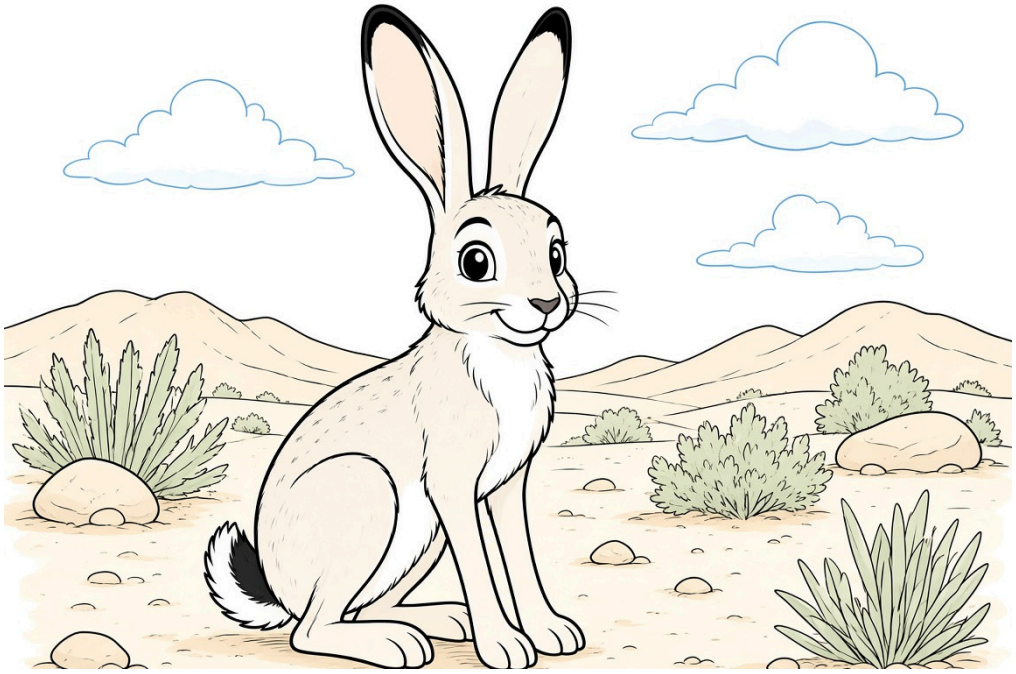
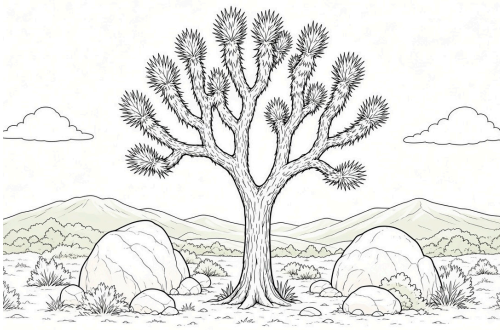
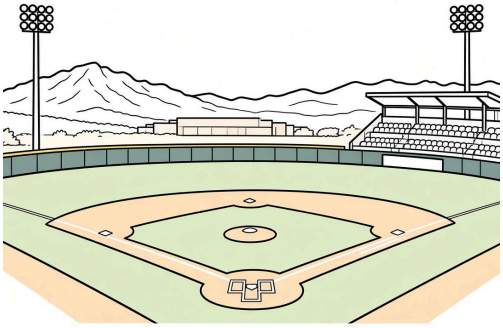
Southern California

A Wild Base Family activity book for ages 4-6, 7-9 and 10+







PRINT BY AGE | PAGE RANGES

Ages 4-6: activities 3-14; answers 39-41.
Ages 7-9: activities 15-26; answers 42-44.
Ages 10+: activities 27-38; answers 45-47.
Shared parent guidance and sources: 48-50.

This book belongs to

Choose your discoveries

Choose a comfortable challenge level. Each packet has its own introduction and answers. Reading aloud, talking and pointing count as exploring.

AGES 4-6 | ACTIVITIES 3-14 | ANSWERS 39-41

Picture-led puzzles, a broad-path ballpark maze, sorting, counting, coloring and conversation. A grown-up can read the short directions.

AGES 7-9 | ACTIVITIES 15-26 | ANSWERS 42-44

Desert geology, kelp connections, baseball math, word puzzles, history and a family strategy game.

AGES 10+ | ACTIVITIES 27-38 | ANSWERS 45-47

Illustrated mysteries, a demanding maze, evidence puzzles, a changing kelp model, a code and an independent number puzzle.

PRINT AND PACK

Print US Letter at actual size, or fit to A4. Grayscale works. Pack a pencil, crayons and a clipboard. Single-sided pages are easy to share.

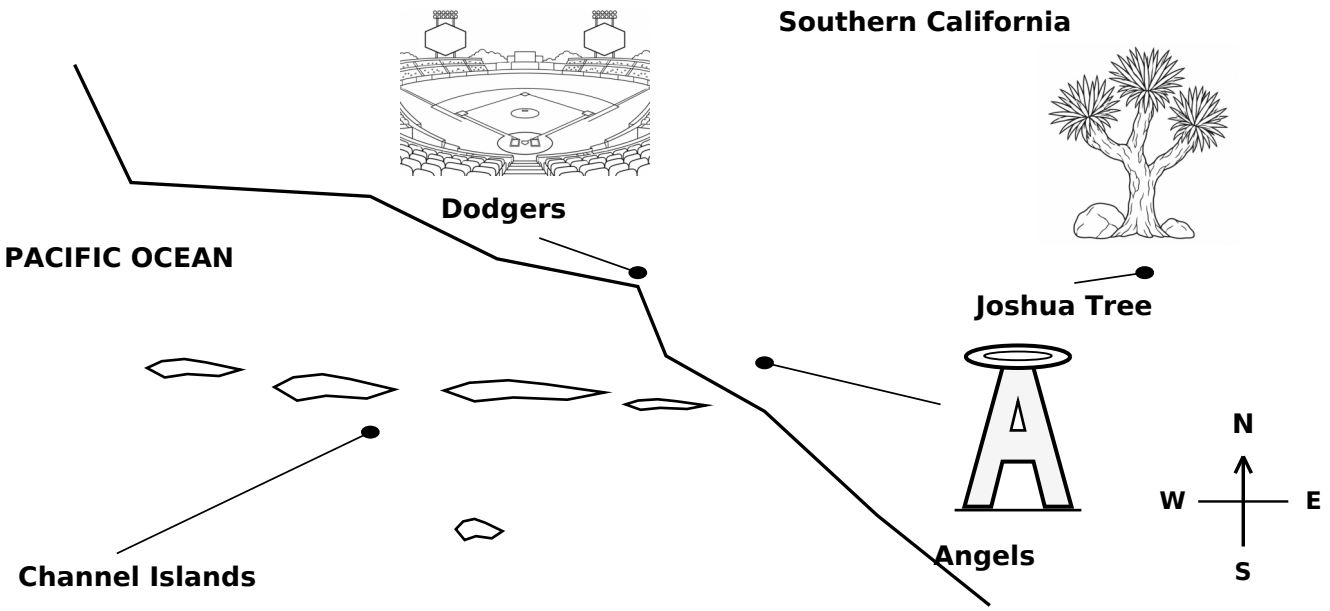
Shared parent guidance and sources: pages 48-50. Answer references use the page numbers in the PDF you are reading.

Passenger play only; keep the driver free to concentrate.

START YOUR EXPLORER PACKET **AGES 4-6**

Four places to meet

Point to two baseball places, a desert and islands. Let’s meet Southern California!



Pictures mark the four places

Dot = place or island group

FOUR PLACES TO MEET

Dodgers: a baseball team in Los Angeles. Angels: a baseball team in Anaheim. Joshua Tree: a desert park with branching yuccas. Channel Islands: a national park protecting five islands in the Pacific Ocean.

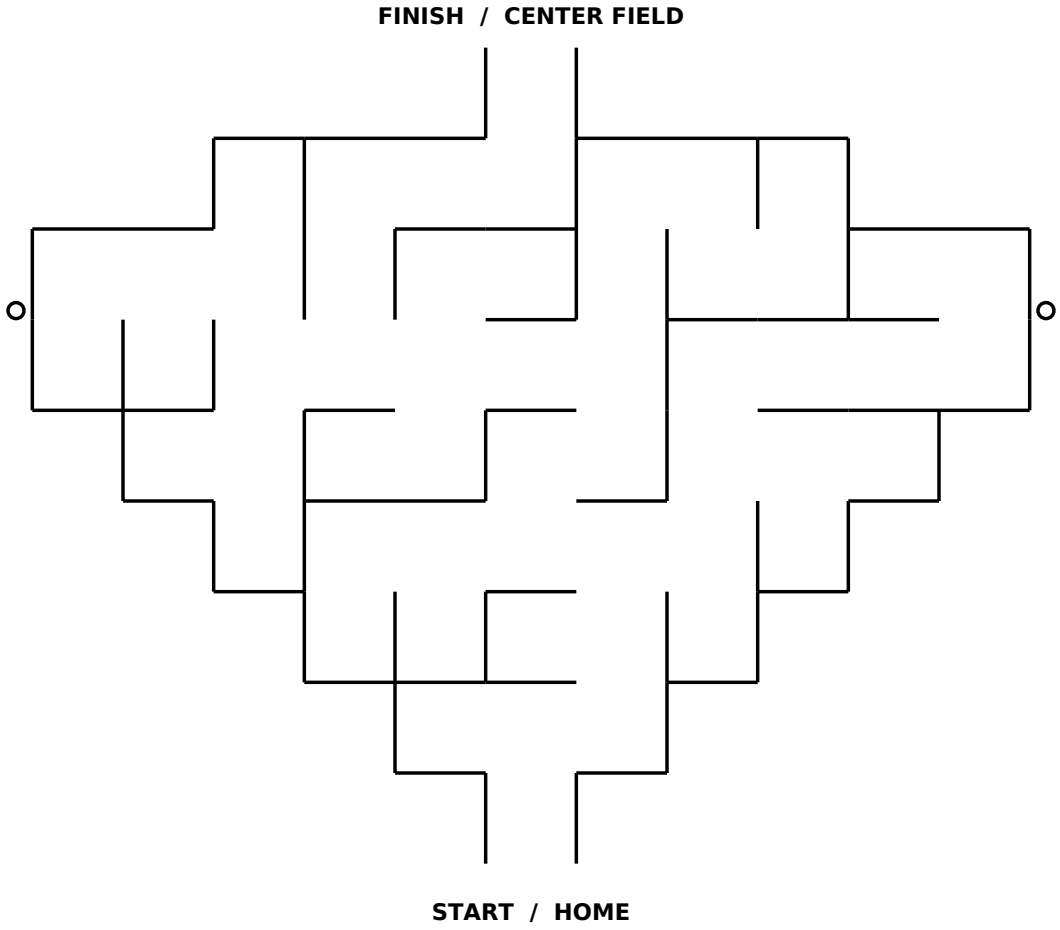
Circle the Dodgers dot. Star the islands.
Point to the desert farthest east.

You need a pencil and crayons. Try puzzles in any order. Answers begin on page 39.

SHAPED MAZE | GENTLE AGES 4-6

Across the ballpark

Start at HOME. Stay between the walls until you reach FINISH at center field. Point to the broad outfield before you begin.



A BIG LETTER AT THE BALLPARK

Angel Stadium in Anaheim has a giant A-shaped landmark topped by a halo. The wide outfield in this maze spreads away from home plate.

