

5. KNOW YOUR PLACE

(1) Bottomless Lakes Bingo



Scavenger hunts help focus students' attention and heightens their sense of awareness and observation. (Field trip / 30-45 minutes)

Connecting with Science Standards

Strand/Category	Grade	Standard(s)	Benchmark(s)
Life Science	4/5	Form, Structure, Habitats	Habitats, ecosystems

Goal: Students will sharpen their observation skills as they use the Bottomless Lakes Bingo sheet to find and focus on plants, animals, rocks and other features at Bottomless Lakes.

Objectives:

- Focus attention
- Increase awareness
- Friendly competition

Materials:

- Pens/pencils
- Bottomless Lakes Bingo Sheet (print from color printer)
- Clipboards

Background

Bottomless Lakes State Park is part of a unique habitat. A surprising diversity of plants and animals call this area home. While plants can't run and hide, animals certainly can, which is why it's important to strengthen observation skills to pick out those important clues that might otherwise go unnoticed (or to find a hidden pair of eyes looking back).

An ecosystem is full of many different types of habitats. The area in and around Bottomless Lakes provides habitat for some very unique species that can live nowhere else (known as *endemics*). It also supports species that can live just about anywhere. This activity reveals the abundance of life found here, which students must look for carefully.

Procedure:

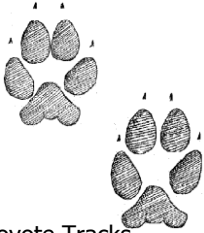






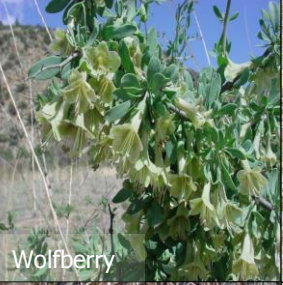



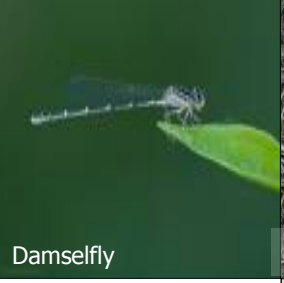

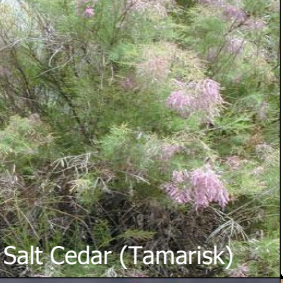
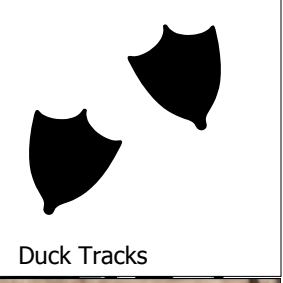

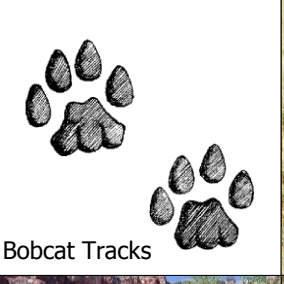

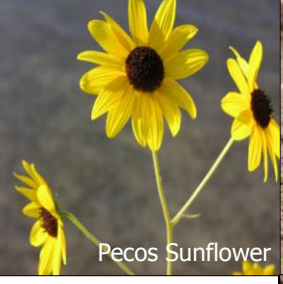




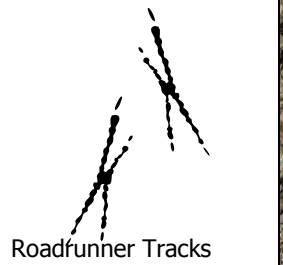

1. Have students work pairs.
2. Hand out all materials
3. Tell students to try and find as many of the animals, plants, etc as they can.
4. Remind students to stay on the trail and stay within sight of the class or adult.
5. Students will cross off each box as they discover that creature or feature. Remind them that they probably won't be able to mark everything off due to the season, weather and time of day.
6. Students can 'win' by crossing out a row, column, diagonal or having the highest number of findings.



V. Know Your Place

Pecos River Bingo



 Coyote Tracks	 Bull Snake	 Pecos Diamonds	 Salt Grass	 Chihuahuan Raven
 Prickly Pear Cactus	 Ant	 Wolfberry	 Tarantula	 Sinkhole lake
 Turkey Vulture	 Damselfly	 Rabbit Scat	 Salt Cedar (Tamarisk)	 Duck Tracks
 Roadrunner	 Bobcat Tracks	 Coyote	 Pecos Sunflower	 Black-tailed Jackrabbit
 Deer Scat	 Honey Mesquite	 Pecos Pupfish	 Roadrunner Tracks	 Bobcat Scat

Scat photos courtesy of Desert Survivor <http://desertsurvivor.blogspot.com>

Pecos Diamonds from New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources Photograph from Virgil Lueth

All other photos from New Mexico State Parks archives.