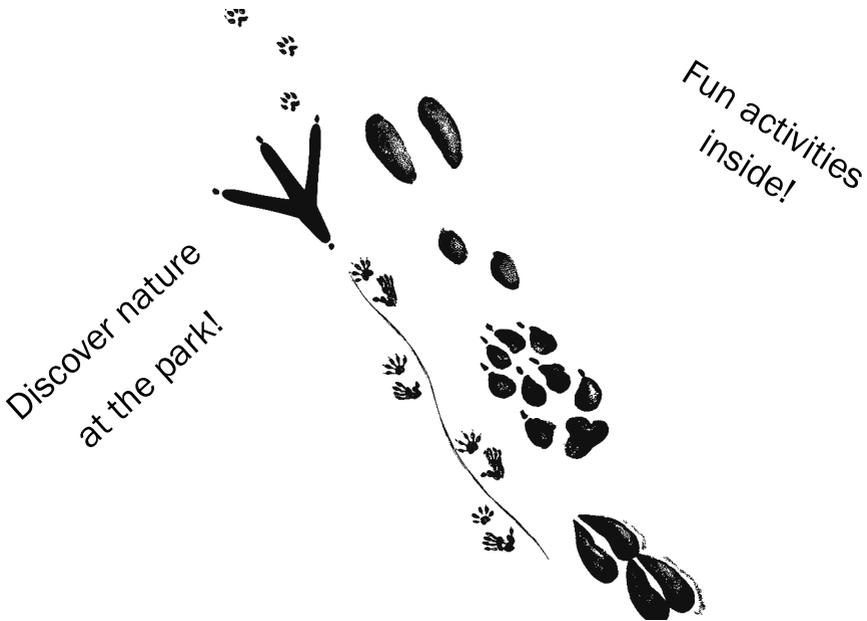




# EXPLORING NATURE

Kids' Activity Booklet

Michigan State Parks



**BECOME A**  
**JUNIOR NATURE EXPLORER**  
**TODAY!**



# Welcome to Michigan State Parks!

The **Michigan State Park Explorer Program** works to connect you to the many unique features of nature here at the park.

Although guided programs are currently not being offered, this activity booklet is a great companion for you during your visit to the park. Whether you are here for the afternoon or you are camping for the week, the wide range of activities will enhance your experience at the park.

Parents, we strongly encourage you to engage in these activities with your children and experience the joys of nature exploration along with them.

You can find updates on the Explorer Program by visiting our webpage at **[Michigan.gov/NaturePrograms](http://Michigan.gov/NaturePrograms)**.

## **Junior Ranger Pledge**

*I will respect all living things.*

*I will keep our State Parks  
clean and safe.*

*I will look for and appreciate  
the beauty of nature.*

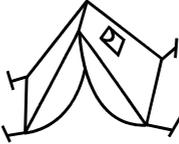
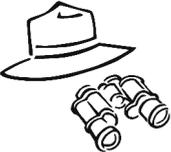




GET ACTIVE!

# Park Bingo

Can you score a BINGO by doing these things at the park? You can win by completing activities to get four in a row (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal), or by completing the four corners. Each “bingo” will count for one page done!

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Hike a Trail</p>                         | <p>Fly a kite</p>                        | <p>Create a sand castle</p>  | <p>Pick up litter from a campsite or picnic area - and throw it out!</p>  |
| <p>Go for a bike ride</p>                   | <p>Play a game outside</p>               | <p>Go Fishing</p>            | <p>Rent a rowboat, canoe, or kayak</p>                                    |
| <p>Find poison ivy (don't touch it!)</p>  | <p>Go swimming</p>                     | <p>Camp overnight</p>      | <p>Picnic outside for a meal</p>                                        |
| <p>Meet a Park Ranger</p>                 | <p>Recycle all the waste you have</p>  | <p>Identify a tree</p>     | <p>Watch a sunset or sunrise</p>                                        |

