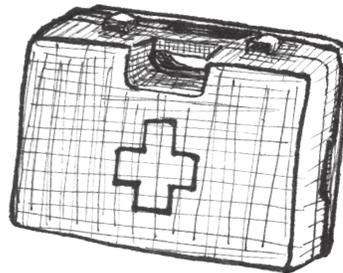
Maps



Water



Trash bag

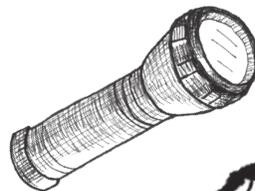


First aid

Toys



Communication



Flashlight



Soda



Riding buddies



Tools



# T.R.E.A.D. Lightly: Responsible Riding

Find the answers to these responsible riding tips by using the words below.

Areas	Golden	Noise	Trails	Wear
Buddy	Know	Out	Trash bag	Working
Class	Low	Over	Tell	
Emergency	Map	Sensitive	Weather forecast	
Follow	Mix	Spooking	Wash	

## TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

1. Stay on \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid injuries or getting lost.
2. When safe, drive \_\_\_\_\_, not around, obstacles to avoid widening the trail.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ the rules.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ up with a friend and an adult.

## RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

5. Follow the \_\_\_\_\_ rule: Treat others how you want to be treated.
6. Keep speed \_\_\_\_\_ around crowds and in camping areas.
7. Keep the \_\_\_\_\_ and dust down.

## EDUCATE YOURSELF

8. \_\_\_\_\_ a helmet, eye protection, and other safety gear.
9. Bring a \_\_\_\_\_ to avoid getting lost.
10. Always \_\_\_\_\_ someone where you're going.
11. Check the \_\_\_\_\_ before you go.
12. Plan ahead and prepare a pack with \_\_\_\_\_ items like a first aid kit, snacks, water, tools, phone/radio, jacket, flashlight, map, and trash bag.
13. Take a dirt bike or ATV riding \_\_\_\_\_.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ the rules and obey all road signs.
15. Make sure your bike or ATV is \_\_\_\_\_ properly (remember T-CLOC).

# T.R.E.A.D. Lightly: Responsible Riding

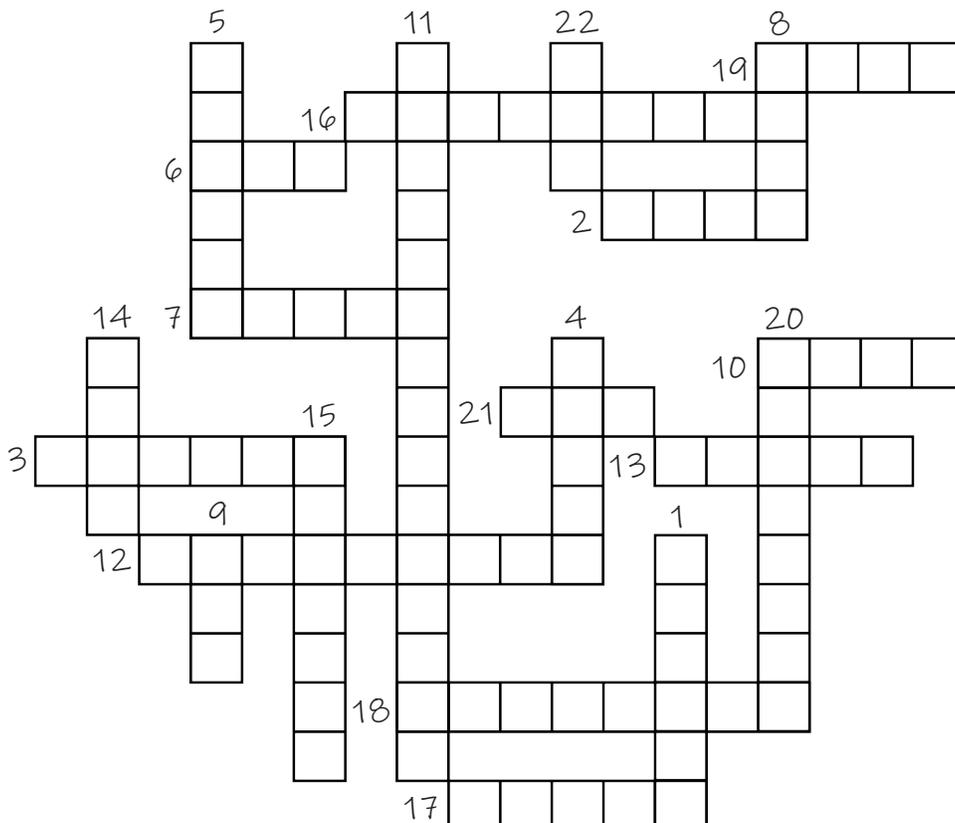
## AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS

16. Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ areas like wet adobe clay, ponds/ lakes, and off-trail areas.
17. Avoid disturbing historical and archaeological \_\_\_\_\_ .
18. Avoid " \_\_\_\_\_ " livestock and wildlife you encounter and keep your distance.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ your vehicle after every ride to avoid spreading invasive species.

## DO YOUR PART

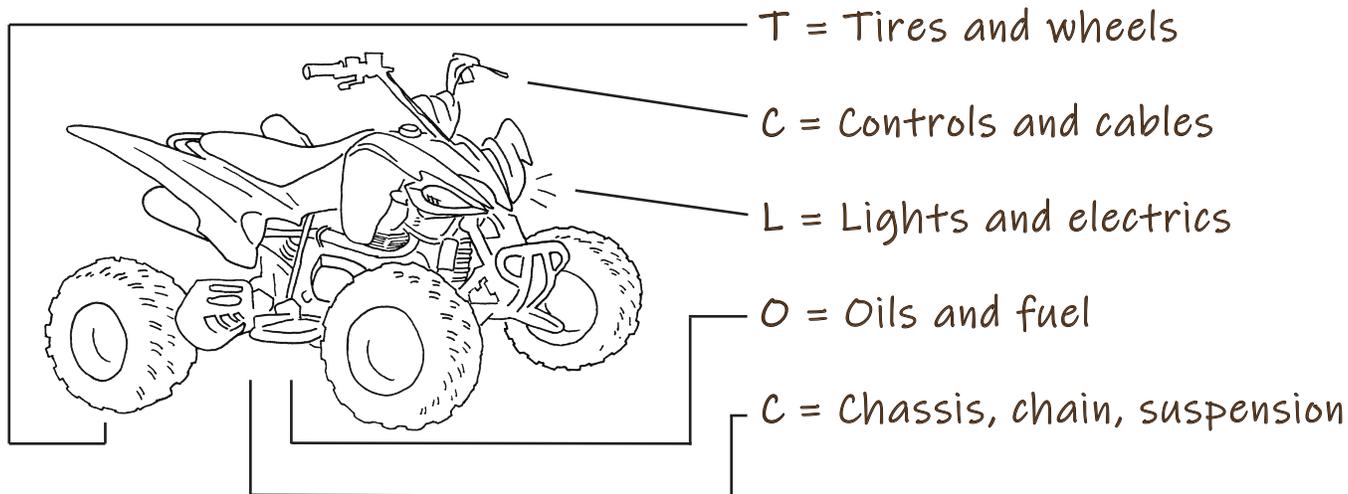
20. Carry a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ on your vehicle and pick up litter left by others.
21. Pack it in, pack it \_\_\_\_\_ .
22. Never \_\_\_\_\_ riding with alcohol or drugs.

Use the corresponding words from the responsible riding tips above to complete the crossword.



