

**THUNDER CANYON NATURE PRESERVE**

**THE FRONTERA LAND ALLIANCE**

# **JUNIOR EXPLORER**



the  
**FRONTERA  
LAND  
ALLIANCE**



# PLANT QUEST

## Attention, Junior Explorers!

Join our exciting quest to find the Lechuguilla Agave, a super sneaky desert plant. It likes to hide underground, but you can spot its twisty leaves above the sand.

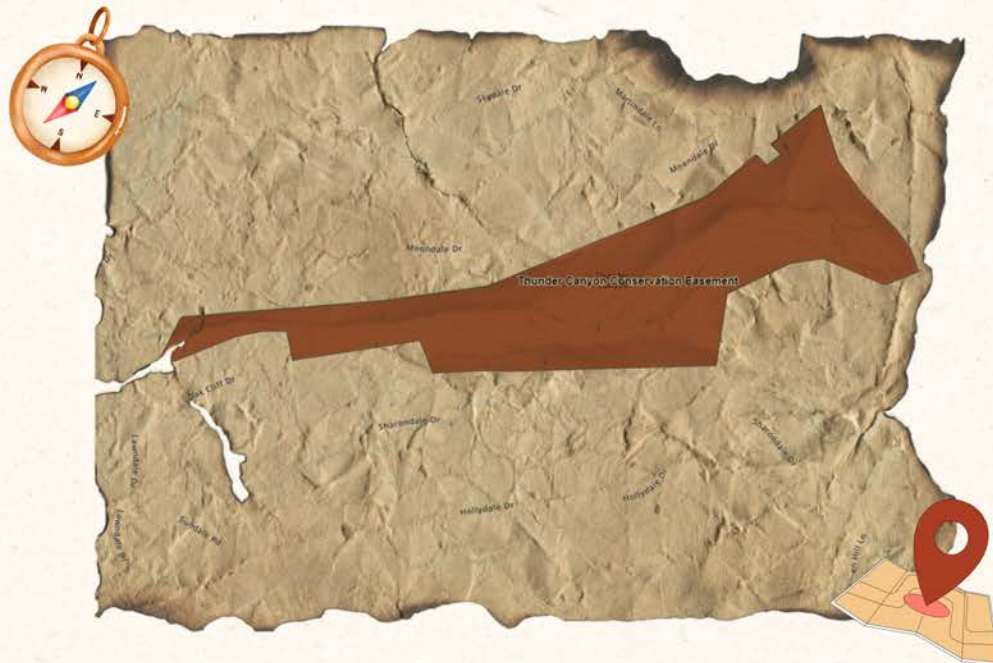
*Let's see who can find the biggest Agave along the arroyo.*

Find a Lechuguilla Agave and take a photo with it and tag us on Social Media.

Let's see who can find the biggest Agave! Are you ready to start the adventure?

**Let's go on this fun quest and explore!**

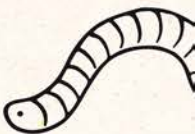
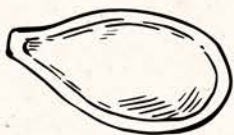
Thunder Canyon in El Paso, Texas, is like a big, beautiful outdoor playground. It's full of amazing rocks, plants, and animals waiting for you to discover.



**Safety First!** To keep you, the animals, and the plants safe, always explore Thunder Canyon with an adult. They'll help you learn and make sure everyone stays happy.

# EXPLORER SHUFFLE

Look at all the shuffled letters and rearrange the letters to find words related to nature. Write down your answers and have fun discovering the secrets of nature in this exciting puzzle challenge!



