



East Bay   
Regional Park District

# Junior Ranger Activity Book

## Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve



Photo: Nurturing Yoga

**Activities • Exploration • Games • Puzzles • Plants • Animals • Historic Fun**

## Dear Future Junior Ranger,

Welcome to **your** regional park!

We hope you will enjoy the activities in this Junior Ranger book (*some are easy, others harder*). After you have completed and checked off **four or more** activities, bring this book to the Visitor Center to take the **Junior Ranger promise** and be awarded your **prize**.

Good Luck!

– Black Diamond Mines Staff –



## Stay Safe on the Trails

There are so many neat places to go at Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve.

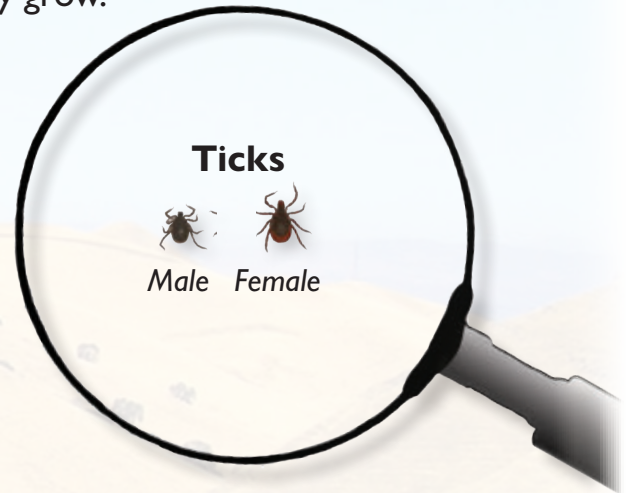


Here are some important tips to help you stay safe while you explore.

- **Stay on the trails** – Trails are meant to keep people safe when in nature. Going off trails can expose you to things like ticks and can damage the park.
- **Keep your hands and feet where you can see them** – Don't reach up on top of a rock ledge where a snake may be sunbathing or put your hands inside a hole in the ground where an animal may be hiding.
- **Leaves of three, let it be! – Poison Oak** is a plant that is harmless to wildlife but causes most people to develop an itchy rash. Avoid walking through dense brush where poison oak may grow.
- **Be prepared** – Bring a park map, plenty of water, and sunscreen and/or a hat.

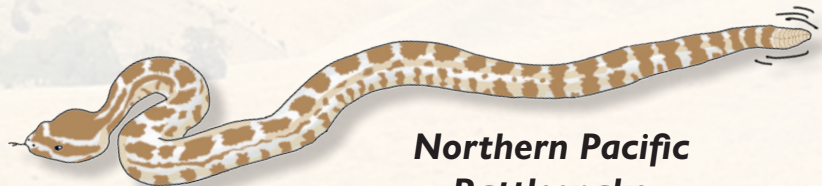


**Poison Oak**



**Ticks**

Male Female



**Northern Pacific  
Rattlesnake**



# Activity #1: Black Diamond Bingo

Rangers help care for many special things. How many of these things can you find?



Get 3 in a row to become a well-fed rattlesnake.

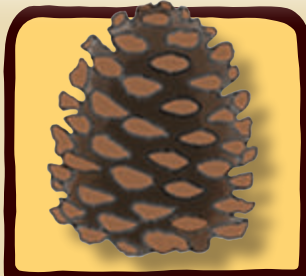


Find 5 spots to join the clever coyote pack.

Spot all 8 to show your owl-like sight.