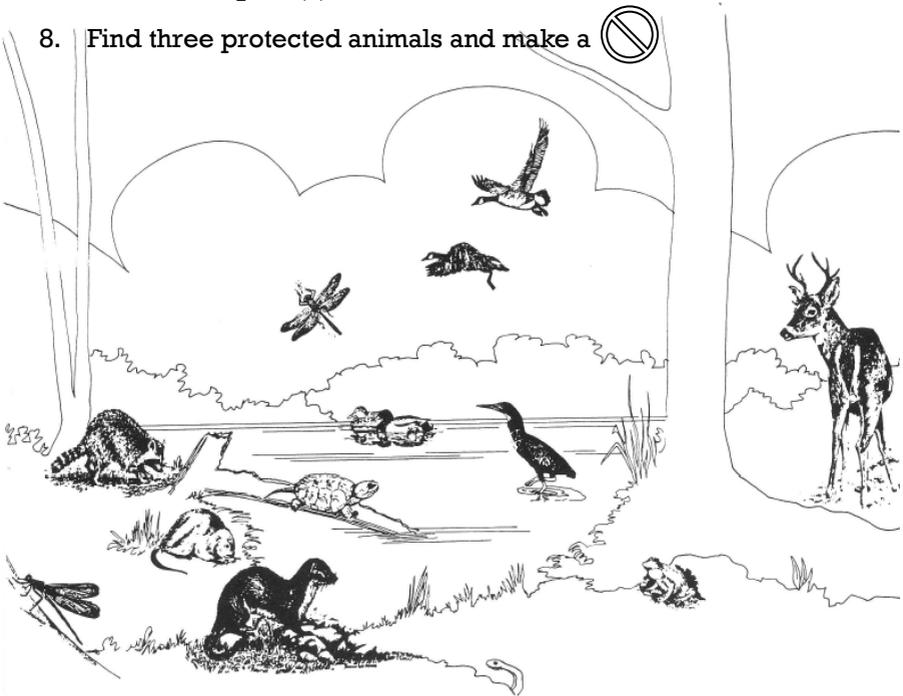


# HABITAT SEARCH

## Wildlife Search & Find

Follow the directions to complete this activity.  
How many can you find?

1. Draw a  around three omnivores.
2. Find one carnivore and mark it with a .
3. Draw a  around two herbivores.
4. Color the **mammals** ORANGE.
5. Find the **amphibian** and color it GREEN.
6. Shade **insects** RED.
7. Color the **reptile(s)** BLUE and the **birds** YELLOW.
8. Find three protected animals and make a .





# NIGHTWATCH



## Nocturnal Naturalist

Michigan has some beautiful parks, both during the daytime and at night. Many insects and animals are active mostly at night; they are called **nocturnal**. Take a look around the park after sunset and see what critters you can find! Circle the names of animals and insects you spot or hear!



Raccoon



Firefly (Lightning Bug)



Cricket



Coyote



Red Fox



Opossum



Frog



Moth



Spider



Owl



Skunk



Deer  
(look for them around sunset)



Brown Bat



# DESIGN A BIRD

## Frankenstein with Feathers!

Birds have many adaptations for the type of lives they have. Species look different from one another depending upon their diet & habitat. Use the ideas below to design your own bird on the next page. Write a few sentences describing the adaptations of your "Frankenbird". Don't forget to draw your bird's habitat too!

### Beaks



*For tearing meat*



*For pulling worms*



*For eating plants under-water*



*For cracking seeds*



*For spearing fish*



### Feet



*To snatch prey*



*For perching*



*For swimming*



*For walking around*

### Feathers



*For flight*



*To keep warm*



*To attract a mate*

### Body Shape & Wings

*Streamlined for flying fast*

*Small and fat for staying warm*

*Midsized with strong muscles for migration*

### Coloring

*Brightly colored to attract a mate (often the male is more brightly colored)*

*Neutral colors to blend in with its habitat*

**Describe your bird's adaptations here:**

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# TRACKS & TRAILS

## Be an Animal Detective!

During your stay at the park, look for tracks left by animals on the ground. Sketch one of the tracks in the box below and answer the questions.

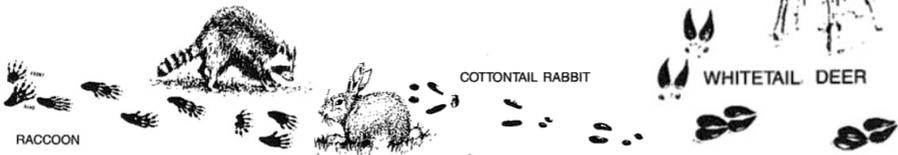


Where did you find the track?