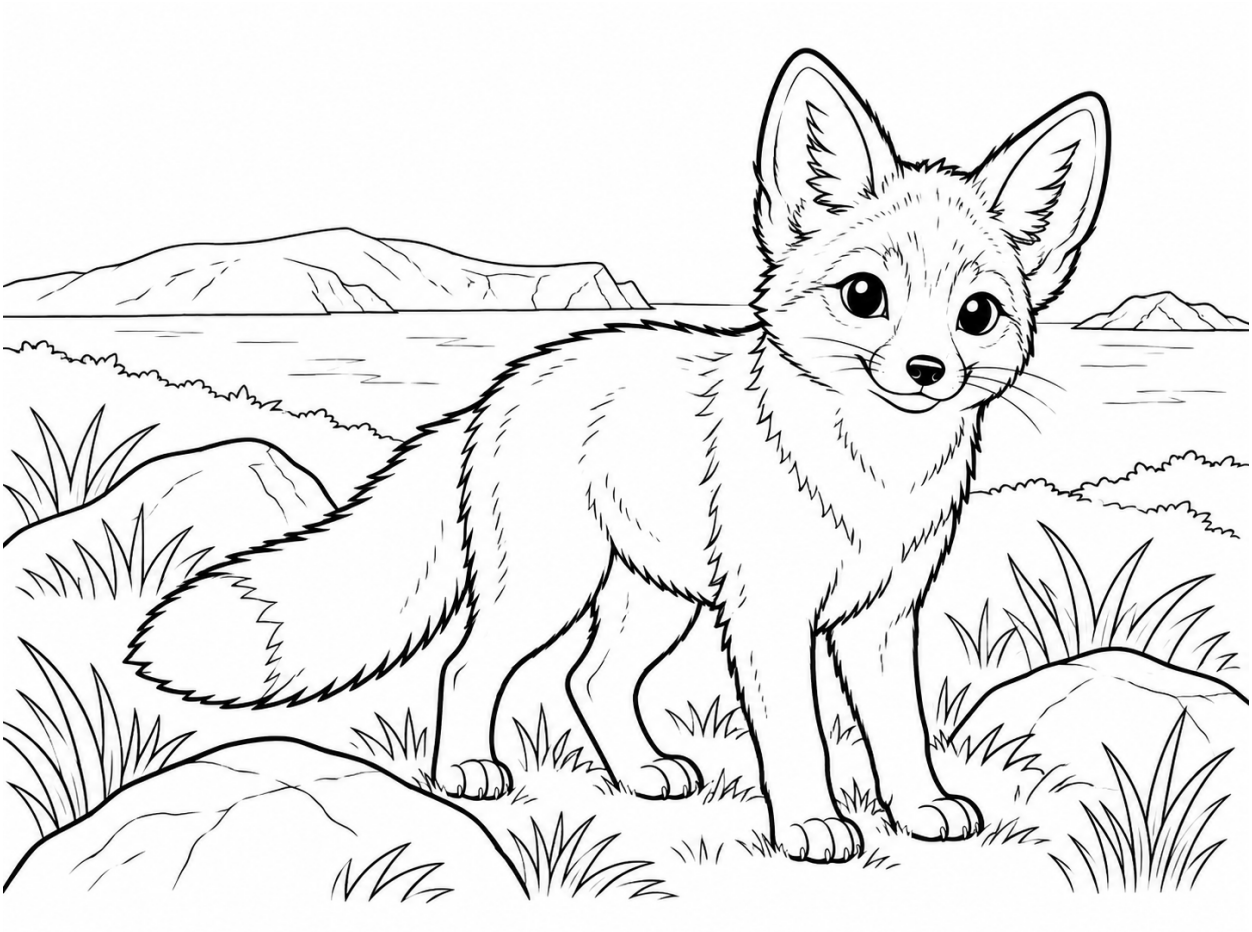
NOTICE AND CONNECT

Find the Angels picture on page 3. What shape sits above the A? Point to it, then trace the wide outfield in your maze.

COLOR AND DISCOVER AGES 4-6

A little island neighbor

Color the island fox. Find its pointed ears, nose, paws and tail. Add three small rocks.



LOOK CLOSELY

An island fox uses its nose to find food. Its paws carry it over land. In this national park, foxes live on San Miguel, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz.

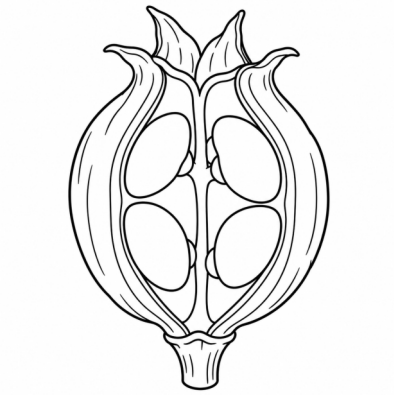
Point to the part that smells. Point to the parts that walk.
Tell someone how you find your favorite food.

PUT A STORY IN ORDER **AGES 4-6**

A moth and flower story

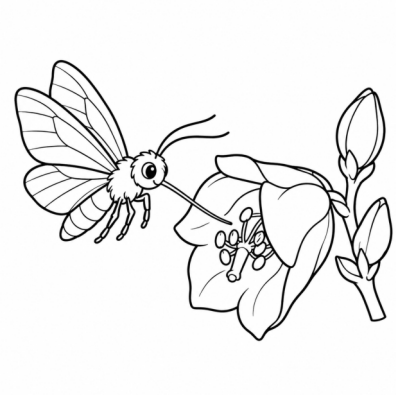
Point to what happens first. Then write 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the circles.

A



Seeds grow.

B



A moth visits a flower.

C



Moth young eat some seeds.

D



The moth places pollen.

DISCOVERY

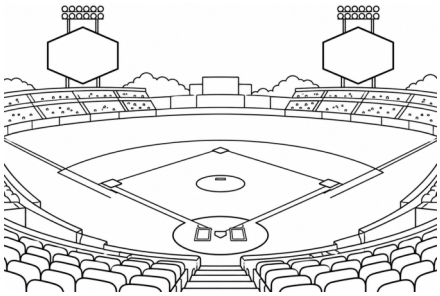
A Joshua tree and its yucca moth help each other.

MATCH AND DRAW **AGES 4-6**

Shapes of four places

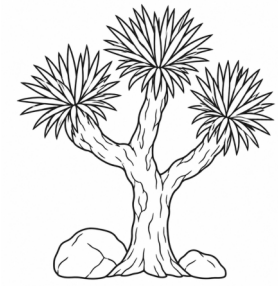
Point to the picture that matches each clue. Then draw water all around an island.

BALLPARK



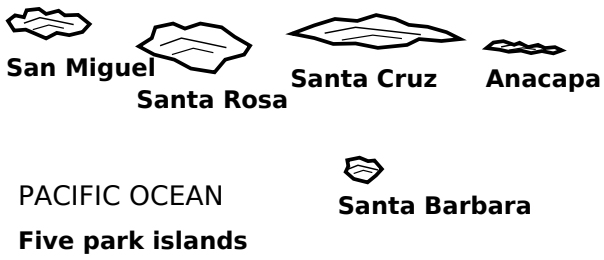
A place to watch baseball.

DESERT



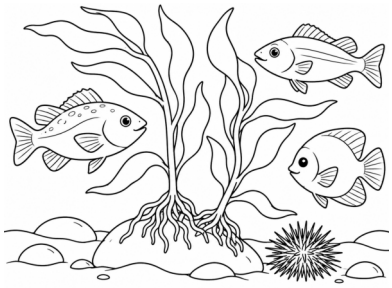
A dry place with Joshua trees.

ISLANDS



Land with water all around.

KELP FOREST



Tall algae grow under water.

Channel Islands National Park protects five islands.

DRAW AN ISLAND WITH WATER ALL AROUND

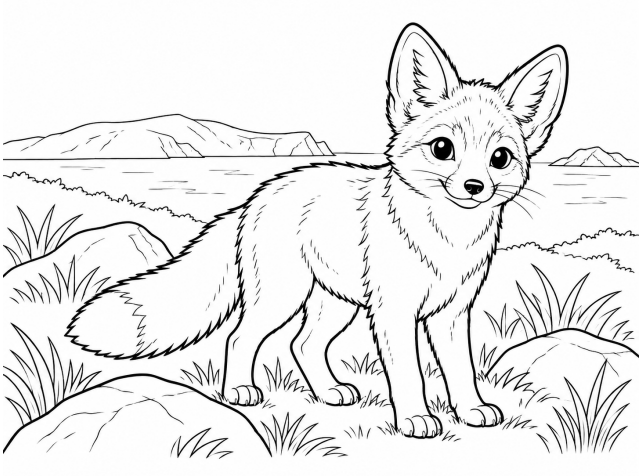
Add a boat on the water beside your island.

WILDLIFE SORTING **AGES 4-6**

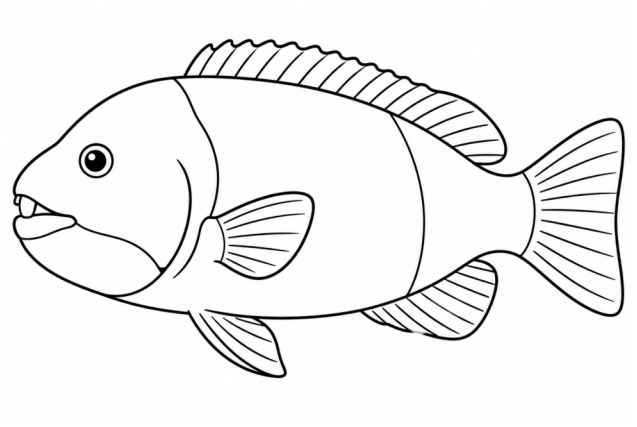
What is for lunch

Draw a line from each food picture to the animal described below.

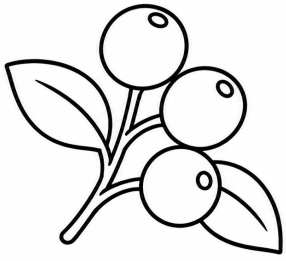
Island foxes eat fruit and insects. Sheephead fish eat sea urchins.



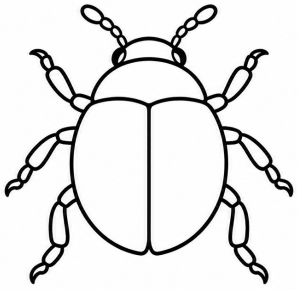
ISLAND FOX



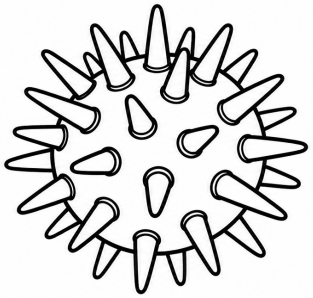
SHEEPHEAD



FRUIT



BEETLE



SEA URCHIN

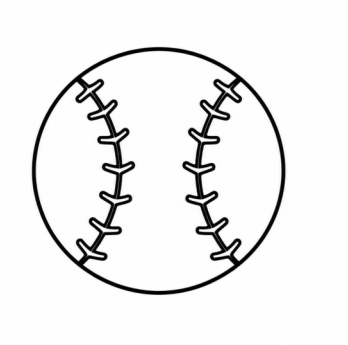
COUNT AND CIRCLE

How many food pictures? _____

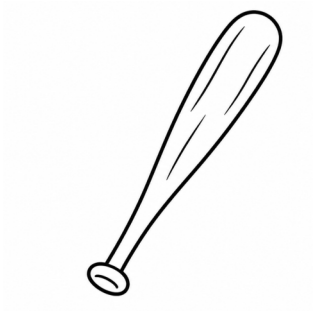
Circle the food that comes from a plant.

Patterns at the ballpark

Look at each picture pattern. Draw the picture that comes next.

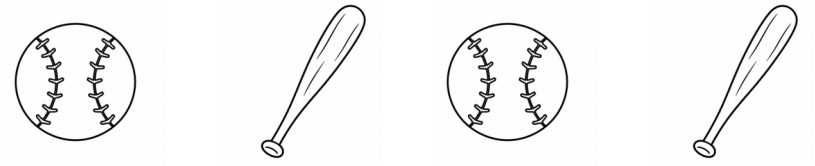


Baseball



Bat

Look for the part of each pattern that repeats.



NEXT



NEXT

Draw two pairs of balls. How many balls? _____

TWO PAIRS

PEOPLE AND HISTORY AGES 4-6

Islands with a long story

People knew these islands long before they became a national park. Chumash communities have continuing connections to the northern islands.

LONG AGO

Chumash people lived on the northern islands. They traveled by sea in plank canoes called tomols.

IN 1980

Channel Islands became a national park. A park is a place set aside to be protected.

TODAY

Chumash people continue their island connections. Rangers and visitors also help care for these places.

