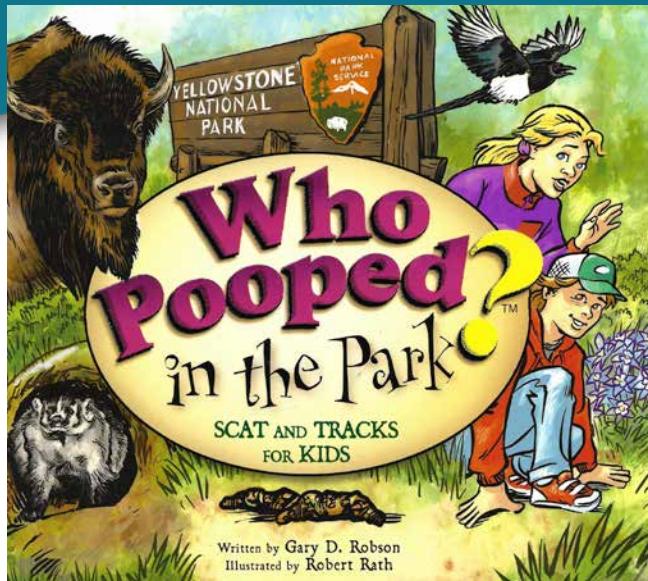


Who Pooped in the Park?

Yellowstone National Park Edition

Parent/Teacher Idea Book

by Gary D. Robson

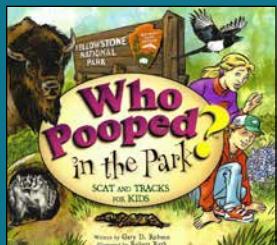


This parent/teacher idea book is designed for parents and teachers of children in kindergarten through fifth grade. It offers activities to help teachers integrate *Who Pooped in the Park* across their curricula and to provide parents more ways to interact with children when reading the book. You can adapt each activity to fit the needs and abilities of your own children.

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Making a Book

Author

What does an author do?

Authors write the text in books, and generally they're the ones that come up with the ideas. If a book has more than one author, they are all called "co-authors."

DISCUSS: Which one of the animals in *Who Pooped in the Park* would you want to write a book about?

About Gary Robson

Gary lives in Montana, not too terribly far from Yellowstone National Park. He has written 20 books in the *Who Pooped in the Park* series, and ten books for adults. His other books are about things like tea, magic, television for deaf people, and history. He used to run the Yellowstone Wildlife Sanctuary, helping to care for animals like the ones in this book, and he owned a bookstore for many years.



Illustrator

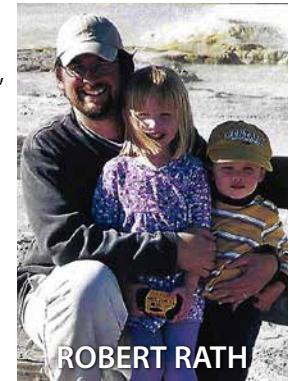
What does an illustrator do?

Illustrators make the pictures for a book and often design the cover as well. They may draw, paint, take pictures with a camera, or more commonly these days, use a computer.

DISCUSS: What would you use if you were an illustrator? Crayons? Colored pencils? Paint? A computer or tablet? Why?

About Robert Rath

Robert is a book designer, illustrator, and teacher living in Bozeman, Montana. In addition to Farcountry Press, he's worked with Scholastic Books, Lucasfilm, and the History Channel. His favorite project is keeping up with his family.



Publisher

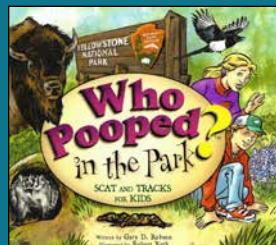
What does a publisher do?

Publishers take what the authors and illustrators make and turn it into a book. They print the books, sell them, and put them in different formats, like hardcover, softcover, and e-books.

About Farcountry Press

Farcountry Press is a book publisher in Helena, the capital of Montana. They publish a lot of color photography books and illustrated picture books. Most of them are about our country's national parks, cities, states, and wildlife. Farcountry Press has been around since 1980.

DISCUSS: What subject would you want to publish books about?



