

★ CASTNER RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT ★



THE FRONTERA LAND ALLIANCE

JUNIOR EXPLORER





TREASURE HUNT

Get ready for an amazing adventure in Castner Range National Monument! Here's how you can discover hidden treasures and complete your Junior Explorer's Treasure Hunt.

See if you can find these 5 items:



1. **Colorful Desert Wildflowers:** Keep your eyes peeled for vibrant wildflowers blooming along the trails and hillsides of Castner Range. How many different colors of wildflowers can you find? Make a list of the flower colors observed on your walk then mark it off on your treasure hunt checklist.



2. **Smooth Desert Rocks:** Search the landscape for smooth, weathered rocks scattered along or near the trail in Castner Range. Once you find one, give it a gentle touch to feel its texture. How do you think the rock became so smooth? Write your answer down and then mark it off your treasure hunt checklist.



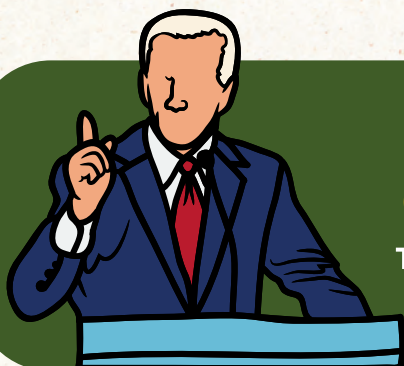
3. **Desert Animal Tracks:** Look closely at the sandy trails and arroyo washes for signs of desert wildlife. These can be tracks, feathers, hair or even poop! When you discover one of these signs, can you tell if it was a mammal, bird, reptile, or insect that left its mark? Note your determination on your treasure hunt checklist.



4. **Fragments Of Minerals In Rocks:** Many of the rocks in Castner Range are made up of various minerals. Find a rock with interesting patterns and describe the patterns, colors and any sparkling minerals you can see. Then mark it off on your treasure hunt checklist.



5. **Desert Plant Specimens:** Explore the diversity of desert vegetation found in Castner Range. Find a littleleaf sumac, soap tree yucca, or honey mesquite. Study it up close and make a drawing of its flower, leaf or fruit. Then mark it off your treasure hunt checklist.



**DID YOU KNOW PRESIDENT BIDEN MADE
CASTNER RANGE A NATIONAL MONUMENT?**

**THIS IS SUCH AN AMAZING THING FOR OUR WILDLIFE PRESERVES IN
TEXAS AND AROUND THE COUNTRY!**

FESTIVAL OF POPPIES

CASTNER RANGE THROWS THE BIGGEST POPPY PARTY

Every spring, something super cool happens around the El Paso Museum of Archaeology and the twisty, turny trails of Castner Range. It's like the Earth decides to throw a giant, wildflower extravaganza, and the bright yellow Mexican golden poppy is the star!

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW A STORY MAP OF
CASTNER RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT



The whole place transforms into a dazzling wonderland, and guess what? You're invited to the party! It's not just any party—it's a nature party where the poppies are the stars of the show, lighting up Northeast El Paso with their golden glow.

LET'S GO ON A POPPY PHOTO ADVENTURE!

- **Find the Poppies:** When spring comes and the poppies bloom, visit Castner Range with your family.
- **Snap a Pic:** Take a fun photo with the poppies. You can pose, jump, or even make funny faces!
- **Share Your Adventure:** With help from a grown-up, post your photo on social media and tag us!
- **Remember:** Be gentle with the flowers and stay on the paths to keep the poppies happy and healthy.



Use **#CastnerRangePoppyPhoto** so everyone can see your cool picture!