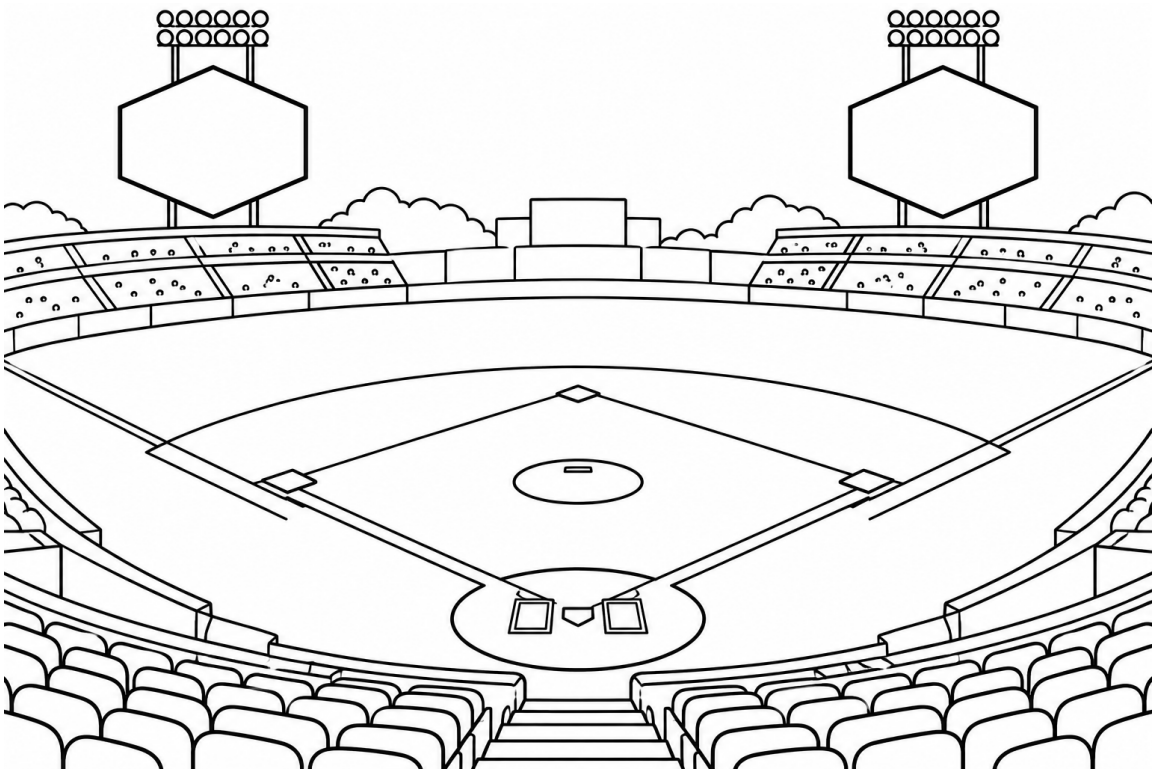
Point to the earliest part of the story. Circle TODAY.
Talk about one way your family can care for a place.

DRAW YOUR CARE-FOR-A-PLACE IDEA

COUNT AND BUILD **AGES 4-6**

Build a Dodgers scoreboard

Color the ballpark. Then draw and count the blocks on your own scoreboard.



LOOK UP AT THE SCREENS

Dodger Stadium has two main video screens with six sides. Trace six sides on one screen in the drawing.

Draw 2 score blocks, then 3 more. How many? _____

2 + 3

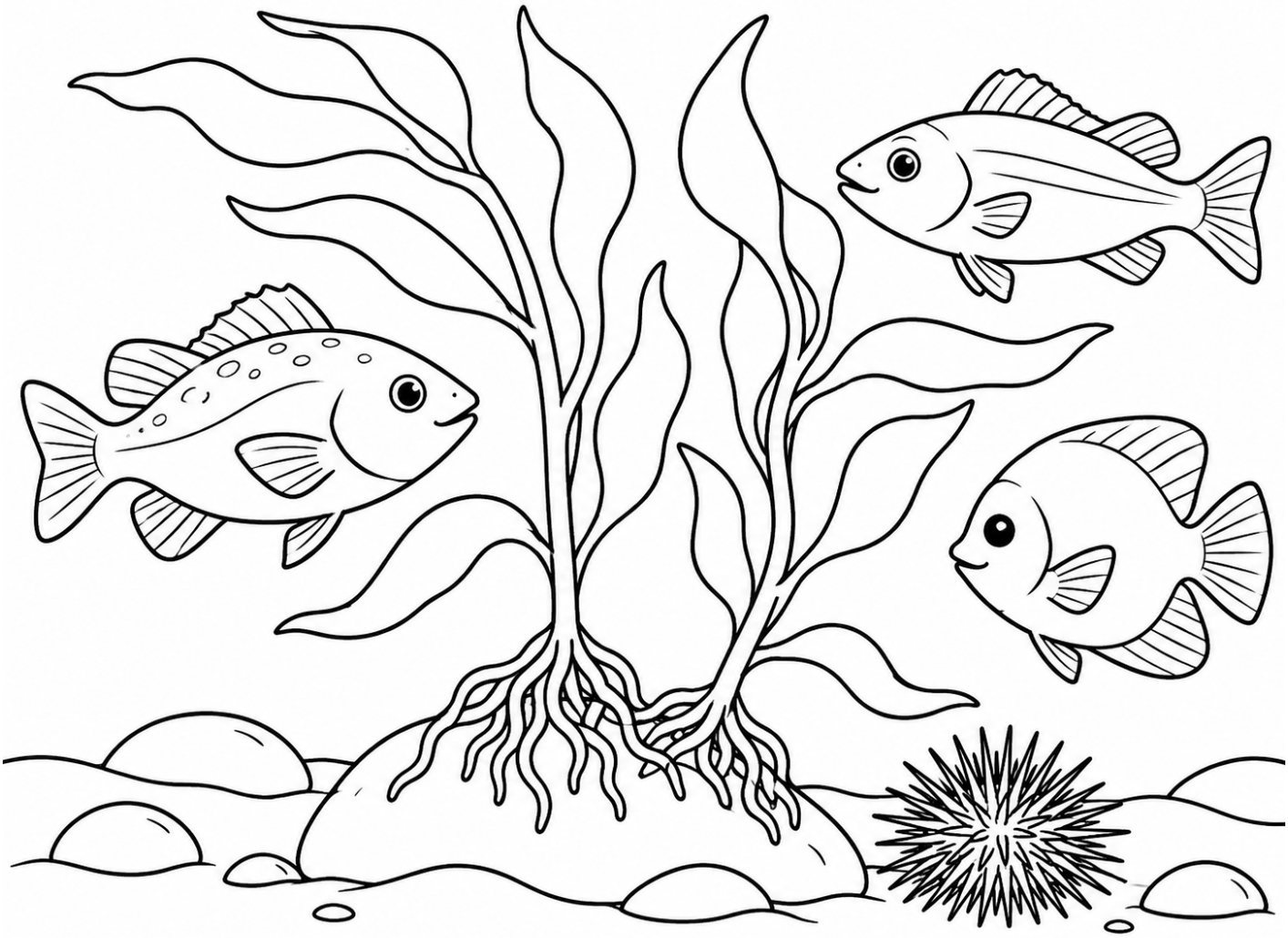
4 + 2 = _____

6 - 1 = _____

COLOR AND LOOK CLOSELY AGES 4-6

Under the island waves

Color the kelp forest. Circle the three fish. Add one bubble above each fish.



AN UNDERWATER HOME

Kelp is algae. Fish can hide among it. A holdfast grips rock and keeps kelp anchored.

Point to where the kelp grips the rock. Which animal is spiny?

FAMILY ROAD BREAK AGES 4-6

A quiet ride game

Play together as passengers. Choose a shape in this book. Say “I spy a shape that is…” and give one clue. Everyone may guess.

TRY THESE

A circle like a baseball
A branching shape like a Joshua tree
A curvy line like a wave
A point like a fox’s ear

DRAW A NEW SHAPE CLUE FOR YOUR FAMILY

ONE MORE ROUND

Think of an animal from this book. Give a clue about its body or food, without saying its name.

Take turns being the clue giver. There is no score to keep.

REMEMBER AND SHARE AGES 4-6

My Southern California discoveries

Choose something from your visit or from this book. Draw it, tell someone about it, or ask a grown-up to write your words.

A PLACE THAT SURPRISED ME

AN ANIMAL OR PLANT I LEARNED ABOUT

My new discovery word is

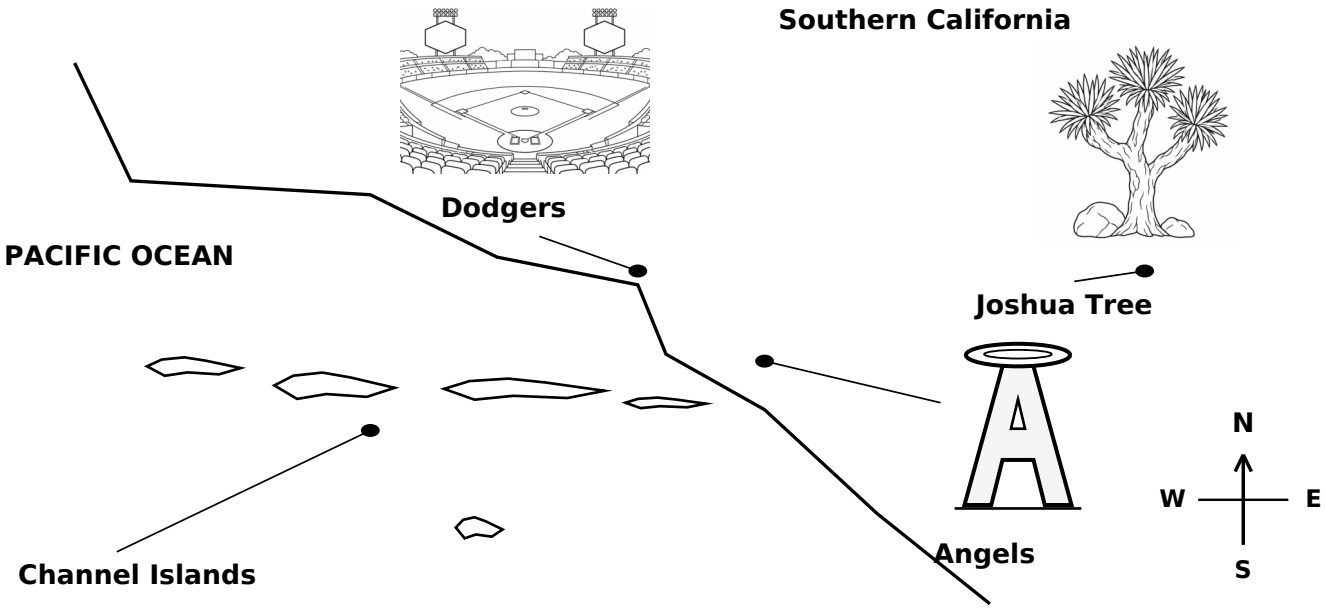
One thing I can explain now is

NOTICE AND CONNECT

Show someone your favorite page. Ask them to tell you something they learned too.

Coast city and desert

A coast meets the ocean; an island has water all around it. Joshua Tree is inland. The Dodgers and Angels play in different Southern California cities.



Pictures mark the four places

Dot = place or island group

READ THE LANDSCAPE

Dodgers: Los Angeles. Angels: Anaheim. Joshua Tree: a desert with yuccas, boulders and little rain. Channel Islands: five park islands with coastal wildlife and kelp forests.