Parts of a Book

Front Cover

The front of a book has the book's title and the names of the author and illustrator. Book covers need to be exciting, so people will want to pick up the book and read it.

Back Cover

The back cover tells people more about the book. This helps people decide whether it's a book they want to read or not. It usually has a special code to tell the computer at a store which book it is and how much it costs.

Spine

The spine is the part of a book that shows when it's sitting on a shelf. Because it's so skinny, not much fits on it.

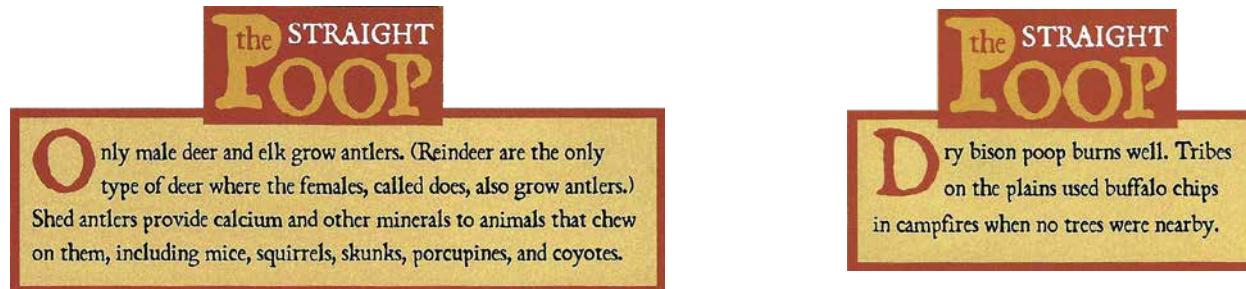


Copyright Page

This page tells you all about the book. Who owns it, who printed it, and its "ISBN": a number that lets libraries and bookstores find it easily. The dedication may go here, too, like the ones to Gary's wife and Rob's kids in this book.

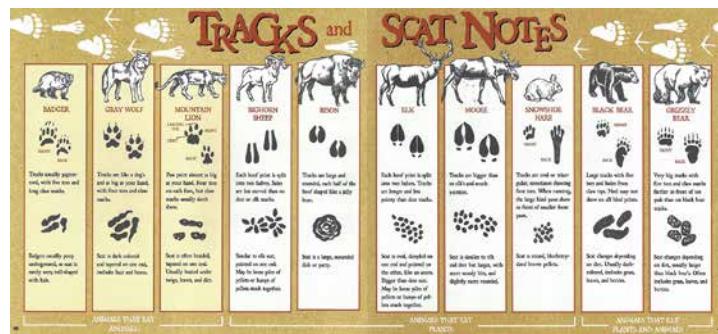
Sidebars

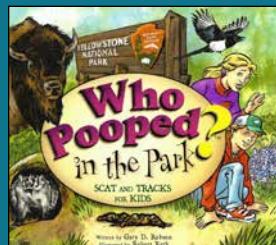
The sidebars in a book tell you things that aren't part of the story. In this book, they give you the "straight poop" about a lot of things.



Track & Scat Notes

Some books have extra goodies at the back. In this one, it's something you can use when you're out hiking to see what kind of animals left tracks and scat.