SDEE

□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---

BESE

□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---

NDAS

□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---

RMWO

□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---

NDIF

□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---

WNID

□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---

ALFE

□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---

LSIO

□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---

BRHE

□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---

UTSD

□	□	□	□
---	---	---	---

ANSWER SHEET (FLIP TO READ)

SEED - WIND - BEES - LEAF - SAND - SOIL - WORM - HERB - FIND - DUST

# LITTLE HELPERS

## WHAT IS A POLLINATOR?



**Have you ever wondered how flowers make more flowers?**

Well, that's where pollinators come in! Pollinators are like nature's helpers. They play an important role in helping flowers make seeds so that more flowers can grow.



### Different Types of Pollinators

#### Insects

Some of our tiny insect friends, like bees, wasps, ants, and butterflies, are pollinators. They love visiting flowers to collect yummy nectar and, in the process, they carry tiny bits of pollen from one flower to another.

#### Wind

Sometimes, the wind itself helps with pollination. It carries tiny bits of pollen from one flower to another, like a breeze carrying seeds.

### Why Are Pollinators Important?



**Pollinators are like nature's superheroes! They help in many ways:**

- **More Kinds of Plants:** They help different kinds of flowers grow, making the world more colorful.
- **Yummy Food:** Many of our favorite fruits and vegetables need pollinators to grow big and tasty.
- **Strong and Healthy Plants:** Pollinators help plants share their special traits, making them strong and healthy.
- **Happy Environment:** When we see lots of pollinators, it means our environment is happy and healthy.

# WORD HUNTING

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

Words to find:

- POLLINATOR
- FLOWERS
- INSECTS
- BEES
- WIND
- PLANTS
- FRUITS
- ENVIRONMENT



# EXPLORER JOURNAL ENTRY

Read the journal entry about Thunder Canyon Nature Preserve, then answer the five questions based on the details in the entry.

Our Thunder Canyon adventure was absolutely thrilling! It was a day filled with excitement and wonder as we set out to explore the desert's hidden treasures. As we entered the canyon, the majestic Franklin Mountains welcomed us, and the vibrant desert landscape stretched out as far as the eye could see.

Our journey along winding arroyo was like stepping into a real-life desert adventure. Along the way, we encountered remarkable desert creatures, from the speedy roadrunners darting among the cacti to the enchanting hummingbirds buzzing around colorful flowers.

But the real superstar of the day was the Lechuguilla Agave! Our guide explained how the flowers are visited by many different pollinators, and the sharp, spiky leaves are a testament to its resilience in our Chihuahuan Desert landscapes. It felt like we were exploring a world filled with secrets waiting to be discovered. We vowed to return and learn more about these secrets so we can help preserve the extraordinary biodiversity there.

## Questions:

1. What made the adventure in Thunder Canyon thrilling?

2. Name one remarkable desert creature we saw.

3. Why was the Lechuguilla Agave special?

4. What stories did our guide share?

5. What promise did we make before leaving?



# COLORING POLLINATORS



## Coloring Pollinators Printable Worksheet - 4 Steps

1. Scan the QR Code using your device's camera or a QR code scanner app or visit [fronteralandalliance.org/downloadcp](https://fronteralandalliance.org/downloadcp).
2. Tap on the link that appears to access the PDF.
3. Once the PDF opens, you'll find colorful pictures of different pollinators like bees, ants, butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds.
4. Download the PDF to your device, and then you can start coloring these amazing pollinators! Have a fantastic time bringing them to life with your colors!



## 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!**

**D**iscover the wonders of Thunder Canyon in El Paso, Texas, with this captivating and educational booklet! Join young explorers on an adventure through the desert landscape as they learn about the importance of pollinators like bees, ants, butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds. Dive into the world of colorful flowers and fascinating creatures, and embark on exciting activities that will deepen your connection to nature. This booklet is your passport to exploration, filled with fun facts, stunning illustrations, and interactive games that make learning about Thunder Canyon an unforgettable experience. Get ready to explore, learn, and appreciate the beauty of our natural world in Thunder Canyon!



**Did you know that Thunder Canyon is home to a variety of fascinating desert creatures, including the roadrunner? These birds run up to 20 miles per hour.**



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