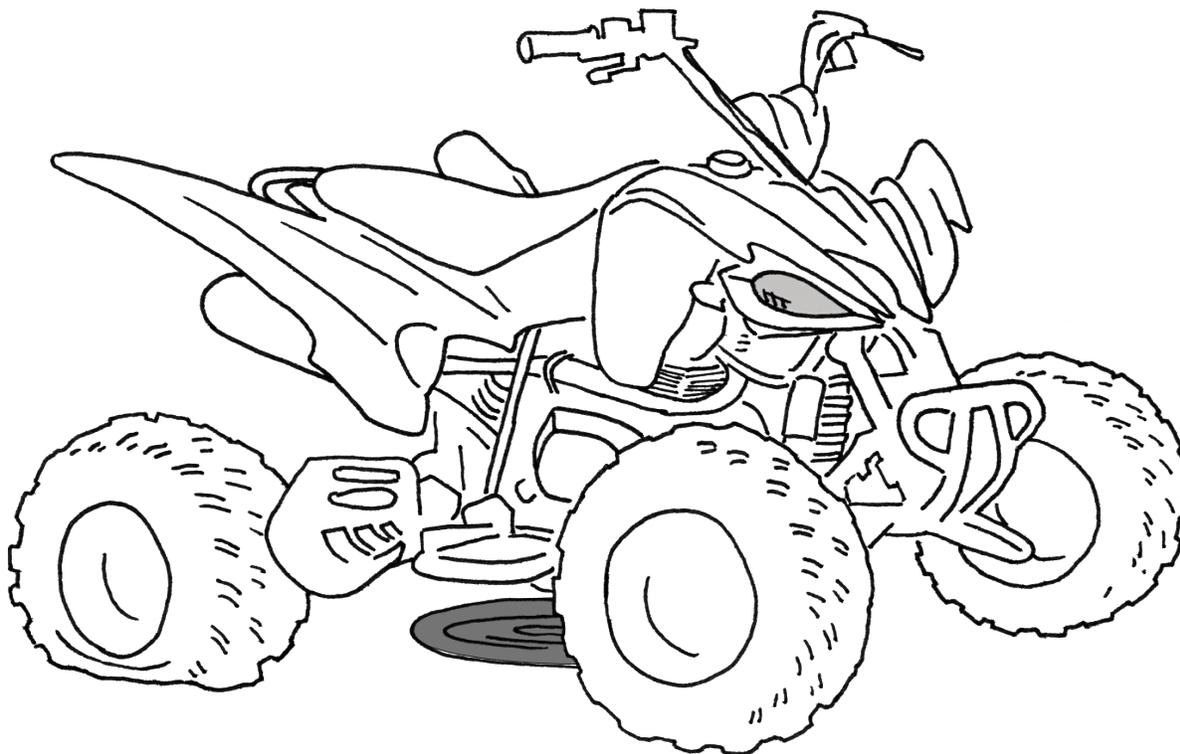
# Getting Ready to Ride

"T-CLOC" is an acronym used to remind us of the parts of a motorcycle/ATV that should be checked before and after each ride.



Use T-CLOC to inspect the ATV below. Can you spot 3 problems?

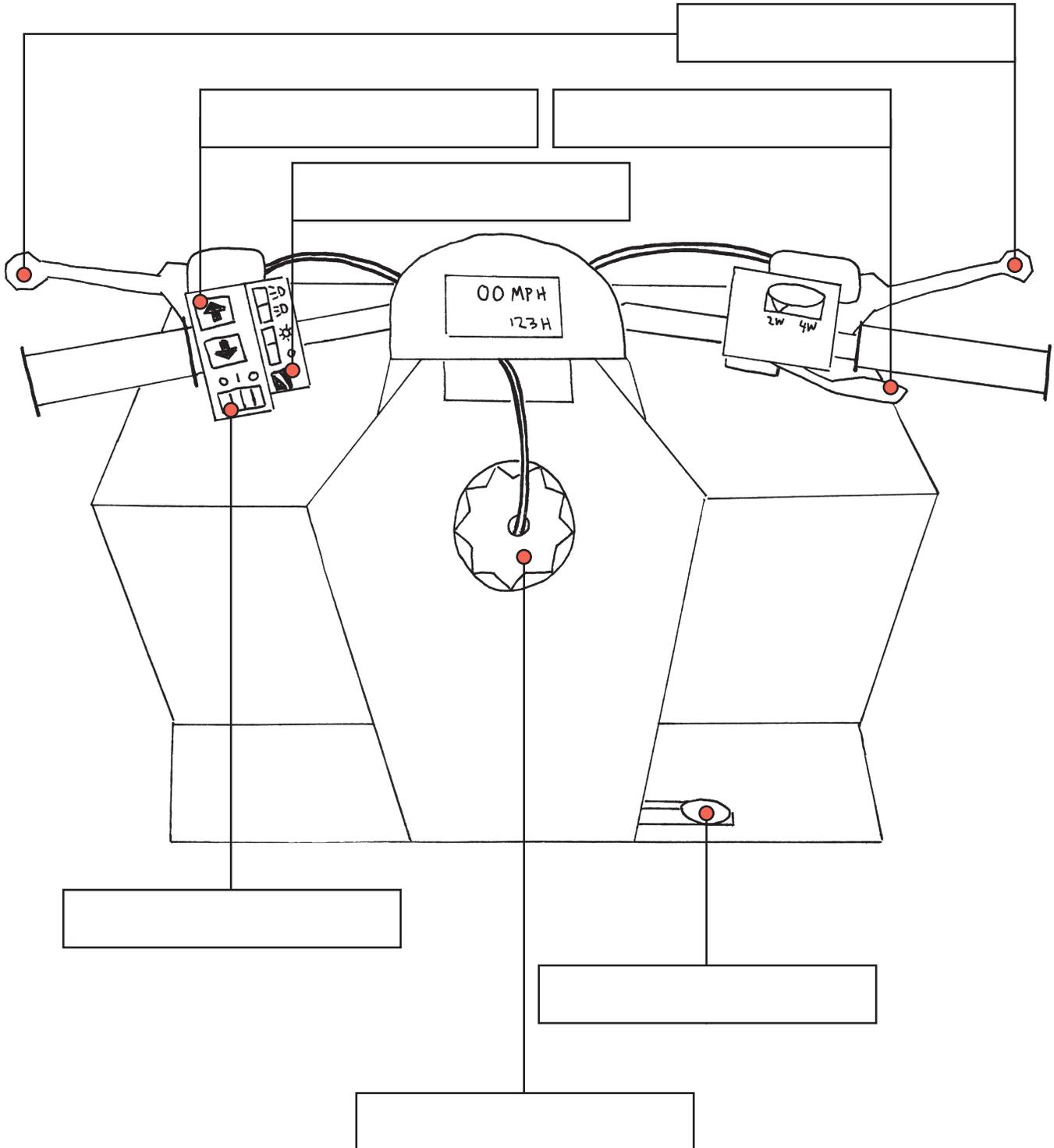
Circle what you see!



# Know Your Vehicle

Label the ATV operating controls from the list below.