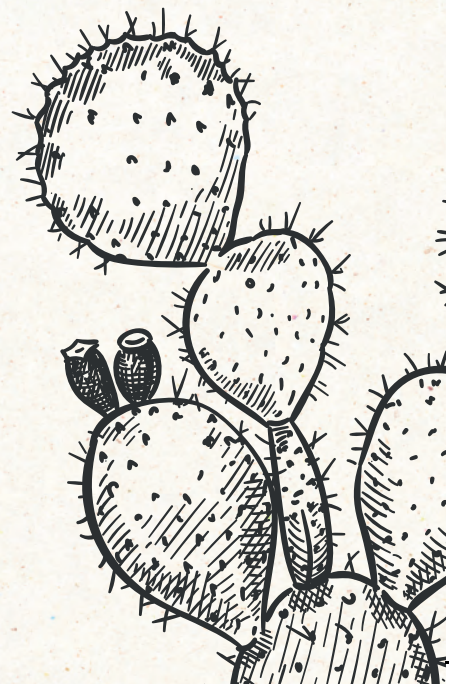
CASTNER MYSTERY



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

FIND THE WORDS:

- POPPY
- RANGE
- ELPASO
- NATURE
- HIKE
- FLOWERS
- DESERT
- SUN



ADVENTURE DOODLES

USE YOUR IMAGINATION

Hey young explorers! Grab something to draw with and let's go on an adventure. Imagine you're visiting Castner Range 100's of years ago. Think about what the land looked like. The mountains touching the sky, colorful wildflowers waving hello, and who would have lived here and how did they live. Draw a picture of what you think this magical place looked like then and now. Remember, there's no right or wrong in art, so let your creativity lead the way!



THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT

A Gigantic Desert Where Cacti Bloom and Animals Play,
Stretching All the Way from Texas to Mexico!



EXPLORER JOURNAL ENTRY

Read the journal entry about Castner Range National Monument, then answer the three questions based on the details in the entry.

Our journey to Castner Range was an adventure filled with awe. The Franklin Mountains greeted us as we ventured into the heart of the desert. We were captivated by the sight of Mexican Gold Poppies, their vibrant yellow blooms a testament to the desert's resilience.

We encountered quick roadrunners and delicate hummingbirds, each adding a layer of excitement to our exploration. But what truly fascinated us were the historical remnants scattered across the range, telling tales of ancient inhabitants and past military exercises. It felt like walking through a living museum, where every step revealed another chapter of the land's rich story.

As the day ended with a spectacular desert sunset, we left Castner Range feeling inspired and grateful for our time in nature. This outdoor adventure wasn't just a walk through nature but a journey through time, leaving us eager to return and uncover more of its secrets.

- Junior Explorer

Questions:

1. What flowers did explorers see at Castner Range?
2. Which birds were spotted during the exploration?
3. Why was Castner Range like a living museum?

JUNIOR EXPLORER PROGRAM



**WANT TO CONTINUE
YOUR ADVENTURE?**



This booklet is just the beginning of an exciting journey of discovery. It's one of five booklets that make up The Frontera Land Alliance's Junior Explorer Program, each one filled with fun, learning, and adventure at different nature preserves in the El Paso area. There's so much more for you to explore and learn!

Scan the QR code below to learn more about the Junior Explorer Program. The Frontera Land Alliance invites you to continue your journey of exploration and discovery. Each one opens the door to new wonders, from the ancient history of our lands to the diverse ecosystems that thrive in our preserves.



CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING THE JUNIOR EXPLORER BOOKLET!

Scan the QR code to receive your Digital Certificate from The Frontera Land Alliance. We're proud to officially call you a **Junior Explorer!**



YOU DID IT!

Write your name here.

Journey through Castner Range National Monument with our Junior Explorer booklet! It's packed with cool challenges and awesome facts that'll help you explore the desert like never before. From spotting speedy roadrunners to admiring the bright yellow poppy flowers, every page is full of surprises and adventures waiting just for you. Join us as we uncover ancient secrets, learn about desert creatures, and earn your very own Junior Explorer Certificate. Get set for a wild ride through Castner Range – the ultimate place for curious explorers like you!

Indigenous people used plants for food, shelter, medicine, ceremonies, and clothing. Many of the Chihuahuan Desert plants had multiple uses. Such as the soap tree yucca. The flower pods can be boiled or roasted like a potato. The leaf fibers were used for the fabrication of rope, matting, sandals, baskets, or coarse cloth. The roots were chopped and boiled to produce soap to wash hair, blankets, and rugs.

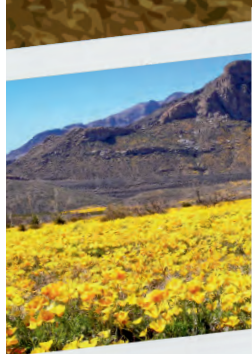


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