Oak Tree



Pine Cone



Bird



Rock



Free



Ground Squirrel



Coal



Park Ranger

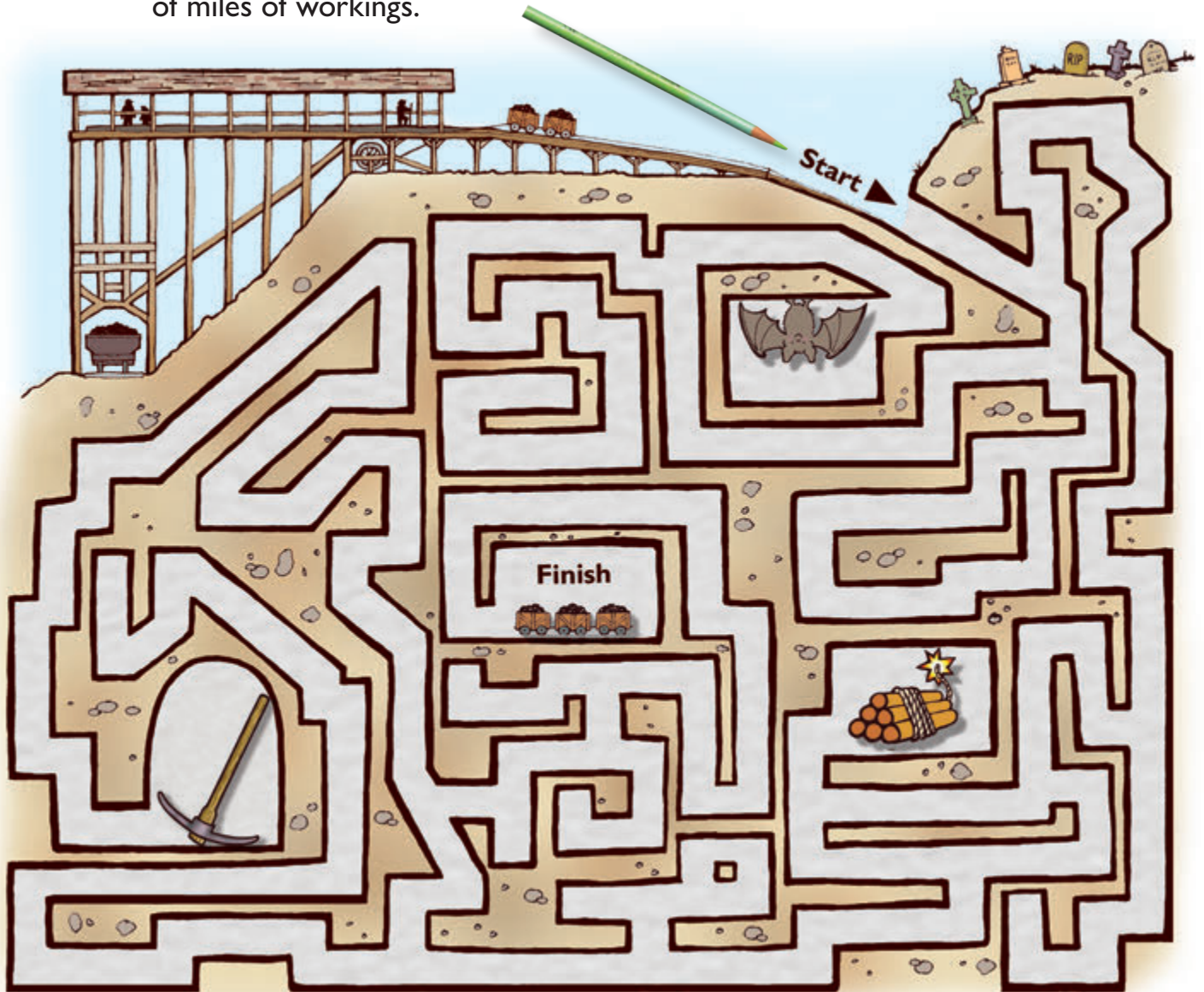


Acorn



## Activity #2: Find Your Way Through the Mine!

Coal was mined here from the 1850s to the early 1900s and was used as fuel to heat homes and power steam engines. Boys as young as eight, called **knobbers**, worked in the mines along with men. These mines had hundreds of miles of workings.



### Activity #3: Draw a Picture, Write a Poem, or Share a Story About Your Favorite Thing at Black Diamond



For many people in the 1800s, Black Diamond was a difficult and dangerous place to work, especially for kids.

Now it's a park where people come to walk, ride, learn and play.