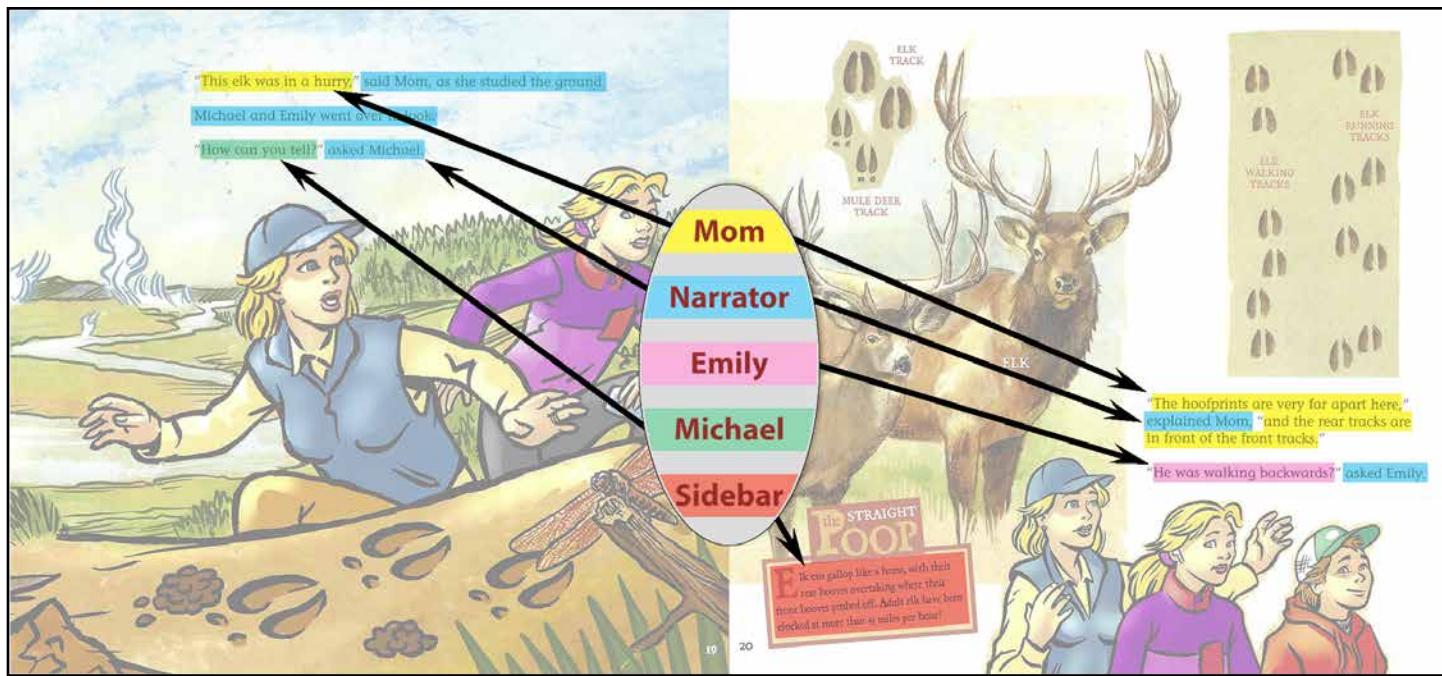


Language Arts — English

Reading / Speaking

Picture books are supposed to be read aloud. As a classroom activity, read the Yellowstone edition of *Who Pooped in the Park* together as you would in an audio podcast or radio show. Assign each child a role, and explain which parts they'll be reading. Since there aren't any pictures on the radio or an audio podcast, try adding description roles, including improvisation. Possible roles are:

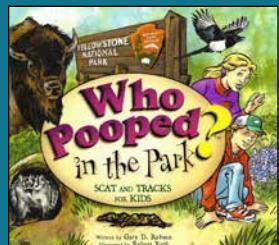
- Characters: Emily, Michael, Mom, and Dad. Encourage students to talk the way they think the characters would talk instead using their regular speaking voices.
- Narrator: Any words in the regular text that aren't spoken by one of the characters.
- Sidebars: Text in a separate box in a different font.
- Audio Description: This is an extra audio track for blind people that's included in many TV shows. The audio description person tells people who can't see what's going on, without talking over the dialog.
- Sound Effects: Here's a great role for kids who improvise! Have them make sounds that fit the page and help describe what's going on. For more fun, have several students share this role and make sounds together.



On these two pages, the main speaking roles (except Dad) are highlighted. The sound effects person could make galloping elk sounds, or try to imitate an elk call. The audio description person would describe what the pictures look like. Decide in advance in what order they'll do the sidebar, sound effects, and audio description.

DISCUSS: Is it more fun to read the book or have a role where you improvise, like the sound effects?

DISCUSS: Are there any other ways that you could help a blind person enjoy a book?



Language Arts — English

Writing

Vocabulary

Have each student pick out four new words from the book that they didn't know before they read it. If they can't come up with four new words, either assign them some or have them pick from a list. Some of the words that might be new to the students are:

Scat	Bison	Dew claws	Stotting
Pronking	Habitat	Tracks	Retracted
Grizzled	Mucous	Nutrition	Shed

Once they have their four words, have younger children write a sentence and older children write a paragraph or a story that uses those words.