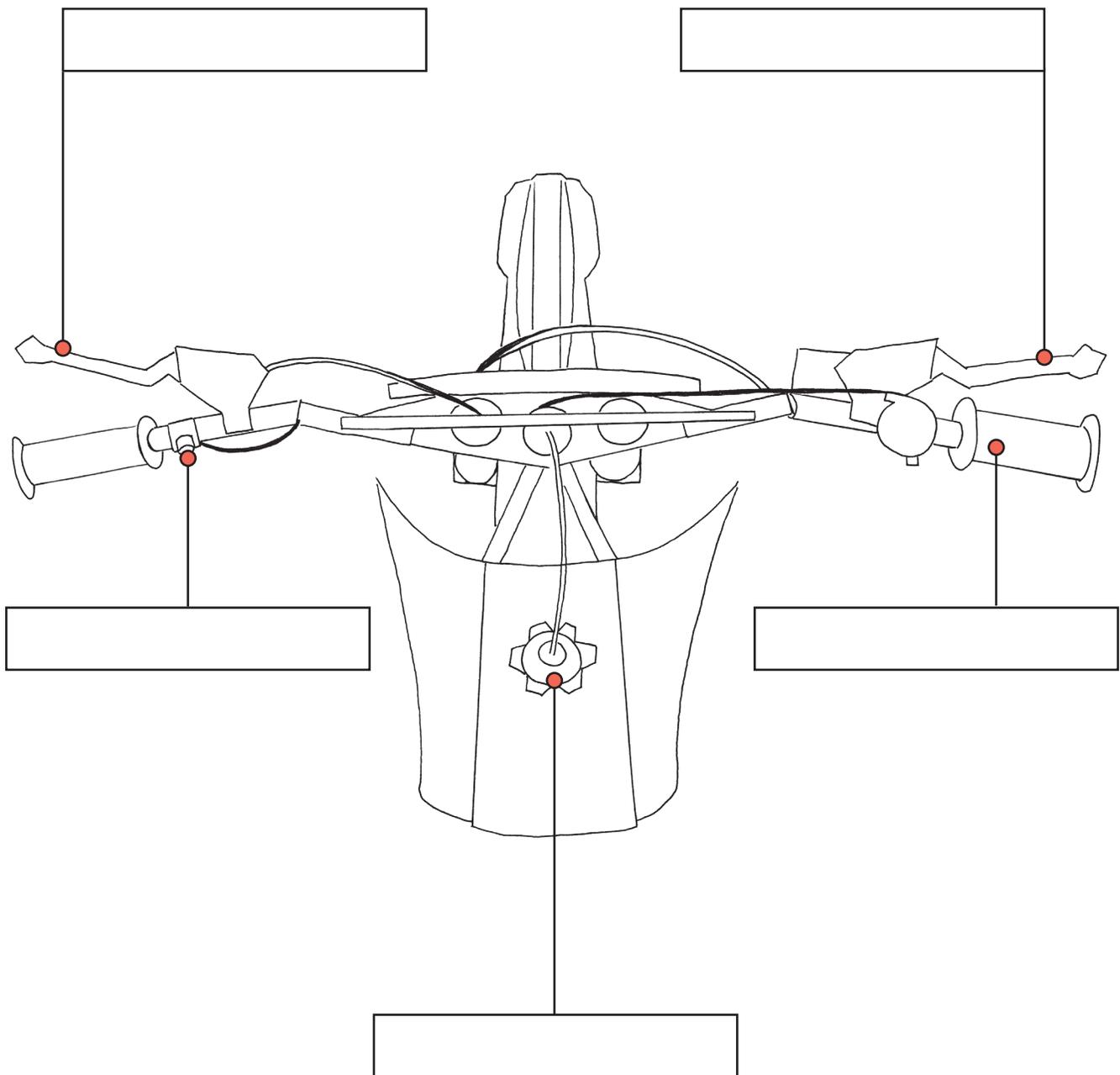
- |               |                    |            |
|---------------|--------------------|------------|
| Shift control | Engine stop switch | Back brake |
| Front brakes  | Throttle           |            |
| Gas cap       | Ignition           |            |



# Know Your Vehicle

Label the dirt bike operating controls from the list below.

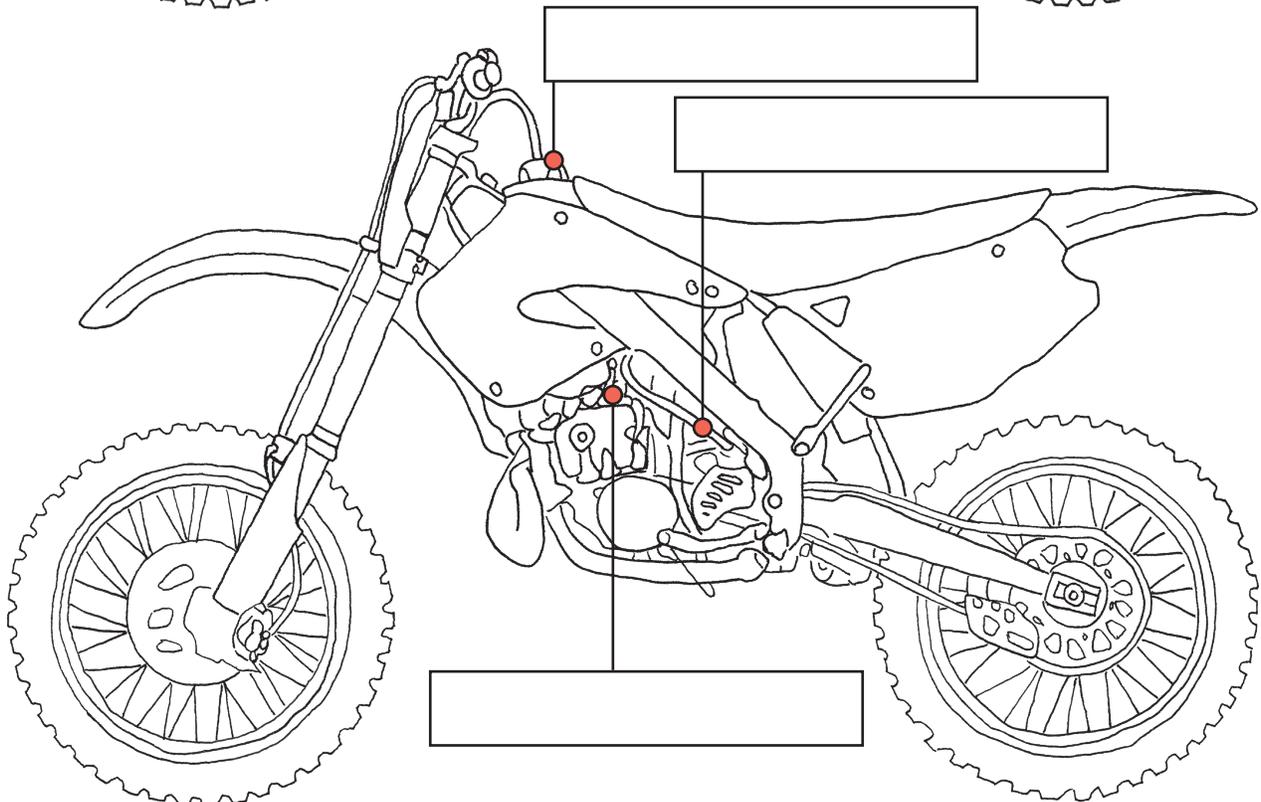
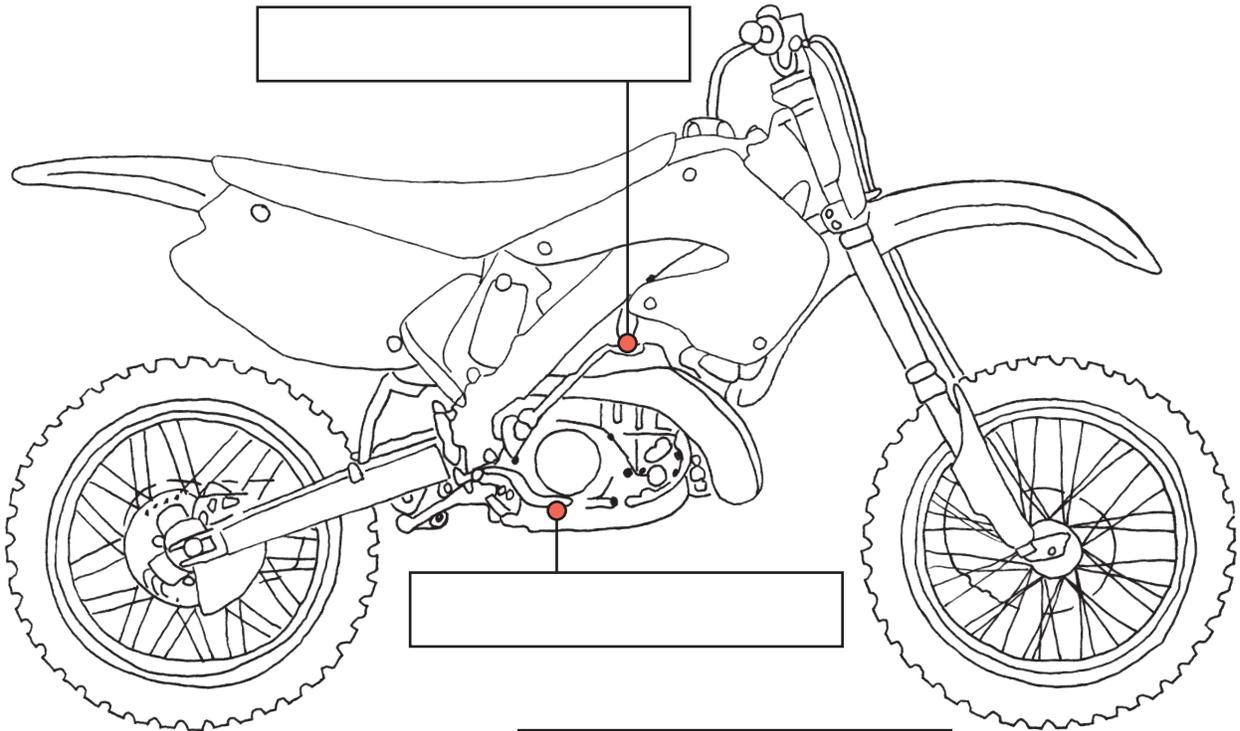
- |             |          |                    |
|-------------|----------|--------------------|
| Clutch      | Gas cap  | Engine stop switch |
| Front brake | Throttle |                    |