1. Which featured place is farthest east? _____

2. Which place is offshore? _____

3. Is the Angels dot southeast or northwest of the Dodgers dot? _____

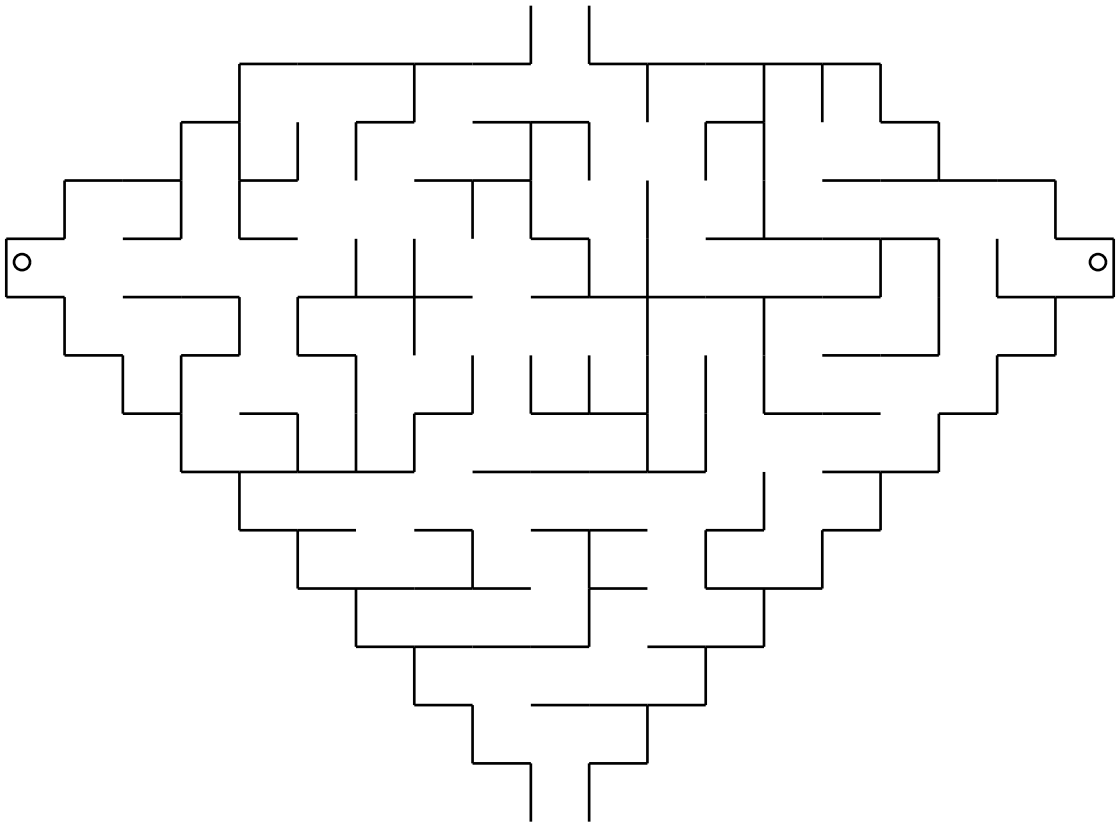
Use a pencil, crayons and a clipboard. Answers begin on page 42.

SHAPED MAZE | MODERATE AGES 7-9

Find the outfield route

Plan a route from START at home to FINISH at center field. At a fork, look ahead before you commit.

FINISH / CENTER FIELD



START / HOME

FROM HOME TO THE OUTFIELD

The Dodgers and Angels use the same basic field layout. Four corners make the square infield, or diamond. Beyond it, the broad outfield gives fielders room to chase fly balls.

NOTICE AND CONNECT

Find the narrow home end and the wide outfield. How does the field’s shape connect to the game?

SEQUENCE AND EXPLAIN **AGES 7-9**

How boulders became round

Granite forms underground. Weathering changes rock in place; erosion moves material away. Use the clues in the cards to reconstruct how buried rock becomes exposed boulders.

A
Water weathers the edges and corners of buried blocks.

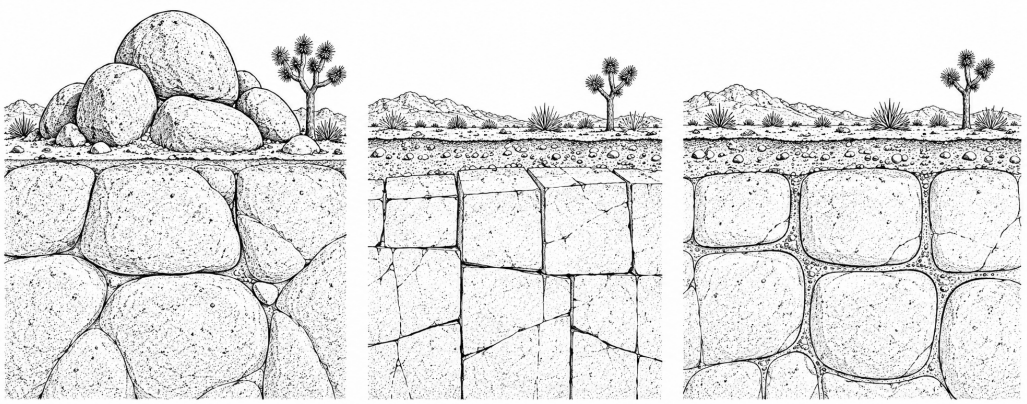
B
Rounded boulders stand exposed at the surface.

C
Magma cools and becomes granite underground.

D
Cracks divide the granite into blocks.

E
Erosion carries material away from the rounded blocks.

Write the letters in order: ___ → ___ → ___ → ___ → ___



NOTICE AND CONNECT
Weathering changes rock in place; erosion moves material away. Which process uncovers the boulders? Draw an arrow to show its movement.

Who gets energy from whom

Kelp uses sunlight to grow. Urchins graze kelp. California sheephead, spiny lobsters and sunflower stars eat sea urchins. An energy arrow points toward the living thing receiving energy.

BUILD THE CONNECTIONS

Draw five arrows using the facts above. Start with sunlight reaching kelp; then connect food to each eater.

SUNLIGHT

KELP

URCHIN

SHEEPHEAD

SPINY LOBSTER

SUNFLOWER STAR

Trace a path that carries the sun’s energy to a sheephead.

ADD ONE FISH USING KELP AS SHELTER

NOTICE AND CONNECT

Which three animals in this web eat the same food? Would every fish hiding in kelp have to eat kelp?

COMPARE AND CALCULATE AGES 7-9

Two scorekeepers

Dodgers and Angels fans both follow runs on a scoreboard. Use these practice scoreboards to compare two three-inning games.

Practice game	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Dodgers	2	0	3	____
Visitors A	1	2	1	____
Angels	0	4	0	____
Visitors B	2	0	1	____

1 COMPARE THE TOTALS

How many more runs did the Dodgers score than Visitors A?
Show your subtraction.

2 FOLLOW THE ANGELS GAME

Which team led after the first inning?
In which inning did the Angels score all their runs?

3 COUNT BOTH GAMES

How many runs did the Dodgers and Angels score altogether?
How many did the two visiting teams score altogether?

NOTICE AND CONNECT

A team can trail early and finish ahead. Which practice game shows this?

WORD SEARCH AND SORT **AGES 7-9**

Hidden words hidden groups

Find eight words running right, down or diagonally down-right. Then sort them into three discovery groups.

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

DODGERS ANGELS ISLAND DESERT
KELP FOX YUCCA MOTH

Baseball teams: _____

Kinds of places: _____

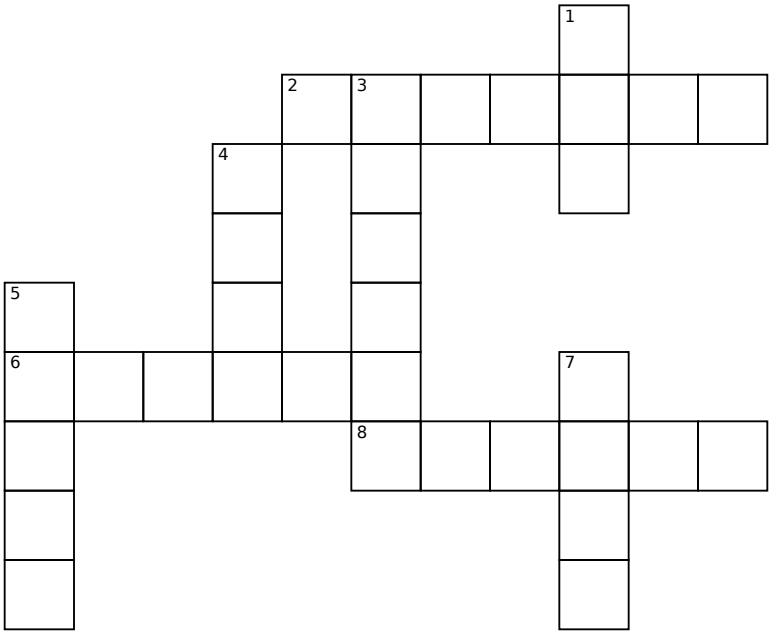
Living things: _____

Discovery: which two living things help each other make the next generation?

CROSSWORD | MODERATE **AGES 7-9**

Words that explain the region

A Joshua tree is a yucca. A moth brings pollen to its flowers. Kelp is marine algae; urchins graze it. Use these ideas and your discoveries.



ACROSS

2. Name for the square baseball infield. (7)

6. Spiny sea animal that eats kelp. (6)

8. Region that gets little rain. (6)

DOWN

1. Small island animal with pointed ears. (3)

3. Land with water all around it. (6)

4. Insect that carries pollen to Joshua tree flowers. (4)

5. Plant group that includes Joshua trees. (5)

7. Tall marine algae in an underwater forest. (4)

Optional word bank: DESERT DIAMOND FOX ISLAND KELP MOTH URCHIN YUCCA

Choose one word and point to a place or picture in this packet that explains it.

DEDUCE FROM EVIDENCE **AGES 7-9**

The missing place labels

Four field notes A-D lost their labels. Each describes one different featured place. Use every clue to restore all four names.

THE FOUR PLACES
Dodgers: a baseball team playing in Los Angeles.
Angels: a baseball team playing in Anaheim.
Joshua Tree: a desert park inland.
Channel Islands: a national park offshore.

1. A and C describe baseball places.

2. B describes land surrounded by the Pacific Ocean.

3. C describes the team in Anaheim.

4. D describes the inland desert park.

Note	Place name	Clue that helped
A		
B		
C		
D		

Explain: how did identifying C make A easier to solve?

TIMELINE AND PERSPECTIVE AGES 7-9

Dates tell part of a story

People lived in this region for thousands of years before these events. A timeline selects a few moments; it cannot tell every community’s story.

1994
Joshua Tree becomes a national park.

1962
Dodger Stadium opens in Los Angeles.

1966
The Angels begin playing at their Anaheim stadium.

1. Write these three dates from earliest to latest.

_____

2. How many years separate the two stadium openings?

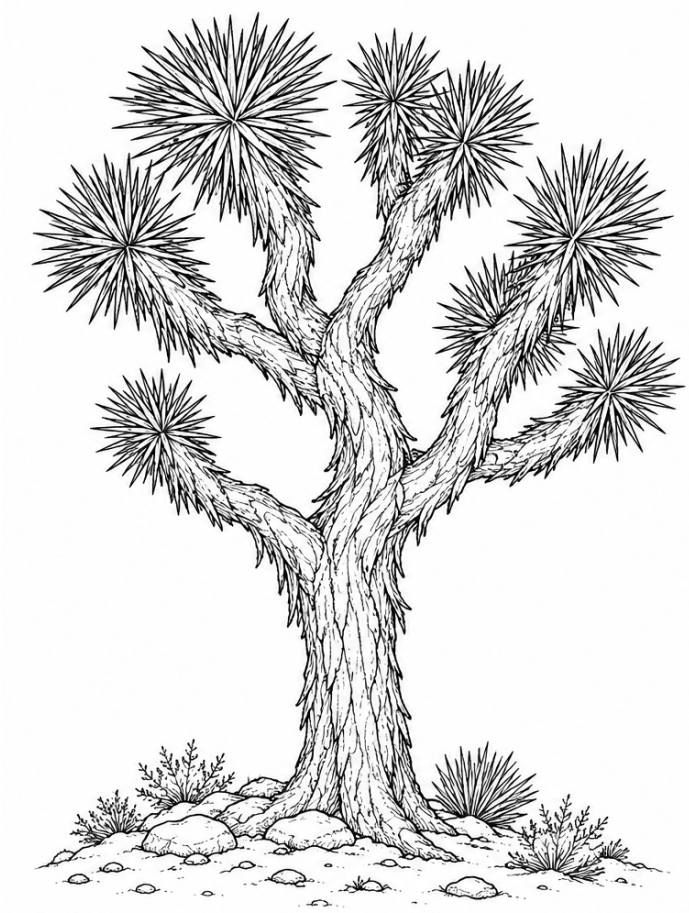
Show your calculation.