DISCUSS: Some people don't like the word "poop." What makes some words more polite than others? The cover also uses the word "scat." Is that a better word? Are there other words that aren't improper or offensive, like feces, dung, poo, excrement, manure, or stool?

Writing Activity

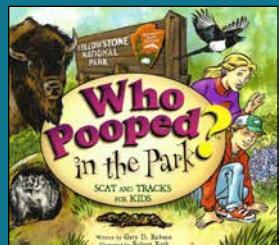
Some authors write poetry instead of prose. Many children's picture authors use rhyme and rhythm to make their books more interesting for early readers.

Have students pick a page from *Who Pooped in the Park* and rewrite it so it rhymes. For more advanced students, have it use consistent cadence as well.

DISCUSS: Are rhyming books "just for little kids?" Why do so many adults like poetry?

Other Language Arts Activities

Pages 8 and 9 of this idea book have a crossword puzzle and a word search. Pick the one most suited to the children's abilities, or pick both! Print out a copy of the activity page for each student, or have them work in groups to make it easier. There's an answer key at the back of this Idea Book.



Science / Ecology

Studying Poop

Poop is gross, right? Why would any scientist want to study it? Here are a few reasons. See if the kids can think of others.

- 🐾 Looking at scat tells you a lot about the animal's diet and overall health
- 🐾 When tracking animals, it's often easier to gauge the age of a scat sample than a set of tracks
- 🐾 Examining scat helps in tracking parasites and some diseases

Wolves

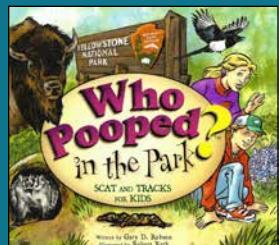
Have the students think of a fairy tale, fable, or folk tale that has a wolf in it. Is the wolf a good guy or a bad guy? In most old stories, the wolf is a bad guy: the Big Bad Wolf! Think of The Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood, The Boy Who Cried Wolf, or the Wolf in Sheep's Clothing.

Wolves are the ancestors of every domesticated dog breed — even chihuahuas! Humans never domesticated foxes, coyotes, jackals, or African wild dogs, but the descendants of wolves became man's best friend. Humans fear wolves. There have been government-sponsored programs to eradicate wolves for as long as the United States has been a country.

The reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park in 1995 was very controversial. Even today, any wolf that leaves the safety of the Park may be shot on sight by ranchers. In the Park, though, wolves fill an important role in keeping elk populations under control, and they have a huge effect on the whole ecosystem.

DISCUSS: What positive effects could wolves have on Yellowstone Park?