# Know Your Vehicle

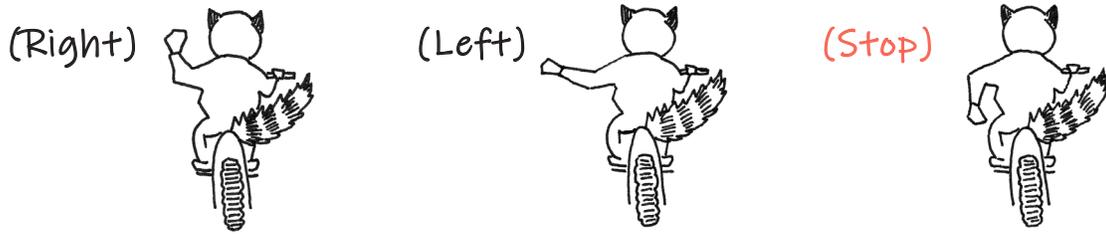
Label the dirt bike operating controls from the list below.

- |              |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Clutch pedal | Foot brake | Fuel valve |
| Kick starter | Choke      |            |

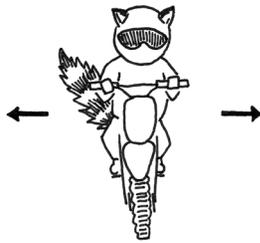


# Learn the Rules of the Road

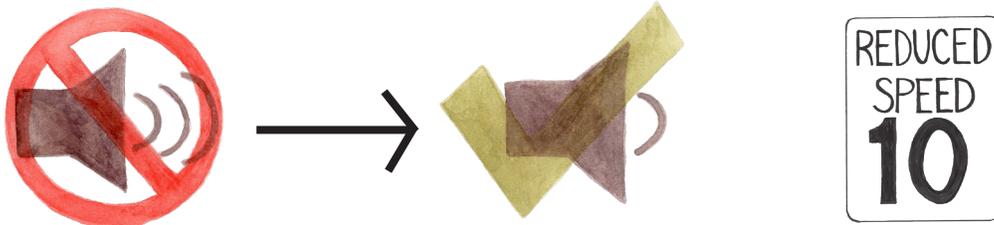
Signal with your left hand before you turn.



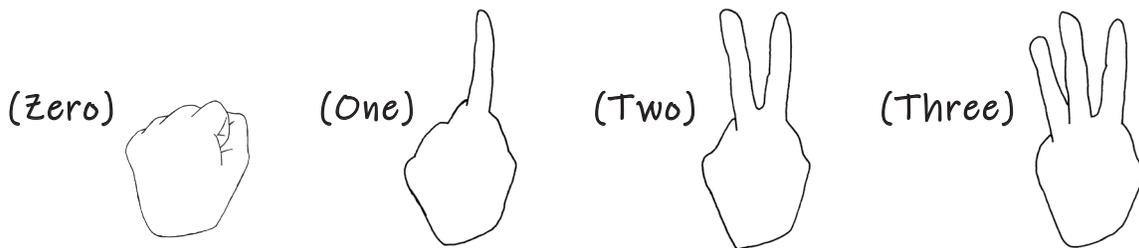
Look **both** ways before entering a road.



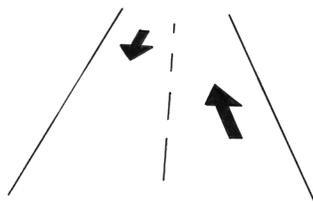
Keep your noise and speed low in the campgrounds.



Signal with your left hand how many riders are behind you.



Stay on the "right side" of two-way roads.



Obey all road signs.

# Learn the Rules of the Road

As you pass other riders on the trail, they give you these hand signals. Can you understand what they are saying?

Write what each signal means below.