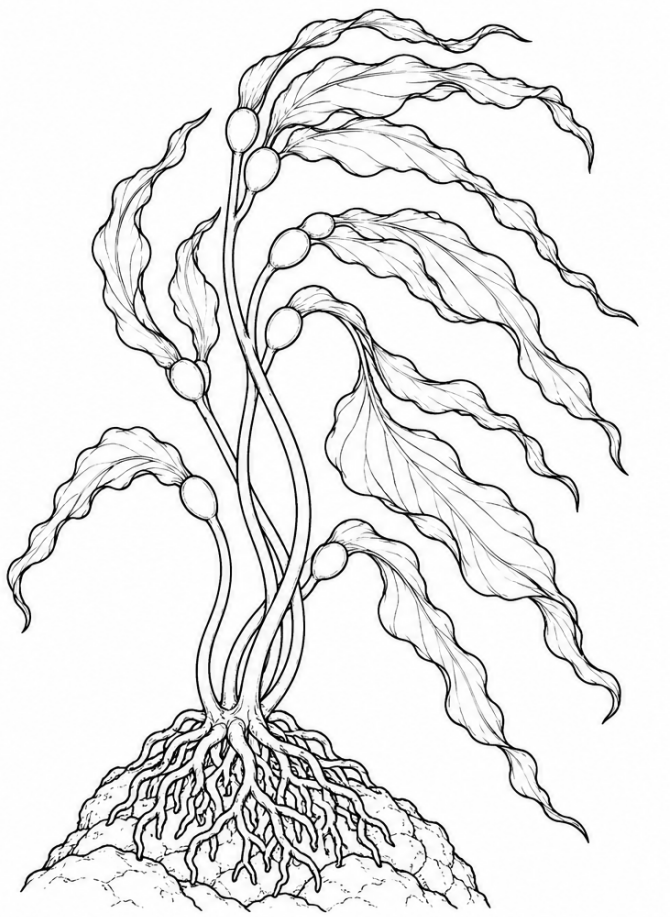
THINK BEYOND THE DATES
Why would a regional history beginning in 1962 leave out an important part of the story?

COLOR AND COMPARE **AGES 7-9**

Two kinds of tall

Color the Joshua tree and giant kelp. Both have branching shapes. Look closely before deciding whether they are the same kind of living thing.





LOOK FOR EVIDENCE

Joshua tree: a yucca on land, with pointed leaf tufts.
Giant kelp: marine algae, with blades and a holdfast that grips rock.

One visible difference is _____

A question I would investigate is _____

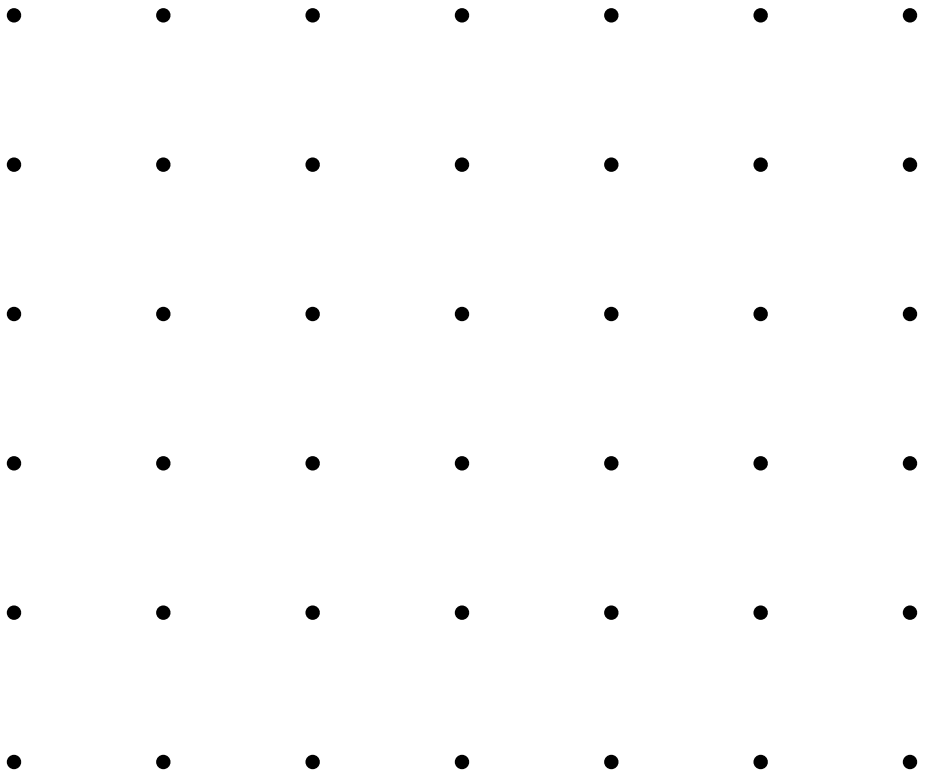
FAMILY ROAD BREAK AGES 7-9

Dots and boxes

Two players take turns drawing one straight line between neighboring dots. Lines go across or down. Never draw a line that is already there.

HOW TO SCORE

Finish the fourth side of a box? Write your initial inside and take another turn. When every box is claimed, the player with more boxes wins. Equal scores are a tie.



Player 1 initials _____ Player 2 initials _____

Final score _____ to _____ Winner or tie _____

Strategy question: when might giving away one box help you win more boxes later?

REMEMBER AND SHARE AGES 7-9

My evidence and memories

Choose a discovery from the trip or this packet. A strong explanation connects an idea with something you noticed or learned.

Something I can explain

The detail that supports my idea

DRAW THE EVIDENCE OR A MEMORY

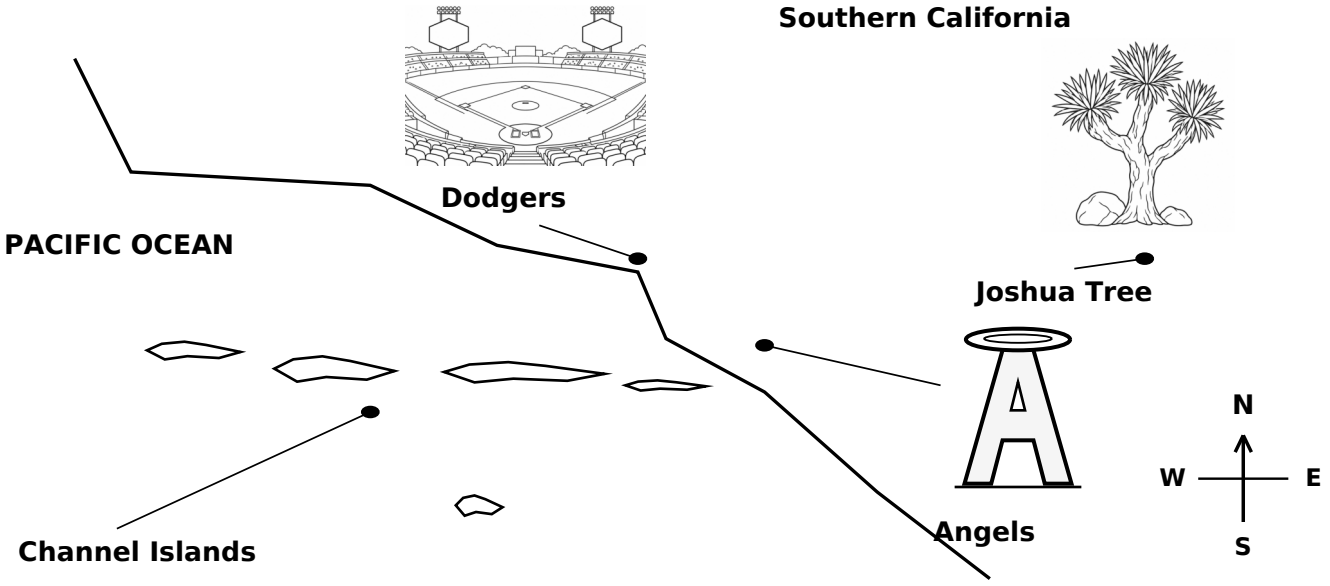
A question I still have

Share your question. Someone else may have noticed a useful clue.

START YOUR EXPLORER PACKET **AGES 10+**

Read a region of contrasts

A desert gets little precipitation. An island is surrounded by water. Southern California brings together baseball, dry landscapes, coastal ecosystems and long human histories.



Pictures mark the four places

Dot = place or island group

FOUR PLACES TO EXPLORE

Dodgers: how does a field’s diamond shape organize play? Angels: how does its ballpark story connect to the Dodgers? Joshua Tree: how did buried rock become rounded boulders? Channel Islands: how do kelp and animals connect?

1. Which featured place lies farthest east? _____

2. Which baseball place lies southeast of the other? _____

3. Choose one place above to investigate in this packet.

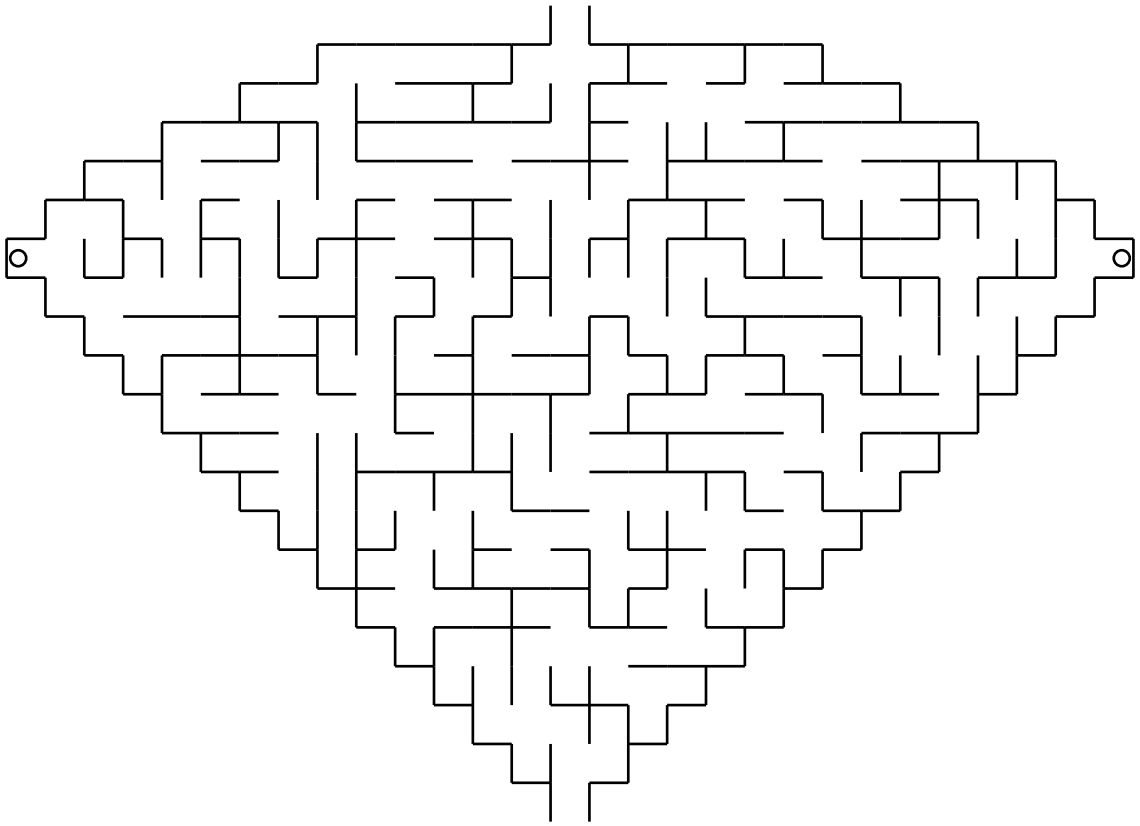
Bring a pencil, crayons and a clipboard. Answers and optional puzzle hints begin on page 45.

SHAPED MAZE | CHALLENGING **AGES 10+**

The long way to center field

Find the one route from START at home to FINISH at center field. Plan several turns ahead. Mark a dead end lightly so you do not investigate it twice.

FINISH / CENTER FIELD



START / HOME

STRUCTURE SERVES A PURPOSE

Both ballparks use a diamond-shaped infield inside a broad outfield. The infield’s four corners organize the bases; the outfield spreads beyond them to give fielders room.