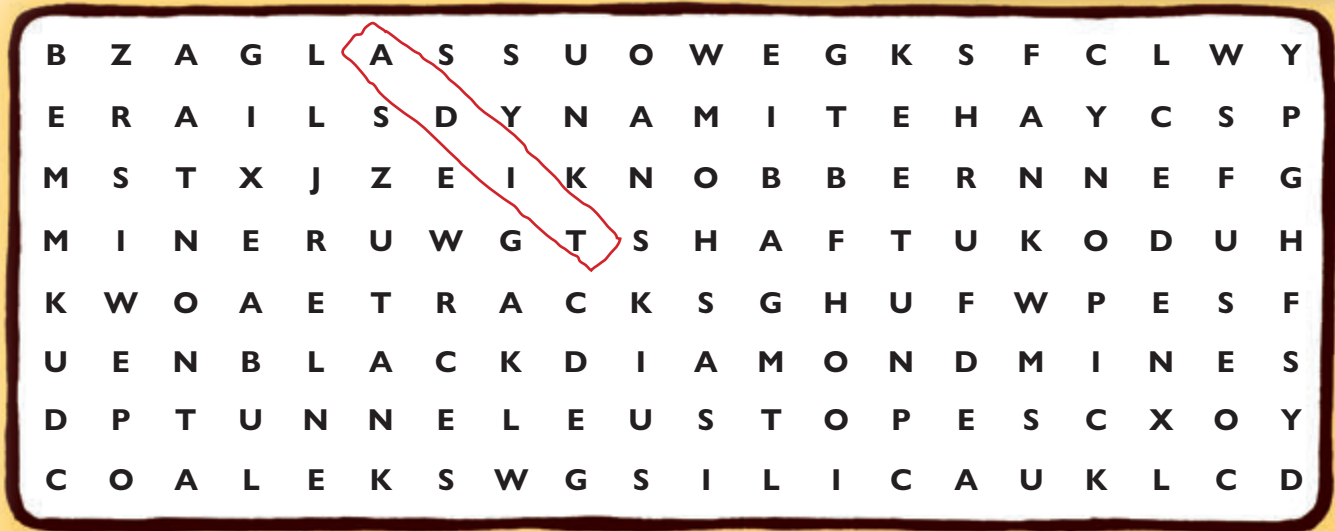
Find a quiet place to write or draw and describe your favorite thing about Black Diamond today.



A large, empty rectangular box with a thick orange border, intended for drawing or writing.

## Activity #4: Blast Your Way Through a Mining Word Find

Years after the coal mines closed a new kind of mining began... sandstone. The sandstone mined here from the 1920s to the 1940s was made into glass at a factory in Oakland.



Learn more about the park's mining history by **CIRCLING** each of the words below in the word search above. Words may go forward, backward, down, up, or diagonally.

- ADIT: a horizontal tunnel that leads into a mine
- BLACK DIAMOND MINES
- COAL: a sedimentary rock that can be burned as fuel
- DYNAMITE: an explosive used in sand mining
- FUSE: a cord that ignites dynamite
- GLASS: the product made from mined silica sand
- KNOBBER: a boy apprentice who helped the miners
- MINER: a person who digs for valuable materials
- PICK: a heavy tool used to break up soil or rock
- SAND: a granular material that is finer than gravel and coarser than silt
- SHAFT: a vertical tunnel that leads into a mine
- SILICA: the raw material that is used to make glass
- STOPE: an underground room where sand was mined
- TRACKS: the rails and ties used by the mine carts
- RAILS: bars of steel or wood used as track for a mine cart's wheels
- TUNNEL: a long, narrow, underground passage used for mine access and ventilation

Our rangers always say, ***"If you can't grow it, it probably came from a mine!"***





## Activity #5: Sense the Chaparral



A unique community of plants live on the hills beyond (south of) the end of the park road. This plant community is called “chaparral.” Chaparral plants are often shrubby and grow in places with dry summers and wet winters. You can see these plants on the trails around the Hazel-Atlas and Greathouse Portals.

**Search for ONE or MORE things in the park (flower, berry, litter, etc.) that fit each description below and then write about or draw a picture of what you find.**



Crunchy

Smelly (good or bad)