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



Left

\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ ,



Two riders  
behind

\_\_\_\_\_

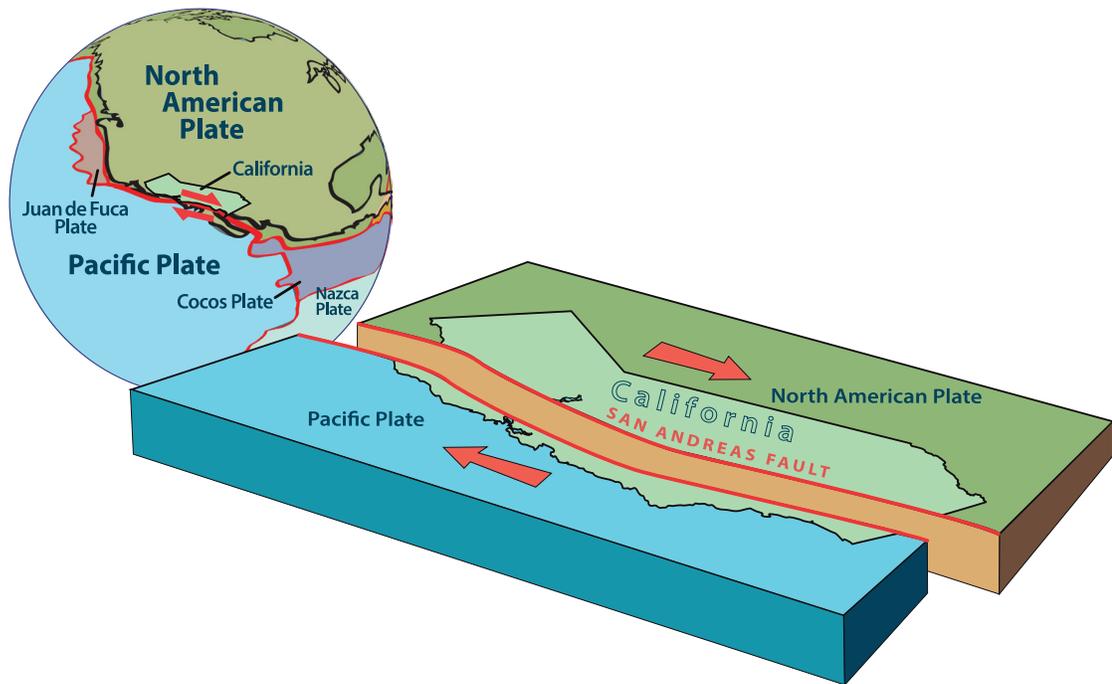


\_\_\_\_\_ ,



\_\_\_\_\_

# Same Park, One Fault, Different Soil



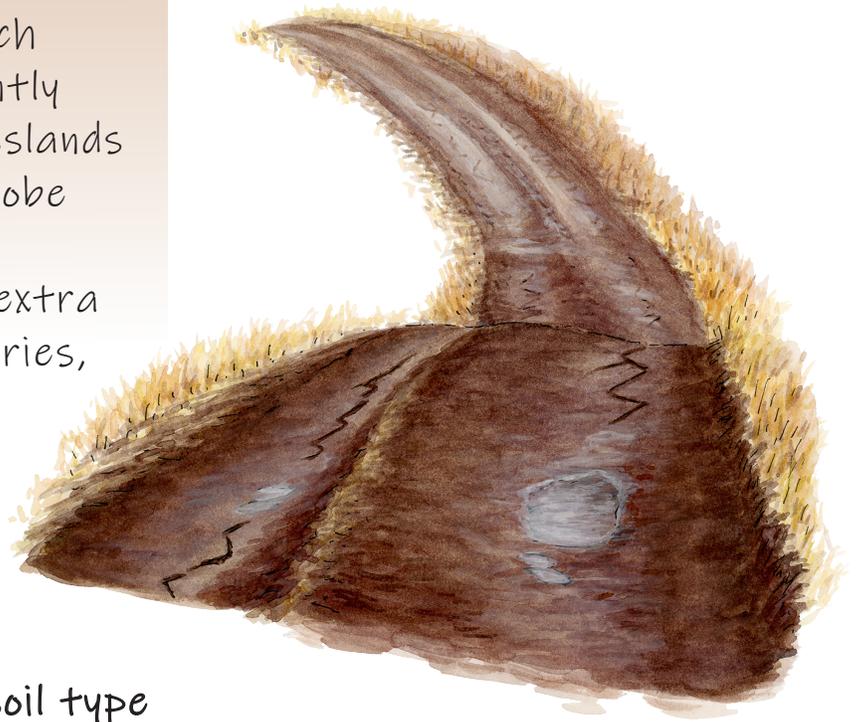
Earth is made up of tectonic plates. A fault is the area between those plates. The San Andreas Fault divides Hollister Hills into two different riding terrains.



The **Pacific tectonic plate** has sandy, granitic soil and steep hills covered in chaparral plants like pine trees and sage brush. Granitic soil drains better when wet, but is more likely to be eroded or washed away during winter storms.

# Same Park, One Fault, Different Soil

The North American tectonic plate is made up of clay-rich adobe soil and contains gently rolling hills covered in grasslands and oak woodlands. The adobe soil absorbs and holds in moisture, making its mud extra sticky and slippery. As it dries, it hardens like concrete.



Match the traits to the soil type they belong to:

Granitic

Adobe

- Rolling hills
- Pacific plate
- Grasslands and oak woodlands
- Sticky and slippery when wet
- Erodes more easily
- Steep hills
- Chaparral plants
- Drains well when wet
- North American plate
- Holds moisture when wet

# Bingo

Mark the items off the bingo chart as you find them around the park. Play along with a friend and see who gets 5-in-a-row first!

<p>Yellow-billed magpie</p> 	<p>Goggles</p> 	<p>American flag</p> 	<p>Long sleeves &amp; pants</p> 	<p>Air station</p> 
<p>Pickup truck</p> 	<p>Black-tailed deer</p> 	<p>Riding gloves</p> 	<p>Hawk</p> 	<p>Gray squirrel</p> 
<p>Bobcat</p> 	<p>Bird Creek</p> 	<p>Park logo</p> 	<p>Sycamore tree</p> 	<p>Riding boots</p> 
<p>California poppy</p> 	<p>California quail</p> 	<p>Raccoon</p> 	<p>DOT helmet</p> 	<p>Walnut tree</p> 
<p>Acorn woodpecker</p> 	<p>Lace lichen</p> 	<p>Information panel</p> 	<p>Tent</p> 	<p>Acorns</p> 

# Healthy Trees = Happy Campers

Trees grow a new "ring" every year on top of an older ring.

Some trees are hundreds of years old!



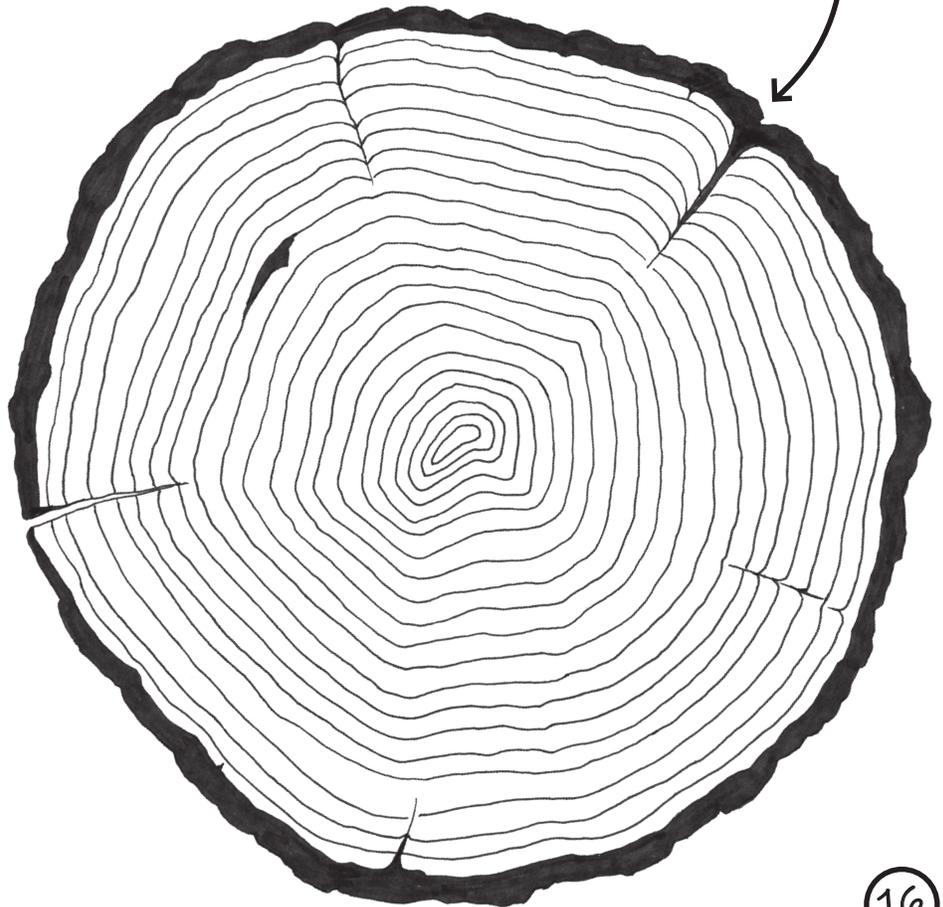
When a living tree's bark is damaged, it hurts the new ring and affects its growth.

Damaged bark can expose the tree to fungi and diseases that decompose the tree too early in its life cycle.

Healthy woodlands contribute to our park's unique environment.