NOTICE AND CONNECT

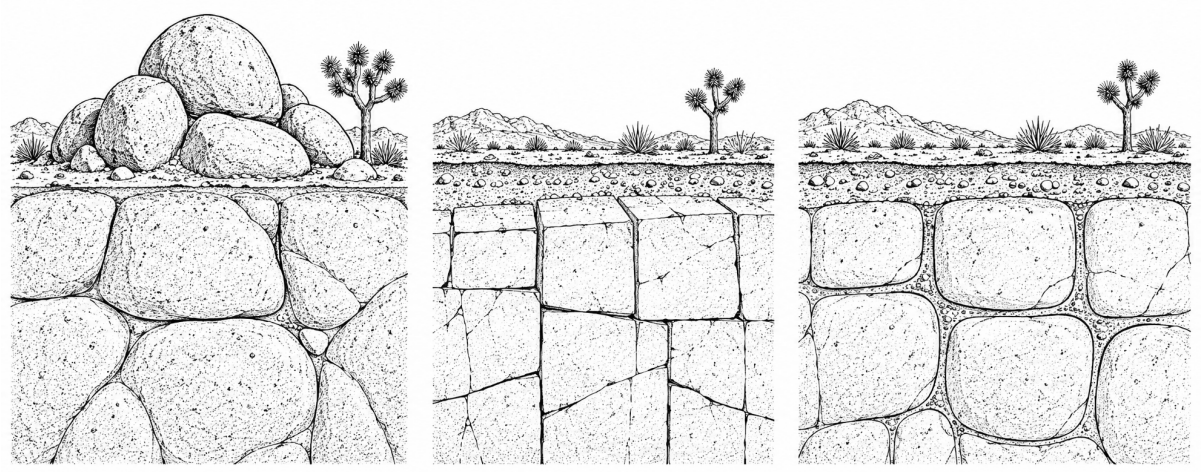
Which route decision fooled you? Explain how you changed your plan rather than testing the same branch again.

ILLUSTRATED SCIENCE MYSTERY **AGES 10+**

The buried boulder mystery

Match three label cards to the three scenes. Cross out the false card. Weathering changes rock in place; erosion carries loosened material away.

1 **2** **3**



A | SCENE _____
Water changes the edges and corners of blocks underground.

B | SCENE _____
Erosion removes material and leaves rounded boulders exposed.

C | SCENE _____
Wind stacks newly formed boulders into piles.

D | SCENE _____
Cracks divide buried granite into blocks.

ONE MORE ROCK CLUE
Granite began as magma that cooled underground. Optional: explain why a boulder can be old even when it has only recently become exposed.

BUILD AND QUESTION A FOOD WEB AGES 10+

Energy in a kelp community

Urchins graze kelp. California sheephead and spiny lobsters eat urchins. Sunflower stars also eat urchins. Food arrows point from a food source to the organism gaining energy.

A. Draw three feeding arrows using the four upper boxes.

KELP

SHEEPHEAD

URCHIN

SPINY LOBSTER

SUNFLOWER STAR

B. Add the feeding link to SUNFLOWER STAR. Say how one prey species can connect several predators.

EVIDENCE OR OVERREACH

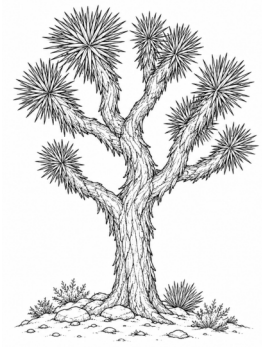
“If urchin numbers change, every other population must change by the same amount.” Does the web prove this? Circle YES or NO. Optional: name another factor that matters.

COMPARE THE CLUES AGES 10+

Branching shapes different lives

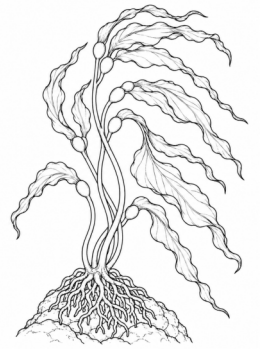
Two living things can share a shape without sharing the same structures. Compare the scenes and use the evidence to solve the puzzle.

A JOSHUA TREE



A yucca with roots and pointed leaves. Moths carry pollen to its flowers.

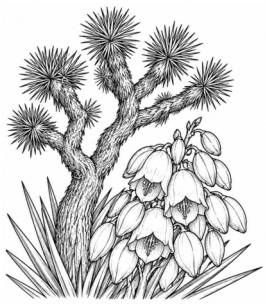
B GIANT KELP

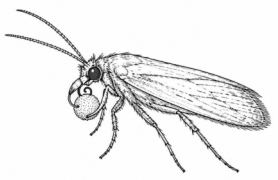


Marine algae with blades and stipes. A holdfast anchors it to rock.

CIRCLE A OR B

1. Which has a holdfast rather than roots? A / B
2. Which depends on a moth carrying pollen? A / B
3. Does a branching shape prove they are close relatives? YES / NO





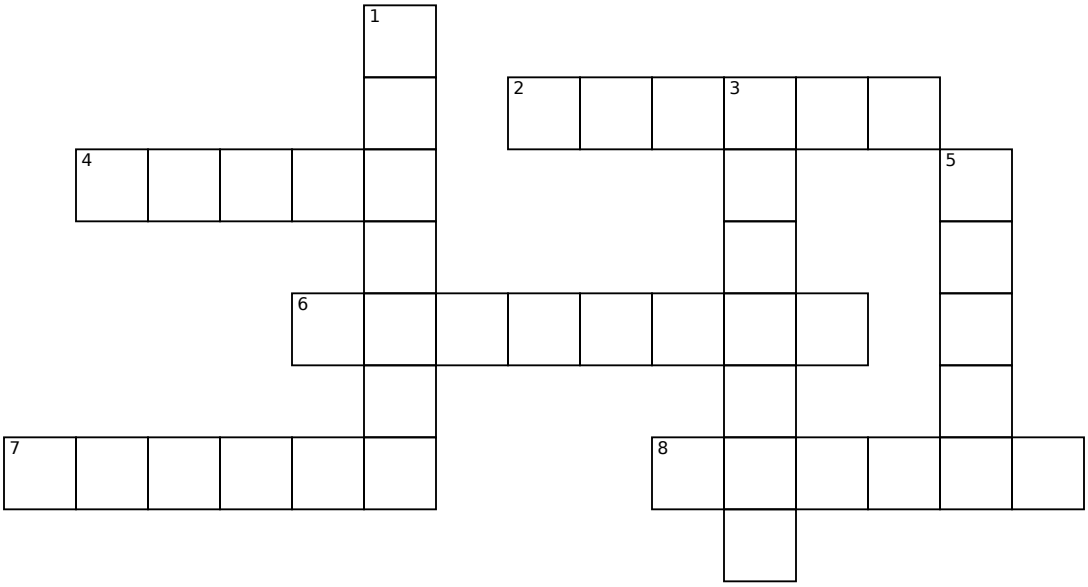
ONE MORE LIVING CONNECTION

Yucca moth larvae eat some developing Joshua tree seeds. The plant gains a pollen carrier; moth young gain food. Circle the supported word: SOME / ALL seeds are eaten.

CROSSWORD | CHALLENGING **AGES 10+**

Wild words connect

Use the clues and the discoveries in this packet. Write one letter in each square. Try the crossings before using the optional hints with the answers.



ACROSS

2. Region with very little precipitation. (6)

4. Plant group that includes the Joshua tree. (5)

6. Kelp anchor that grips a rock. (8)

7. Land surrounded by water. (6)

8. Powder carried between flowers by a yucca moth. (6)

DOWN

1. Nickname for the square baseball infield. (7)

3. Movement that carries loosened rock or soil away. (7)

5. Group of organisms that includes kelp. (5)

Optional hints are with the answers on page 46.

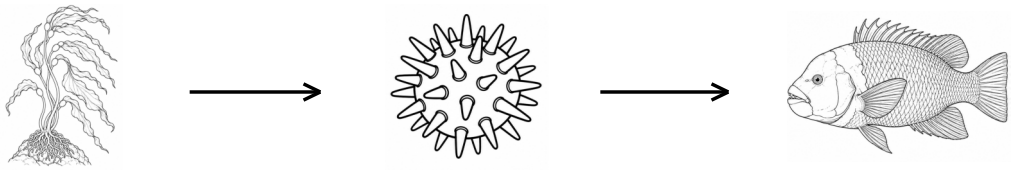
KELP MODEL | MULTI-STEP REASONING **AGES 10+**

A kelp patch changes

Kelp can grow while urchins graze it. This model tracks changing kelp and grazer numbers. Work one round at a time, using each round's result to start the next.

MODEL RULES

Start with 10 kelp units and 5 urchins. Each round: add 6 kelp units; each urchin eats 2. Kelp cannot fall below 0. If fewer than 4 kelp units remain, one urchin leaves before the next round, but at least 1 stays.



KELP **URCHIN** **SHEEPHEAD**

Record kelp after growth, then after grazing, then the next round's urchins.

Round	Urchins now	Kelp + growth	Kelp after food	Next urchins
1	5			
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

B. How many urchins have left by the end of round 6? _____

C. How many MORE rounds until at least 12 kelp units remain? _____

Optional: which real-world influences are missing from this model?

Follow the connections

Arrows can show different kinds of connections. In a food chain, the arrow leads from food to eater. A pollen carrier moves pollen between flowers.

TWO LIVING ROUTES

Energy route: SUNLIGHT → KELP → URCHIN → SHEEPHEAD

Pollination route: FLOWER POLLEN → YUCCA MOTH → ANOTHER FLOWER

1. Which route includes a predator? _____

2. Does every arrow here mean “is eaten by”? Circle YES or NO.

DECODE A DISCOVERY RULE

Each coded letter is three places AFTER its real letter. To read it, move back three. For example, D means A and A means X. Spaces stay in place.

ORRN IRU FRQQHFWLRQV

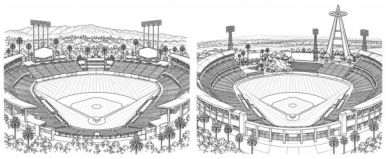
Optional: use the decoded rule to connect two places in this packet.

MATCH EXHIBITS AND LABELS AGES 10+

The museum mix-up

Three regional exhibits lost their labels. Read their evidence, then match each to the best label. These stories connect people, places and change.

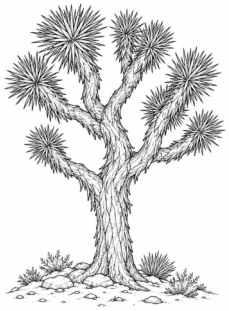
A



DODGERS ANGELS

The Angels played at Dodger Stadium in 1962-1965 before moving to Anaheim.

B



Joshua Tree was a national monument in 1936 and became a national park in 1994.

C



Chumash island connections continue. In 2001, paddlers crossed to Santa Cruz in a traditional tomol.