What was the ground like? Soil? Mud? Snow?

Did you see any other signs that the animal was there? Fur? Scat?

Did you see the animal?



RACCOON

COTTONTAIL RABBIT

WHITETAIL DEER



TAKE A HIKE



# Beautiful Poetry from a Beautiful Hike

Go for a hike through one of the trails at the park with your family. Make sure you pack a map and plenty of water for the hike. During your hike, look around at the land. What is it like? Are there forests, meadows, swamps, or a lake? What animals do you see or hear? What do the trees look and smell like?

Write a poem about your hike when you are finished. Below are forms for an acrostic poem and a haiku. Choose one or both, or make one up

**Acrostic Poem:** Write one word about your hike that starts with each letter.

H \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_

K \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

**Haiku:** Choose one thing from your hike to write about. Create this three-line poem with five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third.

\_\_\_\_\_ (5)

\_\_\_\_\_ (7)

\_\_\_\_\_ (5)



MEET YOUR STATE

# Michigan Features

How much do you know about the dynamic state of Michigan? Follow the directions below to complete the map on the next page.

Michigan is divided into two parts: the Upper and Lower Peninsulas. **Color or outline** them with two different colors.

➡ **What is a peninsula?** \_\_\_\_\_

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Where are you from? **Draw** a HOUSE to mark your hometown.

Can you find this state park on the map? **Draw YOURSELF** to mark the park's location on the map.

The capital of Michigan is marked on the map with a star. **Write** the name of our capital next to the star.

➡ **Who is our Governor?** \_\_\_\_\_

Detroit is called the Motor City Capital. **Draw** a CAR on the map where Detroit is located.

Agriculture is very important to Michigan's economy. For example, western Michigan is known for its fruit, Northern Michigan is famous for potatoes, and corn is grown in Central Michigan. Traverse City's nickname is the "Cherry Capital". **Draw** a CHERRY on the map to mark Traverse City.

➡ **What other crops are grown in Michigan?** \_\_\_\_\_

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The Upper Peninsula is famous for forestry and mining. **Decorate** the UP with some green TREES and **draw** a PENNY on the "rabbit's ear" of the UP to symbolize the mining industry.

One of Michigan's national parks is on Isle Royale, which is actually closer to Minnesota and Ontario than it is to Michigan. You can go backpacking there in the summer! **Draw** a MOOSE and a WOLF over Isle Royale for these two species that call the island home.

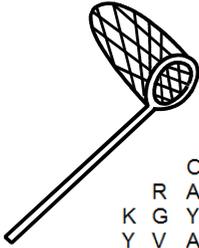




# WORD FIND

## Michigander Fish

The State Park Explorer Program offers **free fishing programs** at many state parks throughout the summer months. Are you ready to go fishing? How well can you recognize different species of fish? Complete the word search below of fish common to Michigan. For a **bonus point**, circle the names of the fish you see during your stay here at the park!



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

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Bluegill

Salmon

Walleye

Lake Sturgeon

Smallmouth Bass

Whitefish

Largemouth Bass

Smelt

Yellow Perch

Muskellunge

Steelhead

Northern Pike

Trout



Q&A



## Conduct an Interview

Find a DNR employee and tell us how you were able to recognize him or her as a worker for the State of Michigan. Introduce yourself and ask the questions below to get to know the employee and his/her role here at the park.

### Before the Interview:

Where did you find the DNR employee?

### Interview Questions:

What is your name?

What is your job at the DNR? What kinds of things do you do for the DNR?

What is your favorite animal here at the park?

Could you recommend something special to do or see during my visit?

Think of your own question and write it here!

Q:

A:



Thank you for visiting Michigan state parks!  
Hope to see you again soon!

For updates on the Explorer Program, visit  
[Michigan.gov/NaturePrograms](https://Michigan.gov/NaturePrograms)

For more information on the DNR or our state parks, visit  
[Michigan.gov/DNR](https://Michigan.gov/DNR)