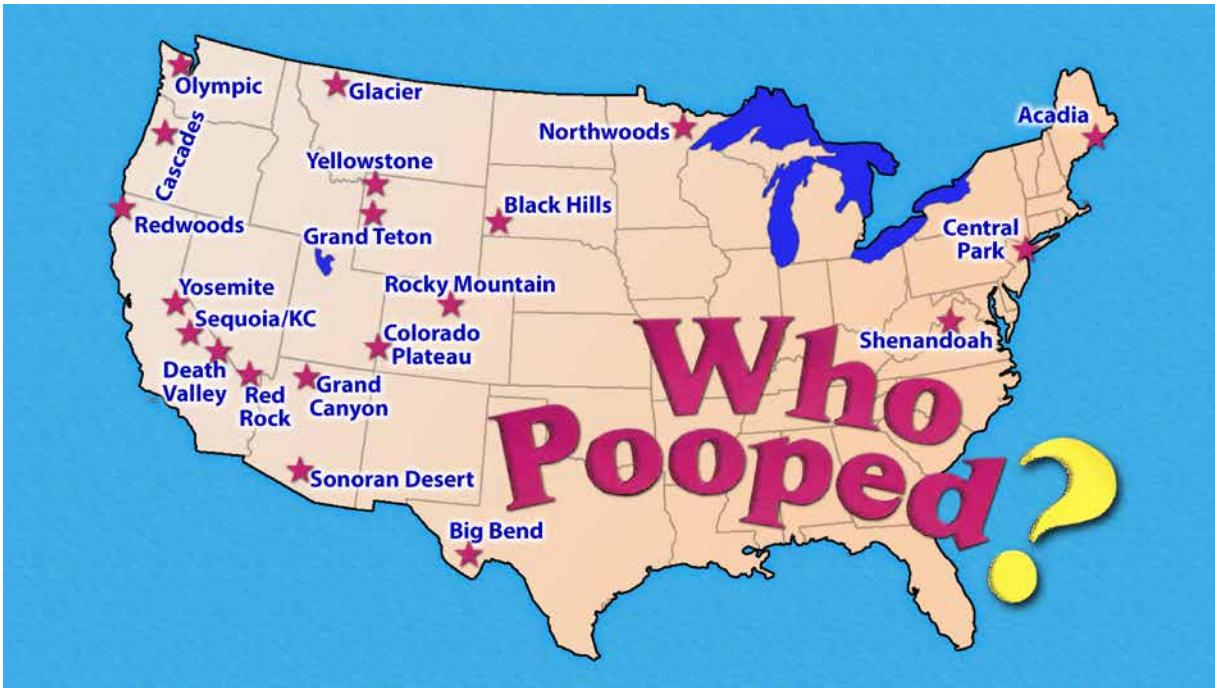
Geography

National Parks

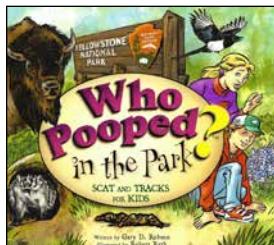
Most of Yellowstone is in the northwest corner of Wyoming, but parts of the park are in Montana and Idaho, too. Yellowstone was the first National Park, but it's far from being the only one! In the U.S., there are 63 national parks. Most of the *Who Pooped in the Park* books are set in national parks like Yellowstone, Olympic, Acadia, Yosemite, and Big Bend. In addition to those parks, there are national monuments, national forests, and national conservation areas. And don't forget state parks (like Redwoods) and city parks (like New York City's Central Park)!

Some of the books cover more than one park, like the Cascades book, and some cover ecosystems, like the Northwoods book.

DISCUSS: Are there any national parks near you? How about different kinds of parks, forests, monuments, and other fun places to hang out in nature?



This map shows where the *Who Pooped in the Park* books are set. Some, like the Cascades book, cover ecosystems rather than specific parks or monuments.



ACTIVITY

Yellowstone Animal Word Search

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

Find these 14 Yellowstone animals in the big grid of letters. They may go sideways, up and down, or even diagonally, and some of them overlap each other. It's a lot easier to find the animals in the grid than in the park!

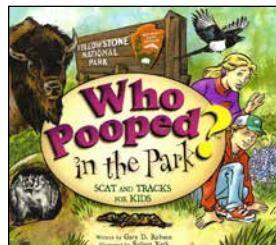
Badger
Deer
Horse
Raccoon

Bison
Eagle
Marmot
Wolf

Chipmunk
Elk
Moose

Cougar
Grizzly
Rabbit

Did you notice that "cougar" is on this list, but isn't in the book? That's because it's a cat with many names. In the book, it's called a mountain lion, but different people in America have different names for it. They may call it a cougar, catamount, panther, painter, or puma.



ACTIVITY

Yellowstone Crossword



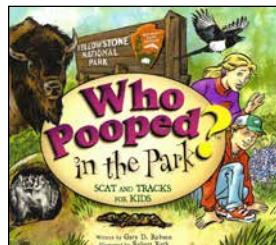
Across

1. The biggest animal in Yellowstone National Park
4. What Michael needed when they got to the park
8. Where badgers usually poop
10. Little claws behind a deer's hooves
11. Related to rabbits: snowshoe _____
12. Michael's bunny

Down

2. What scientists and trackers call poop
3. The largest member of the deer family
5. The only female deer that grow antlers
6. Bison once ranged from _____ to Mexico
7. The kind of close encounter Dad says they'll have
9. The type of bear that Michael is afraid of
13. The national park where this is all happening

Where do you find all these answers? In the book, of course!
Don't just look at the main story. Check the sidebars and the rest of the book, too!