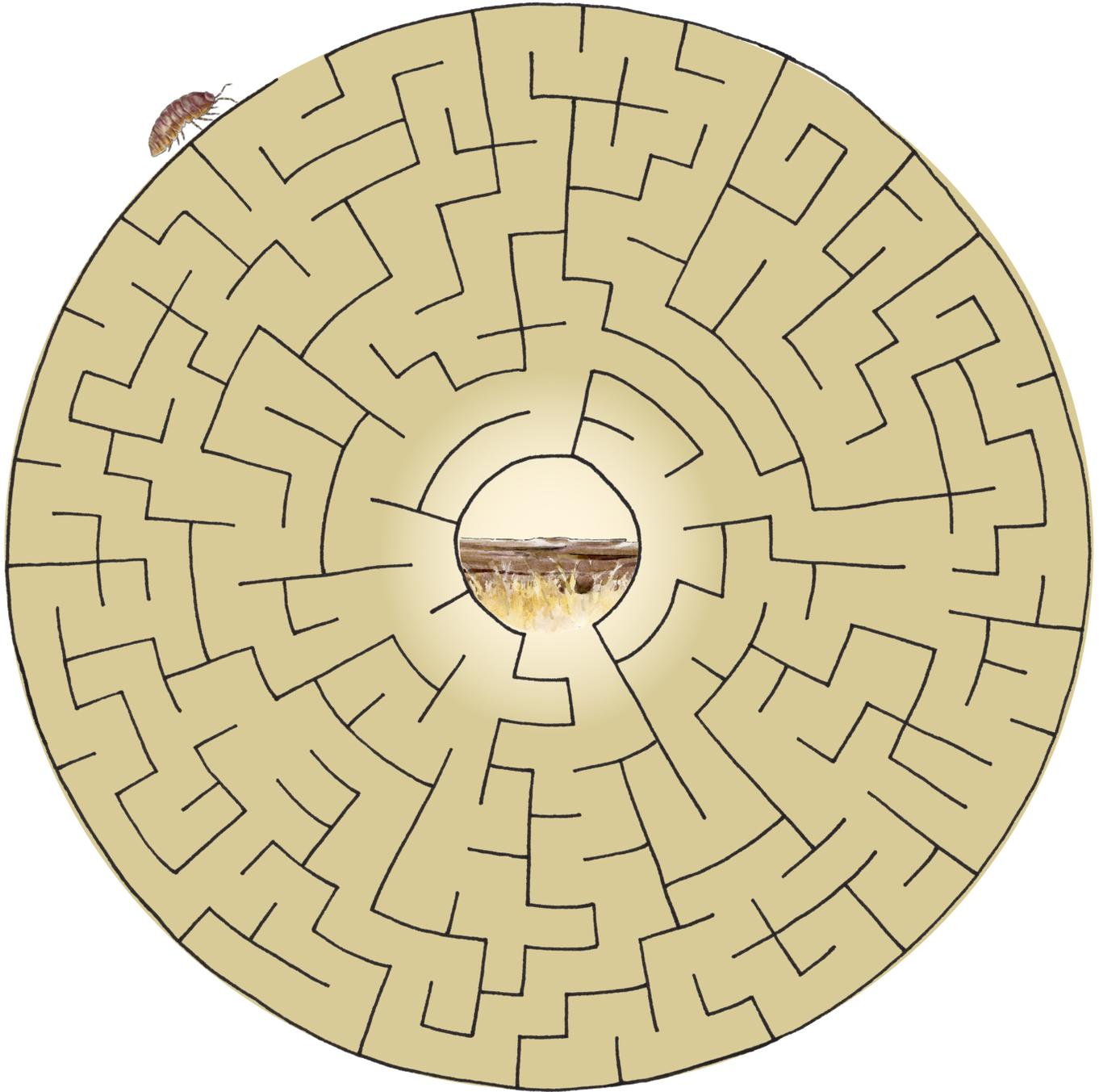
How old is this tree?  
Each ring equals one year of growth.  
The tree rings are the white spaces between the lines.

\_\_\_\_\_ years old



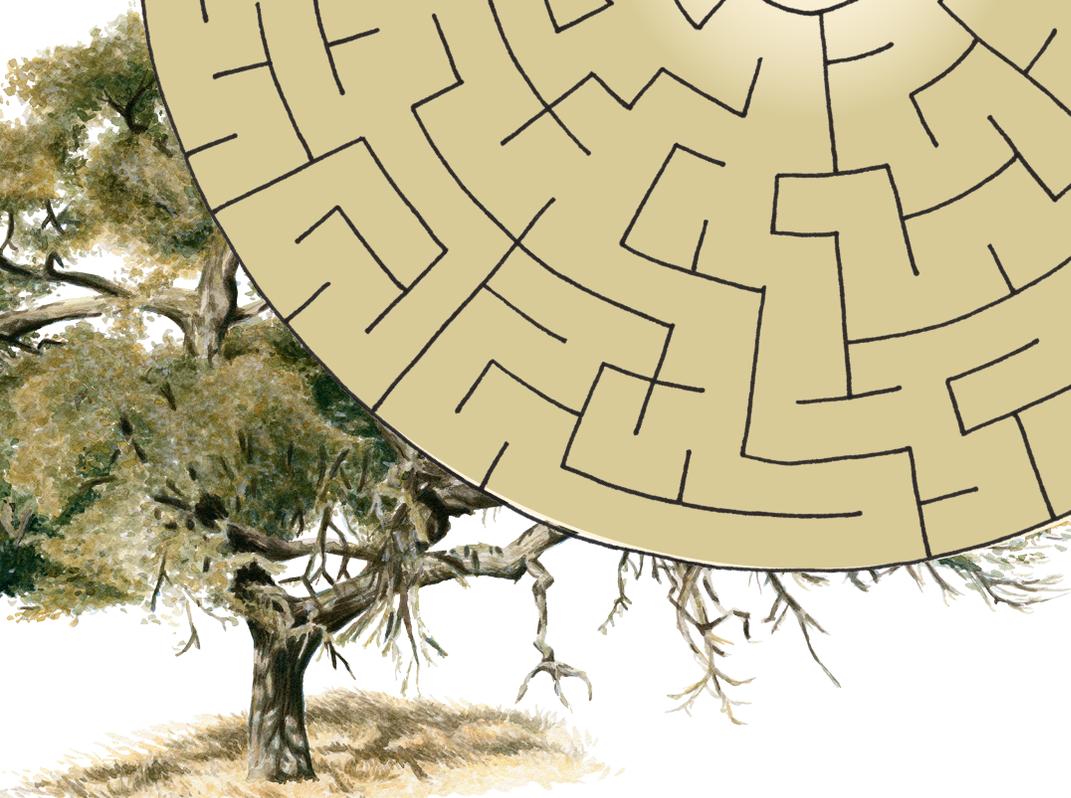
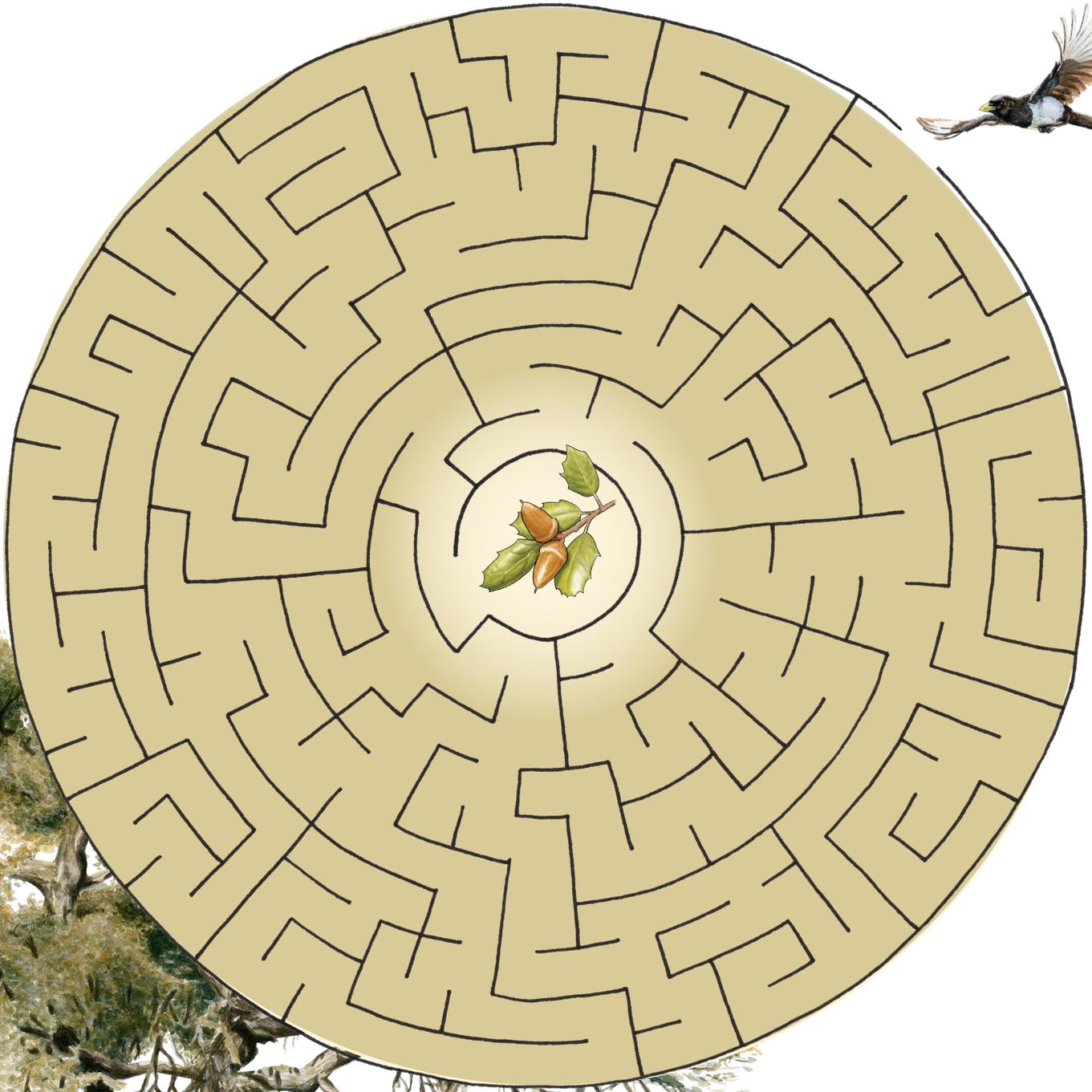
# Healthy Trees = Happy Campers