LABELS

1 Continuing cultural connections
2 Two teams share a ballpark
3 A monument becomes a national park

Exhibit A → label _____ B → label _____ C → label _____

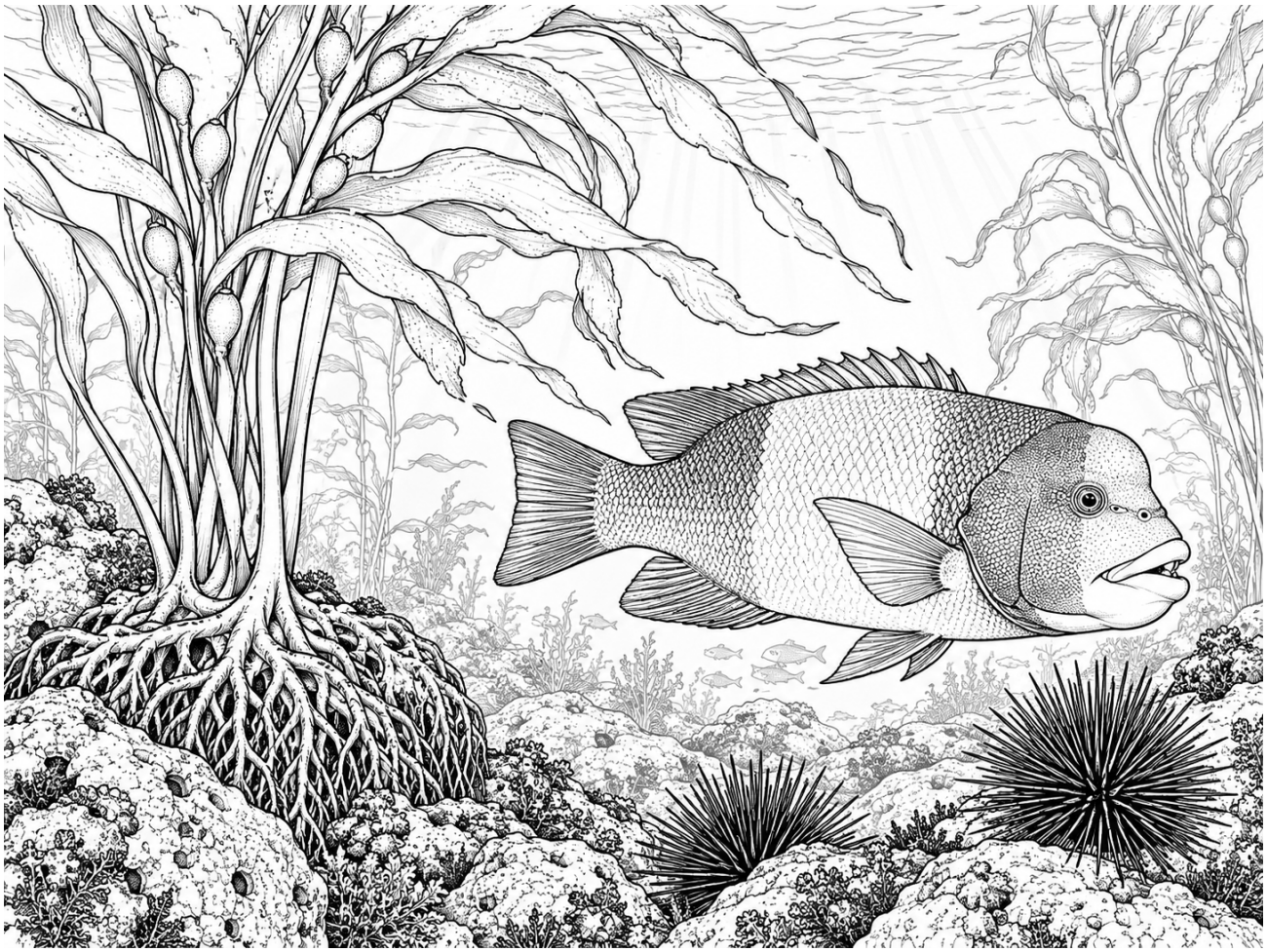
CHOOSE THE MUSEUM HEADLINE

Circle the best fit: EVERY STORY BEGINS WITH A PARK / MANY HISTORIES AND CONTINUING CONNECTIONS

NATURALIST COLOR STUDY **AGES 10+**

A forest held to rock

Color the giant kelp study. Add three labels connecting visible structures to their jobs. Use the information below rather than guessing.



STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION

Holdfast: anchors kelp to rock.
Stipes: flexible stalk-like structures supporting the blades.
Gas floats: help lift blades toward sunlight.

Optional: compare the kelp’s structure with a Joshua tree. Why does an anchor not have to be a root?

FAMILIAR ROAD BREAK AGES 10+

The number rest stop

Place 1-9 in each row, each column and each bold 3 × 3 box. Every number appears once in each. This is a quiet break between Southern California investigations.

7	6			5		3	1	8
3			2				4	9
	4					2		7
		4		8				
			5			1		
			6			4		5
6	2		4			8		
4		9		3	1			6
8	1				6			

A WAY IN

Find a row, column or box with only a few gaps. List the missing digits, then use the crossing row and column to eliminate choices. Use pencil.

Afterward: teach someone one deduction you made without guessing.

SYNTHESIZE AND REMEMBER AGES 10+

Make a discovery worth sharing

Choose a Southern California question you can now explain. Support your answer with two details from this packet, an exhibit or your own observations.

My question

My explanation and two supporting details

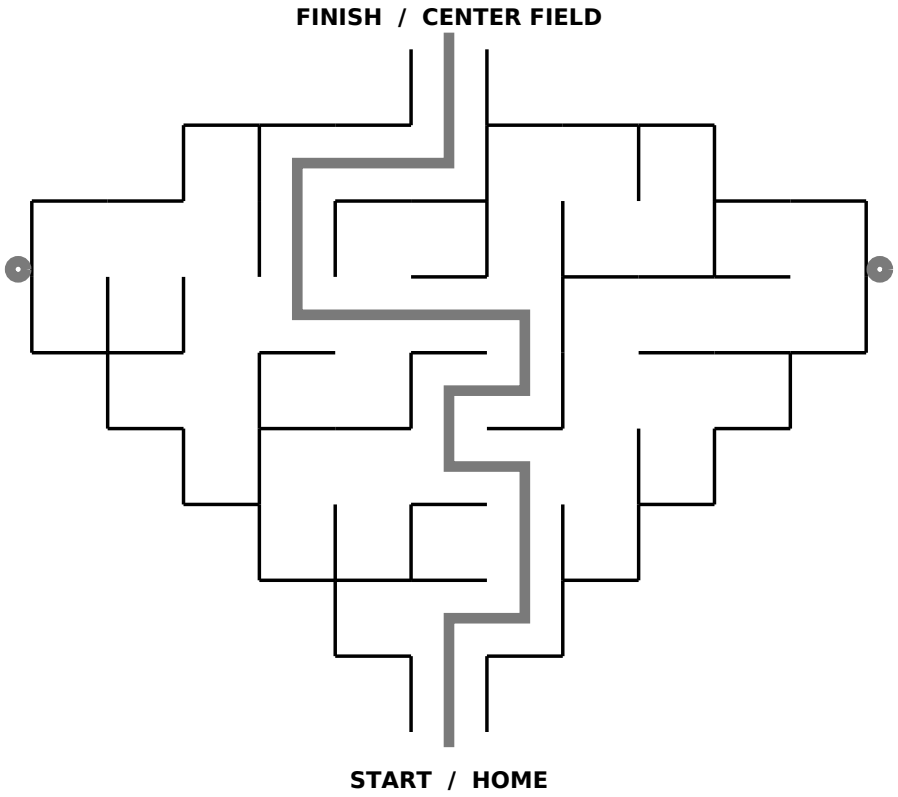
DRAW A MODEL OR DETAIL THAT HELPS EXPLAIN YOUR IDEA

One thing I want my family to remember

Answers and helpful nudges

Give a small hint first, then invite the child to point, say or show the answer.

Page 4 Across the ballpark



Page 3 Four places to meet

Circle the Dodgers dot; star the Channel Islands. Joshua Tree is farthest east. The Angels picture has a ring-shaped halo above the A.

Page 5 A little island neighbor

Nose → smells food; paws → walking. Add three rocks. Colors and personal comparisons may vary. Island foxes occur on three of the five national-park islands.

Page 6 A moth and flower story

Order B, D, A, C. Card numbers: A=3, B=1, C=4, D=2. The moth brings pollen; seeds develop; moth young eat some developing seeds.

ANSWER KEY 2 OF 3 AGES 4-6

Answers to small discoveries

Use each page reference to return to the picture and talk through the answer.

Page 7 Shapes of four places

Ballpark → baseball. Desert → dry place with Joshua trees. Islands → land surrounded by water. Kelp forest → tall algae under water. Draw water around the island and a boat in the water.

Page 8 What is for lunch

Fruit and beetle → island fox. Sea urchin → sheephead. There are three food pictures. Circle the fruit: it comes from a plant. These foods are only part of the animals' diets.

Page 9 Patterns at the ballpark

First pattern: baseball. Second pattern: baseball. Two pairs contain four balls altogether. The repeating units are ball-bat and bat-bat-ball.

Page 10 Islands with a long story

LONG AGO is earliest. Circle TODAY. Care ideas include leaving natural objects in place, keeping food away from wildlife, staying on designated paths and taking litter away.

Answers and family conversations

For open-ended work, look for curiosity and a connection to the place rather than one perfect picture.

Page 11 Build a Dodgers scoreboard

2 + 3 = 5; 4 + 2 = 6; 6 - 1 = 5. Each of the two main video screens has six sides. The child’s score blocks can be simple squares.

Page 12 Under the island waves

Circle three fish and add three bubbles, one per fish. The holdfasts grip the large rock near the bottom. The spiny animal is a sea urchin. Colors may vary.

Page 13 A quiet ride game

Many clues work. “I spy a round shape with stitches” could mean a baseball. Animal clues should connect to a visible feature or a food, such as the fox’s ears or fruit.

Page 14 My Southern California discoveries

Possible words include island, yucca, kelp and holdfast. One explanation might connect a fish’s hiding place with kelp. Invite the child to explain the drawing in their own words.

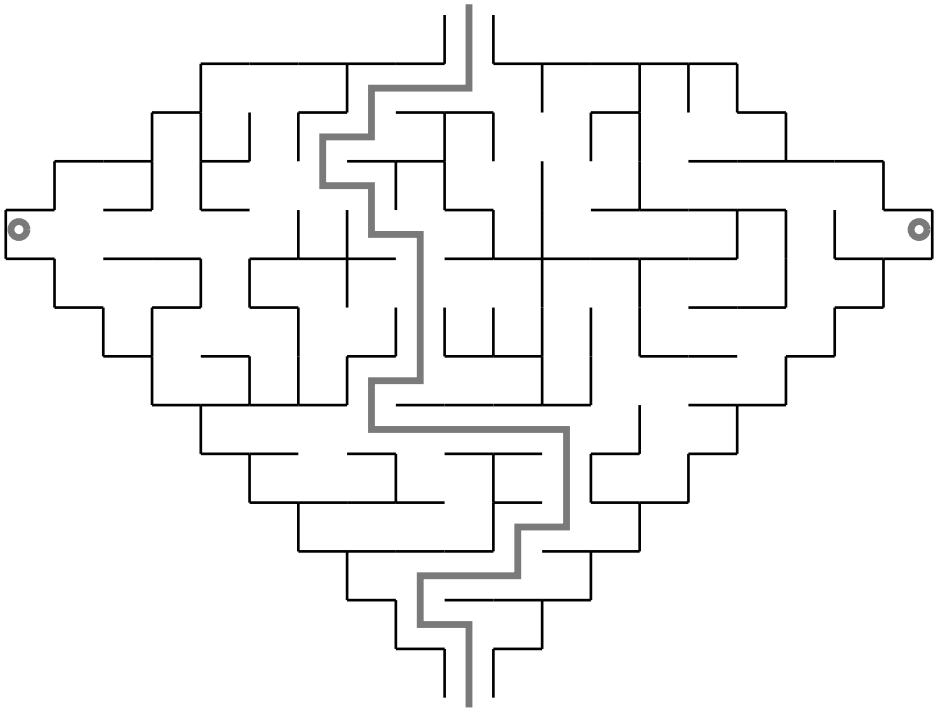
ANSWER KEY 1 OF 3 AGES 7-9

Routes and connected ideas

Try one hint before the answer. In the maze, return to the last unexplored fork.

Page 16 Find the outfield route

FINISH / CENTER FIELD



START / HOME

Page 15 Coast city and desert

1 Joshua Tree. 2 Channel Islands. 3 Southeast. Anaheim lies southeast of Los Angeles.

Page 17 How boulders became round

Order C, D, A, E, B. Magma cools; cracks divide granite; water weathers blocks; erosion removes surrounding material; boulders are exposed. The added arrow should show material moving away.

Page 18 Who gets energy from whom

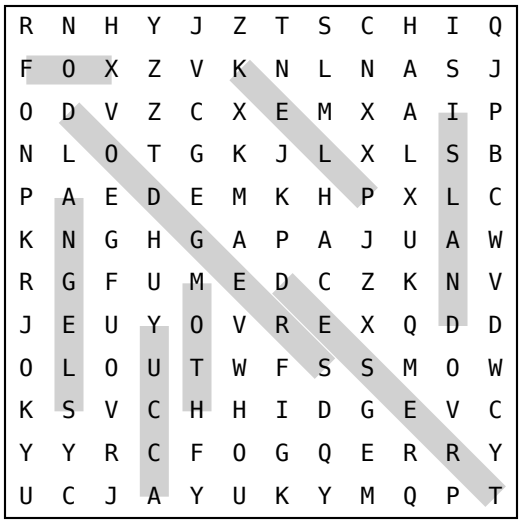
SUNLIGHT → KELP → URCHIN. URCHIN → SHEEPHEAD, SPINY LOBSTER and SUNFLOWER STAR. The three predators share urchins as food. A fish can use kelp as shelter without eating it.