Hard

Brown

Fuzzy

Green

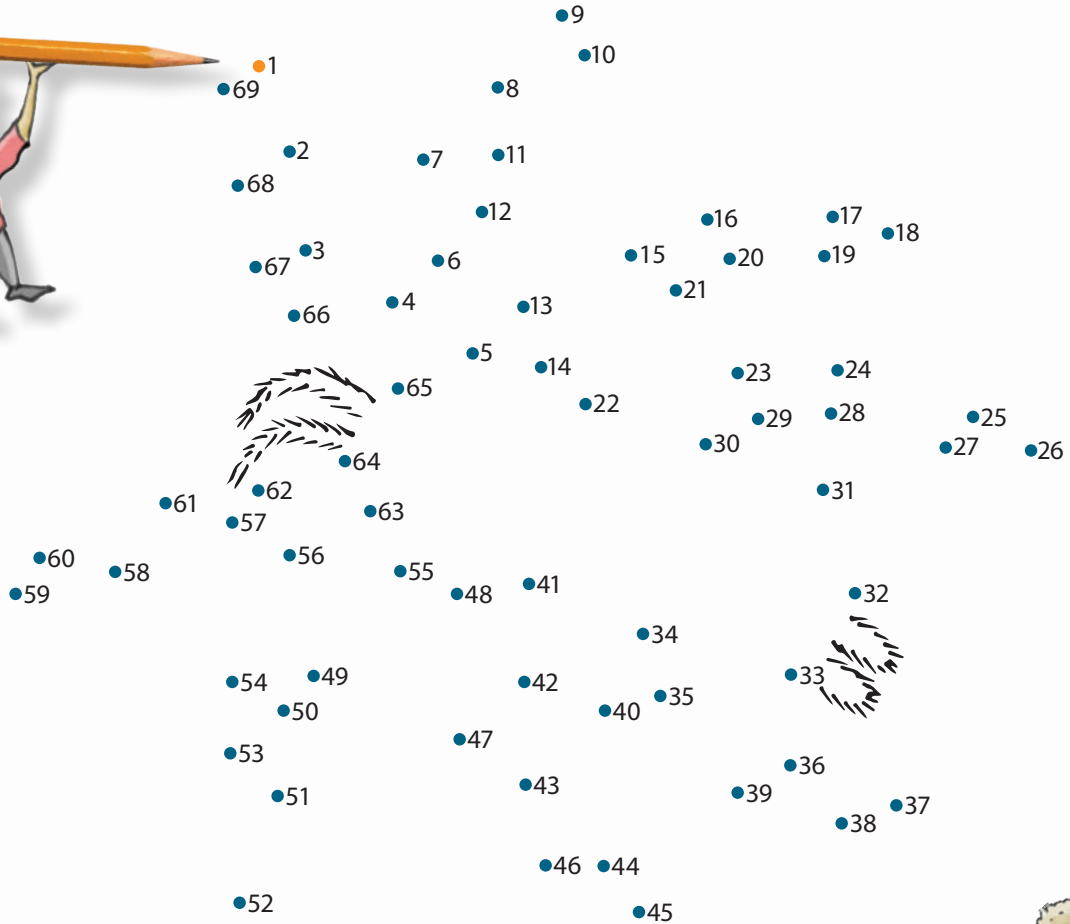


# Activity #6: Connect the Dots and Guess What's Hiding Here

## Hints:

- You might see me in the fall.
- I live underground.

- I prefer to come out at night.
- I have 8 eyes and 8 legs.



*I might look like a bug but I am actually a . . . t \_ r \_ n \_ u \_ a*





## Activity #7: Then and Now

Take a look at this picture of students who attended school in Nortonville in the late 1800s. Can you see that there are more girls than boys? Why do you think this might be?



***Nortonville School, around 1880.***

## As a Junior Ranger,

I, \_\_\_\_\_, promise to protect and preserve the plants, animals, and history of Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve. I will share what I have learned about the park with others and will continue to explore and protect this park and the environment around me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Your Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Black Diamond Staff*

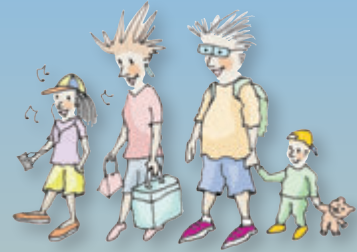


**Pittsburg Mine workers including two knobbers.  
Somerville, about 1900.**

# East Bay



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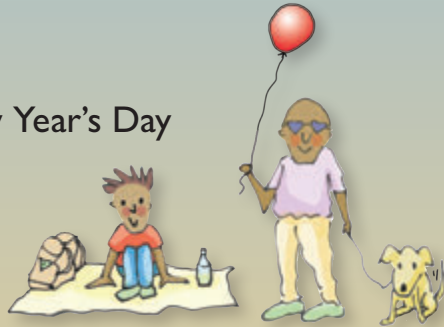


## Greathouse Visitor Center

Fridays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Weekends 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Closed on Christmas and New Year's Day



## To Learn More...

- Join us for a naturalist-led program or continue to explore the park with your family!
- Explore one of our Visitor Centers
- Talk to park staff
- Visit [ebparks.org/parks/black\\_diamond](http://ebparks.org/parks/black_diamond)

**Adults:** Get news about naturalist programs and events by following “Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve” on Facebook or by signing up for the EBRPD monthly e-newsletter at [ebparks.org](http://ebparks.org).



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