Healthy trees are resources for animals, providing food and shelter. Help this pill bug find the home it needs.



# Healthy Trees = Happy Campers

Healthy trees are resources for animals, providing food and shelter. Help this yellow-billed magpie find the food it needs.



# Birds of Prey

Birds of prey eat meat and use special adaptations for hunting:



**Turkey vultures** are scavengers that use their great sense of smell to find stinky dead animals to eat.

**Hawks** have binocular vision, focusing both eyes on their prey. They eat their food using their sharp, hooked beaks.



**Owls** have excellent night vision and have special feathers that allow them to silently swoop down to catch small prey.

**Eagles** have a large wingspan and sharp talons. Talons are used like a knife and fork for birds to tear apart their food.



**Kestrel falcons** are the smallest of the falcon family. They hover in the air when scanning the ground for their next meal.

# What is that Animal?

Unscramble the letters to learn the names of our native wildlife.

SNKUK \_\_\_\_\_

RDE-OLSDUEHDER KAHW \_\_\_\_\_

TABBOC \_\_\_\_\_

CRONA ODEWKEROCP \_\_\_\_\_

YTOEOC COYOTE

OCANCRO \_\_\_\_\_

QLAIU \_\_\_\_\_

YGAR XFO \_\_\_\_\_

GRITE DANSRMAALE \_\_\_\_\_

USBCR YJA \_\_\_\_\_

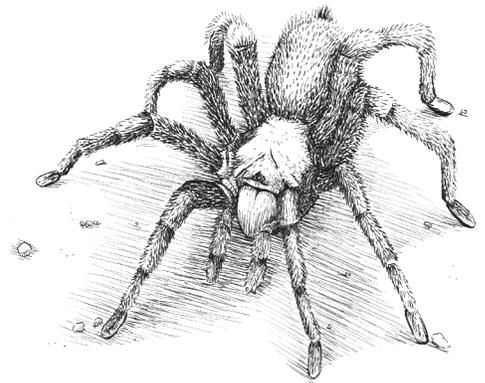
OUI NATNM NLOI \_\_\_\_\_

BNRA WLO \_\_\_\_\_

AANERMCI DBGEAR \_\_\_\_\_

ARLTUNAAT \_\_\_\_\_

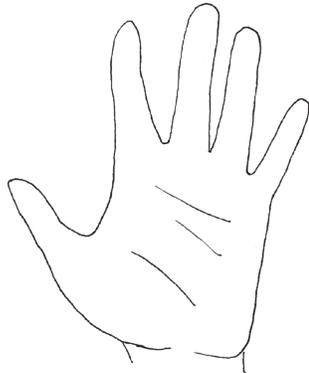
TAELTRESKAN \_\_\_\_\_



# Know Your Trees By Their Leaves

There are many types of oak trees native to California. But how can you tell them apart?

You have a tool to use as a guide: your hand!



**Valley oaks** have multiple lobes on their leaves and are deciduous (they lose their leaves every winter). Hold your hand out and spread your fingers: this makes the shape of a valley oak leaf.



**Blue oak** is a species of oak endemic to (found only in) California, and are also deciduous. Close your fingers back together to make the shape of a blue oak.