ACTIVITY

Can you find all of these in the book? Check all the pages — even the covers! Some of the pictures in the book are pretty small, so you'll have to search carefully. If you find all of them, you're a really good seeker!



Raven

Ravens are big black birds related to crows. They can be found all over the park, often begging for food.



Tipis

A tipi—sometimes spelled teepee—is what many of the plains tribes used as homes, since they're easy to move.



Dragonfly

These fast-moving insects are hunters, eating other insects. They only live a few weeks after becoming adults.



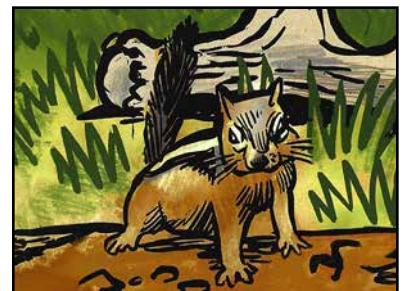
Cape Buffalo

What is this guy doing in a book about Yellowstone? You'll need to find him and read the page. There's a water buffalo, too!



Old Faithful Inn

The inn by the famous Old Faithful geyser is one of the biggest and tallest log cabins in the world!



Chipmunk

Chipmunks are little rodents—members of the squirrel family. They're tiny and move very fast. Don't feed them!



Mountain Bluebird

Mountain bluebirds are a type of thrush. They are the state bird of Idaho, a state that holds part of Yellowstone Park on the west.



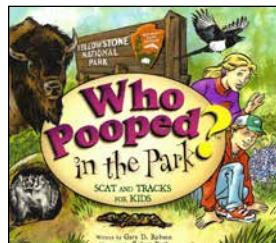
Badger

Badgers like to dig, and they're really good at it. After you find this badger picture, find the one hiding in the hole he dug.