ANSWER KEY 2 OF 3 **AGES 7-9**

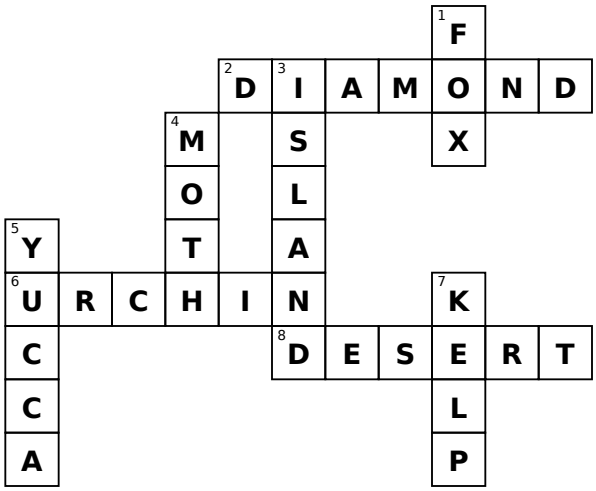
Numbers words and clues

Page 19 Two scorekeepers: Totals are Dodgers 5, Visitors A 4, Angels 4, Visitors B 3. 1 Dodgers by 1. 2 Visitors B led after inning 1; Angels scored in inning 2. 3 Home teams 9; visitors 7. Both games show it: the Angels trailed 0-2 after inning 1 and won 4-3; the Dodgers trailed 2-3 after inning 2 and won 5-4.

Page 20 Hidden words hidden groups



Page 21 Words that explain the region



Page 20 Hidden words hidden groups

Teams: DODGERS, ANGELS. Places: ISLAND, DESERT. Living things: KELP, FOX, YUCCA, MOTH. The yucca and moth help each other reproduce.

Page 22 The missing place labels

A Dodgers; B Channel Islands; C Angels; D Joshua Tree. Clue 3 puts Angels at C. Since A and C are baseball places, A must be Dodgers. Clues 2 and 4 identify B and D.

CROSSWORD CHECK

Every answer uses one letter per square. Crossings agree; the filled grid gives all eight words.

ANSWER KEY 3 OF 3 AGES 7-9

History art and a family game

Open-ended explanations may vary. Ask which detail in the page supports the child’s idea.

Page 23 Dates tell part of a story

1962, 1966, 1994. The openings are 1966 - 1962 = 4 years apart. A history starting in 1962 omits thousands of years of earlier human life, including Indigenous histories and connections.

Page 24 Two kinds of tall

A Joshua tree has pointed tufts on branching limbs and grows on land. Giant kelp has blades and stipes, with a holdfast on rock under water. Many visible differences and thoughtful questions work.

Page 25 Dots and boxes

The board has 6 × 5 = 30 possible small boxes. Scores depend on play. A completed fourth side earns the box and another turn. Equal totals are a tie.

Page 26 My evidence and memories

Look for an explanation connected to evidence. Example: “Erosion exposes boulders because it carries the surrounding material away.” Memories, drawings and further questions vary.

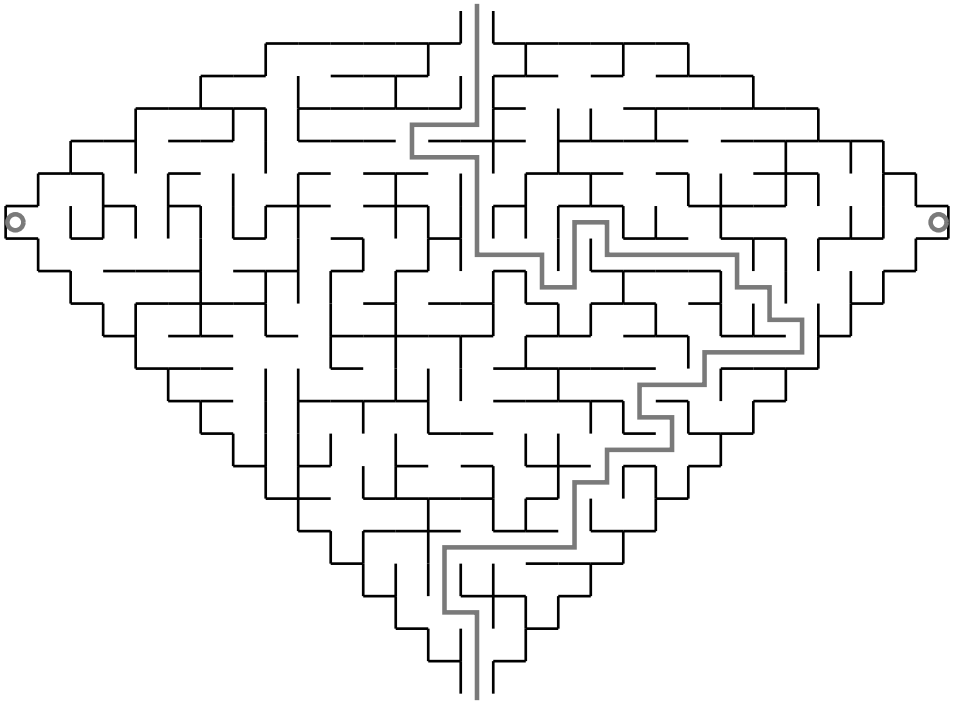
ANSWER KEY 1 OF 3 AGES 10+

Routes evidence and energy

Use these explanations to check the evidence as well as the final answer.

Page 28 The long way to center field

FINISH / CENTER FIELD



START / HOME

Page 27 Read a region of contrasts

1 Joshua Tree. 2 Angels, in Anaheim. The chosen investigation can be any of the four places.

Page 29 The buried boulder mystery

Scene 1 → B; scene 2 → D; scene 3 → A. Cross out C. Water weathered the buried blocks; erosion exposed them. Exposure does not reset the rock’s age.

Page 30 Energy in a kelp community

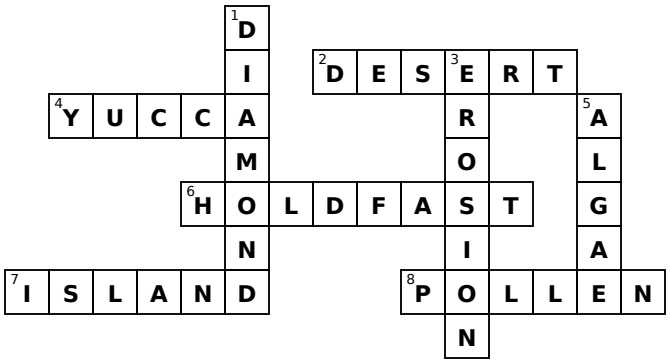
KELP → URCHIN; URCHIN → SHEEPHEAD; URCHIN → SPINY LOBSTER; URCHIN → SUNFLOWER STAR. Circle NO. Growth, other foods, storms, births, deaths and movement may affect populations.

ANSWER KEY 2 OF 3 **AGES 10+**

Numbers words and models

Page 31 Branching shapes different lives: 1 B, giant kelp. 2 A, Joshua tree. 3 NO. A branching shape does not establish close relationship. Circle SOME: larvae eat a portion of developing seeds, not every seed.

Page 32 Wild words connect



Page 33 A kelp patch changes

Rows (urchins now; kelp after growth; kelp after grazing; next urchins):
1: 5; 16; 6; 5
2: 5; 12; 2; 4
3: 4; 8; 0; 3
4: 3; 6; 0; 2
5: 2; 6; 2; 1
6: 1; 8; 6; 1

Page 33 A kelp patch changes

B. Four urchins have left. C. Two more rounds: 10 kelp units remain after round 7 and 14 after round 8. Real growth, movement, other foods, predators and storms could change the outcome.

Page 34 Follow the connections

1 The energy route includes a predator, sheephead. 2 NO: sunlight transfers energy; the pollination route shows pollen transport. Code: LOOK FOR CONNECTIONS. Connections between places can vary.

OPTIONAL CROSSWORD HINTS

1 down starts D; 2 across starts D; 3 down starts E; 4 across starts Y; 5 down starts A; 6 across starts H; 7 across starts I; 8 across starts P. Try clue lengths and crossings first.

ANSWER KEY 3 OF 3 **AGES 10+**

History art and a rest stop

Page 35 The museum mix-up: A → 2; B → 3; C → 1. Circle MANY HISTORIES AND CONTINUING CONNECTIONS. The exhibits connect shared ballpark history, park designation and a continuing cultural relationship.

Page 37 The number rest stop

7	6	2	9	5	4	3	1	8
3	8	1	2	6	7	5	4	9
9	4	5	3	1	8	2	6	7
5	9	4	1	8	3	6	7	2
2	7	6	5	4	9	1	8	3
1	3	8	6	7	2	4	9	5
6	2	7	4	9	5	8	3	1
4	5	9	8	3	1	7	2	6
8	1	3	7	2	6	9	5	4

Page 36 A forest held to rock

Labels: holdfast → anchors to rock; stipes → support blades; gas floats → lift blades toward light. A holdfast is an anchor, not a nutrient-absorbing root.

Page 38 Make a discovery worth sharing

Any accurate explanation with two supporting details works. Example: “Rock can change underground: cracks divide granite, then water weathers edges and corners. Erosion later exposes the rounded boulders.”

A NOTE ON THE HISTORY DISCUSSION

Opening and designation dates are only part of a place’s history. Encourage questions about whose experience is represented, and connect earlier events with relationships that continue.

FOR THE GROWN-UPS FAMILY GUIDE

Before you head outside

Use the book on the drive, at a safe stop or after your visit. Save drawing and writing for places where your child can sit comfortably and notice their surroundings.

TWO BALLPARKS

Check the team, venue, ticket date, entry rules and permitted bags. Children can spot a familiar field shape or try a simple scorecard. Keep sightlines and walkways clear.

DESERT AND ISLAND DAYS

Use current park guidance for heat, water, weather, transportation, closures and walking plans. Keep children close near water, cliffs and roads. Do not approach or feed wildlife.

HELP WITHOUT GIVING IT AWAY

Read one direction at a time. Ask what the child notices; invite pointing or speaking instead of writing. Offer one hint, then time to try. Ages are guides, not tests.

Official trip planning

https://www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/index.htm

https://www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/index.htm

https://www.mlb.com/dodgers/ballpark

https://www.mlb.com/angels/ballpark

Each child packet has 12 activities, 3 answer pages and these 3 shared pages. Supplies: pencil, crayons and clipboard. Passenger play only; keep the driver free to concentrate.

Sources for curious families

These primary sources support the facts in the activities. The editable source package includes the detailed fact and puzzle-verification records.

Joshua trees yuccas and the moth partnership
https://www.nps.gov/jotr/learn/nature/jtrees.htm

Joshua Tree granite weathering and erosion
https://www.nps.gov/jotr/learn/nature/geologicformations.htm

Desert habitats
https://www.nps.gov/jotr/learn/nature/deserts.htm

The five national park islands
https://www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/placestogo.htm

Island fox distribution and foods
https://www.nps.gov/chis/learn/nature/island-fox.htm

Kelp forests and urchin predators
https://www.nps.gov/chis/learn/nature/kelp-forests.htm

Holdfasts and gas floats
https://www.nps.gov/subjects/oceans/kelp-forests.htm

Kelp forest structure | NOAA
https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/visit/ecosystems/kelpdesc.html

California sheephead | Monterey Bay Aquarium
https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals-the-ocean/animals-a-to-z/california-sheephead

Sources checked October 27, 2026. National Park Service unless another publisher is named. Practice scores and model rules are supplied within the activities.

Sources for curious families

These primary sources support the facts in the activities. The editable source package includes the detailed fact and puzzle-verification records.

Dodger Stadium opening and history | MLB
https://www.mlb.com/dodgers/ballpark/information/history

Six-sided main video screens | MLB
https://www.mlb.com/dodgers/ballpark/information/dodgervision

Angel Stadium history | MLB
https://www.mlb.com/angels/ballpark/history

Angels and their ballparks | MLB
https://www.mlb.com/angels/history/ballparks

Shared ballpark years | MLB
https://www.mlb.com/angels/history/timeline

Baseball field layout | MLB
https://www.mlb.com/glossary/rules/field-dimensions

Joshua Tree history and park designation
https://www.nps.gov/jotr/learn/historyculture/parkhistory.htm

Island peoples and tomol travel
https://www.nps.gov/chis/learn/historyculture/people.htm

Park designation and renewed tomol crossing
https://www.nps.gov/chis/learn/historyculture/park-timeline.htm

A long regional human history
https://www.nps.gov/chis/learn/historyculture/index.htm

The Big A and its halo | Angels media guide
https://angelsmediaguide.com/files/basic-html/page398.html

Sources checked October 27, 2026. National Park Service unless another publisher is named. Practice scores and model rules are supplied within the activities.