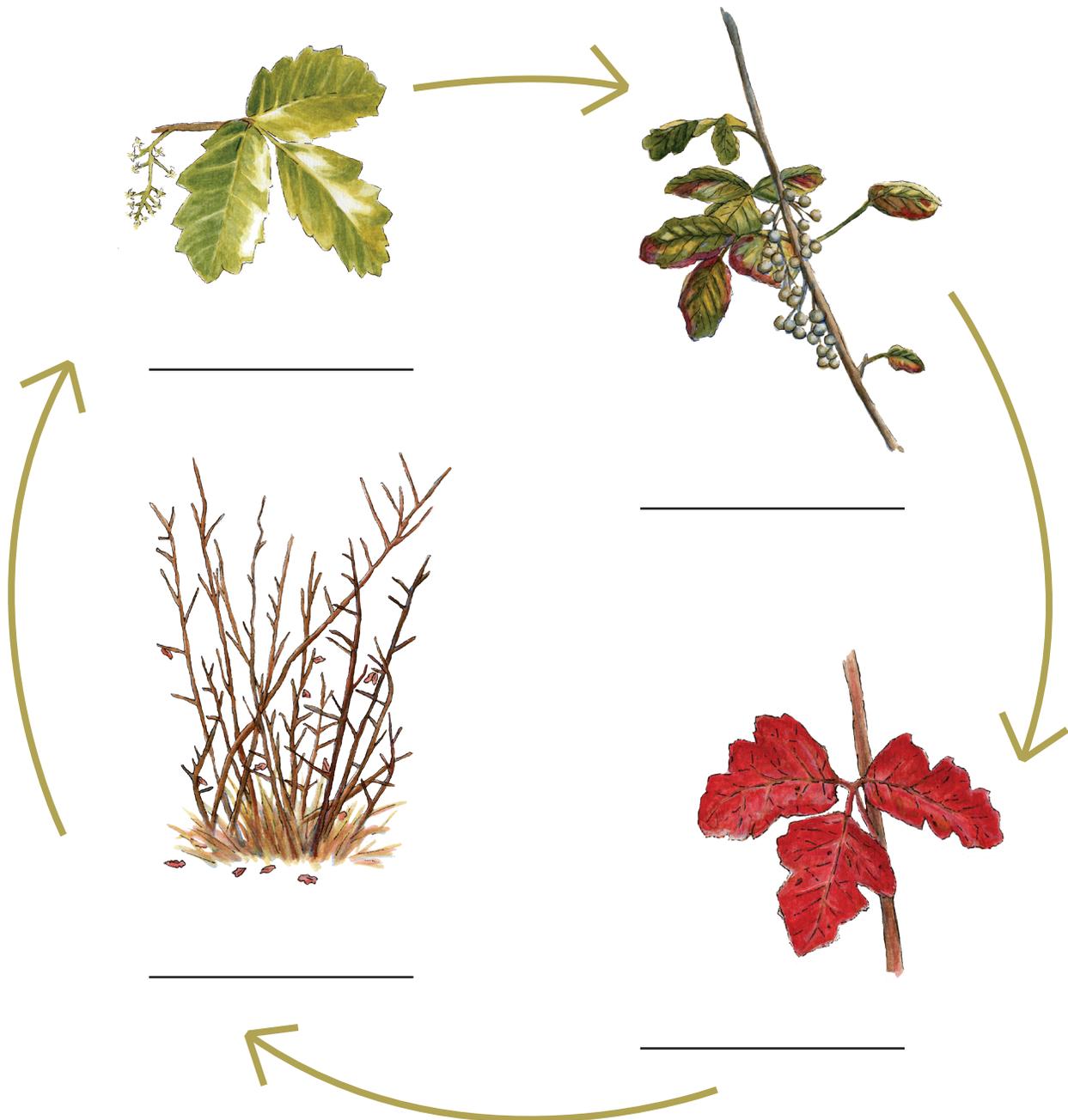


**Coast live oak** leaves are cup-shaped and have sharp points on their edges. These trees are evergreens (they don't lose their leaves). Make a cup with your hand for the shape of a coast live oak.

# What is that Itch?

Poison oak is a local California plant that is important to the wildlife here at Hollister Hills. It provides food and shelter for many animals. Most humans are allergic to the oil poison oak produces in its leaves and stems, called urushiol.

Poison oak looks different throughout the seasons. It is deciduous; it loses its leaves by winter, and grows new leaves each spring. Put the name of the season below each leaf.



# Deep-Rooted Knowledge

The Mutsun people lived on this land before it was Hollister Hills, and their descendants are still around today. Knowledge of native plants and their uses for food, medicine, and other tools is an important tradition among the Mutsun.



## Manzanita

When it comes to manzanita, both the berries and bark are useful. Its berries can be eaten as food, while its bark can be used to make a medicinal tea.

## California mugwort

Mugwort is valued for its calming scent and its many medicinal uses. Its leaves can also be used as an insect repellent!



## Coast buckwheat

Tea can be made from the boiled leaves, stems, and roots of buckwheat, to treat coughs and colds. Likewise, it can be used as food, with its seeds either ground or eaten raw as part of porridge or cake.



## Coast live oak

Acorns from coast live oak trees are plentiful and nutritious. Once the tannins are removed, the acorns can be processed into acorn meal, useful for a variety of foods.



# Deep-Rooted Knowledge

Use the space below to draw a plant near you. Pay attention to the shape of your plant's leaves, any special features like berries or flowers, and any specific textures you notice. Be sure to leave plants rooted where you find them, and avoid poison oak.

If you know your plant's name, write it below:

---

# Trailblazers

How are trails formed? Trails form naturally when many animals, people, and modes of transportation travel the same path, trampling small vegetation and eroding the earth over time.



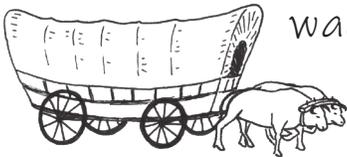
Animals find the easiest route. As many critters use the same routes, a trail begins to form.



People follow already defined animal paths. This began with the Native Americans.



The trails expanded with people on horses. The Spanish missionaries were the first to introduce horses to North America.



People then hitched their horses to wagons. During the Gold Rush, people traveled to California in covered wagons to seek their fortune.

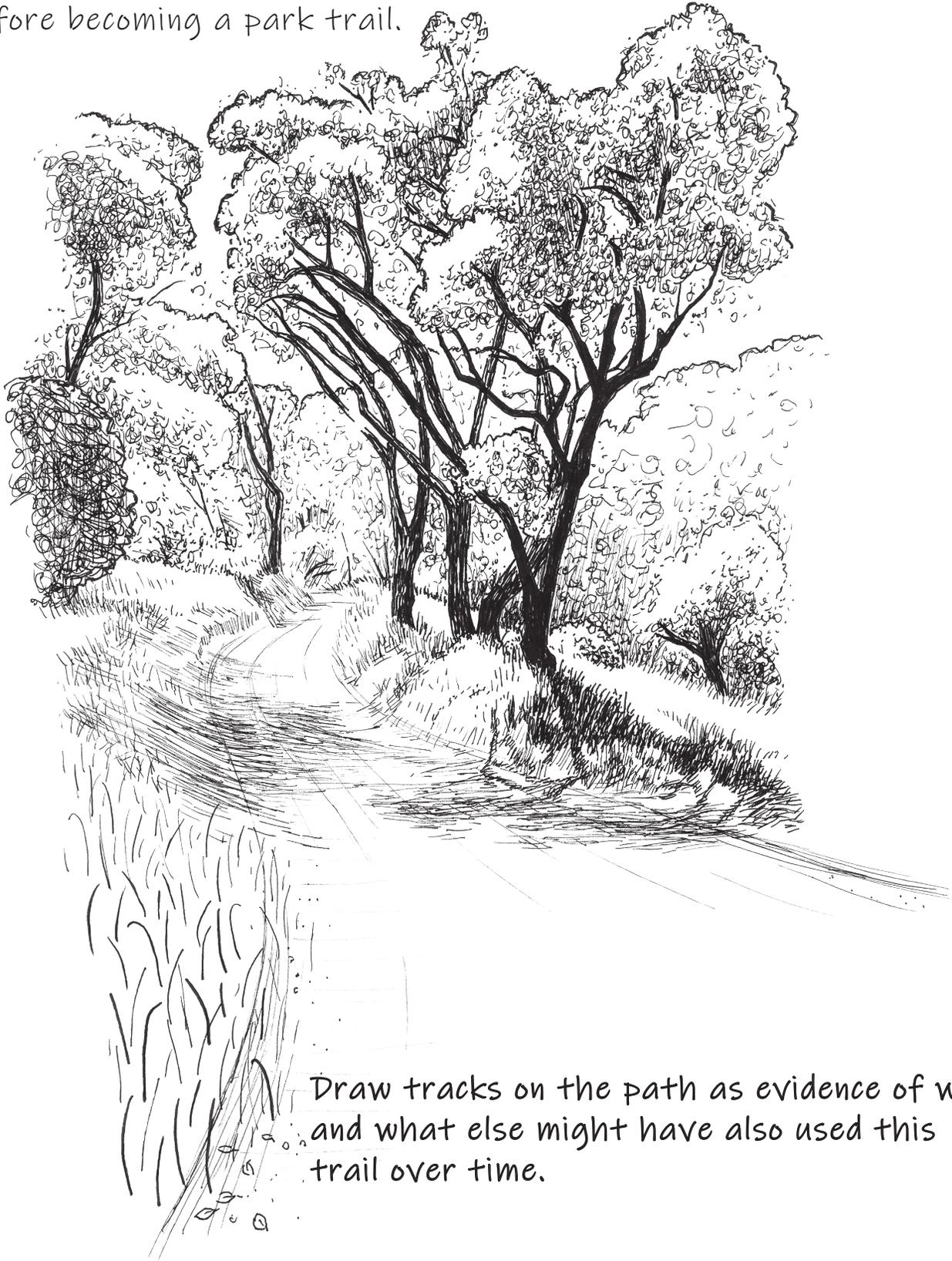


Today, motorcyclists use some of the same trails that were established by the many people and animals passing through this area before them.

# Trailblazers



Rancho Road, in the Lower Ranch, was likely used by stagecoaches. Stagecoaches were like taxis and helped people travel all over California. In the early 1900s, it briefly served as a county road used by automobiles, before becoming a park trail.



Draw tracks on the path as evidence of who and what else might have also used this trail over time.



Brought to you by the Interpretation Team of Hollister Hills  
State Vehicular Recreation Area

Written by Justin Olschowka  
Illustrated by Kaelin O'Hare

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