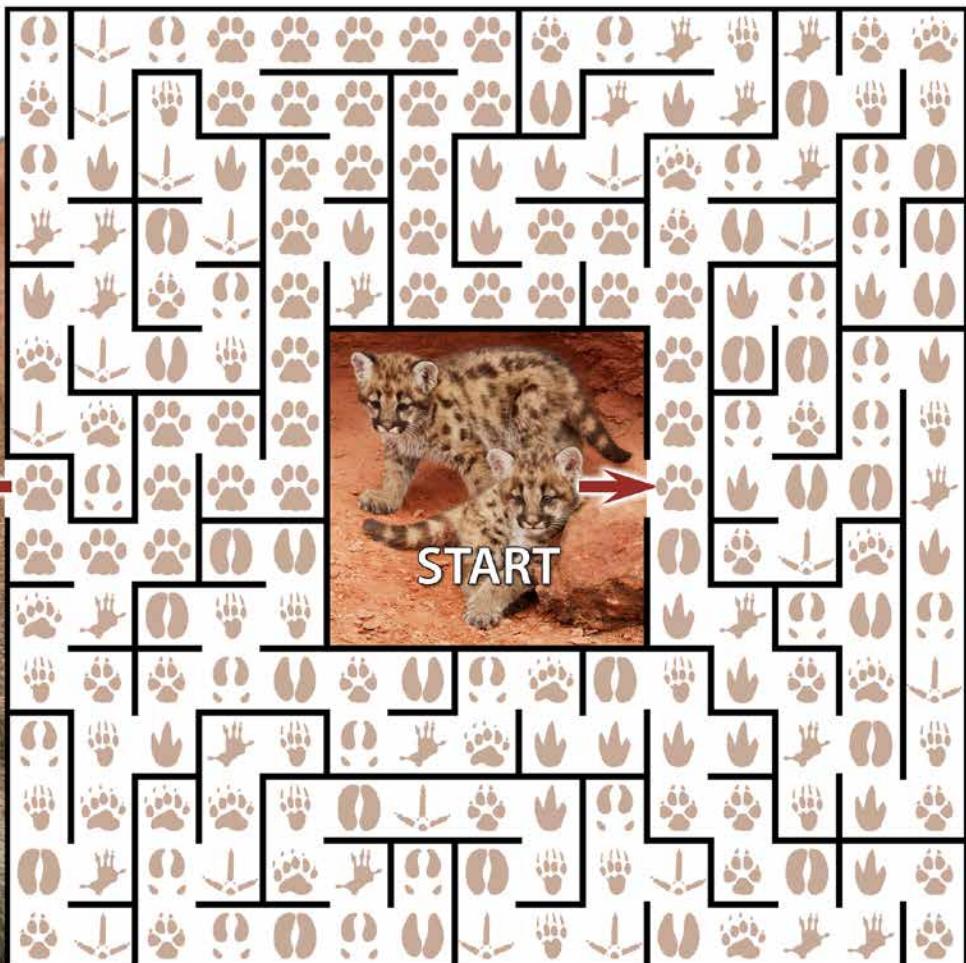
Magpie

These smart, long-tailed birds have feathers that look black, but in the sun they shine in blues & greens.



ACTIVITY

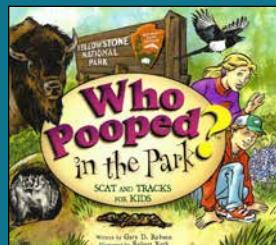
Help the Kittens Find Their Mother



Baby mountain lions are called kittens, just like baby housecats. When they're young, mountain lion kittens have spots to help them hide better. These babies are definitely too small to be all alone.

Help the kittens follow their mother's tracks through the maze to find her. There are a lot of tracks that aren't from mountain lions, so make sure not to follow those or the kittens will end up trapped in a corner somewhere!

Mountain lion kittens usually stay with their mother until they're two years old. She teaches them to hunt and take care of themselves, and then sends them away to find somewhere else to live. Mountain lions don't like sharing their space!



Activity Answer Keys

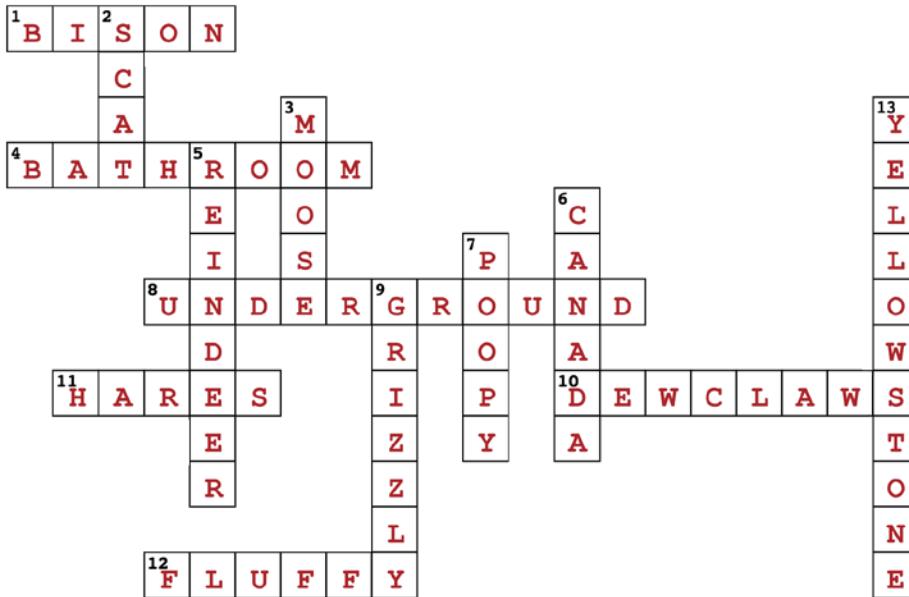
Yellowstone Animal Word Search

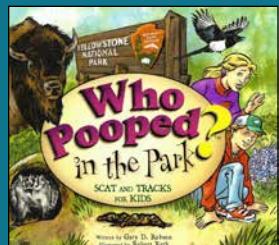


Can You Find...

- Badger – page 33
- Cape Buffalo – page 11
- Chipmunk – page 18
- Dragonfly – page 19
- Magpie – page 2
- Mountain Bluebird – page 39
- Old Faithful Inn – page 44
- Raven – page 7
- Tipi – page 10

Yellowstone Crossword Puzzle





Activity Answer Keys

Help the Kittens Find Their Mother

