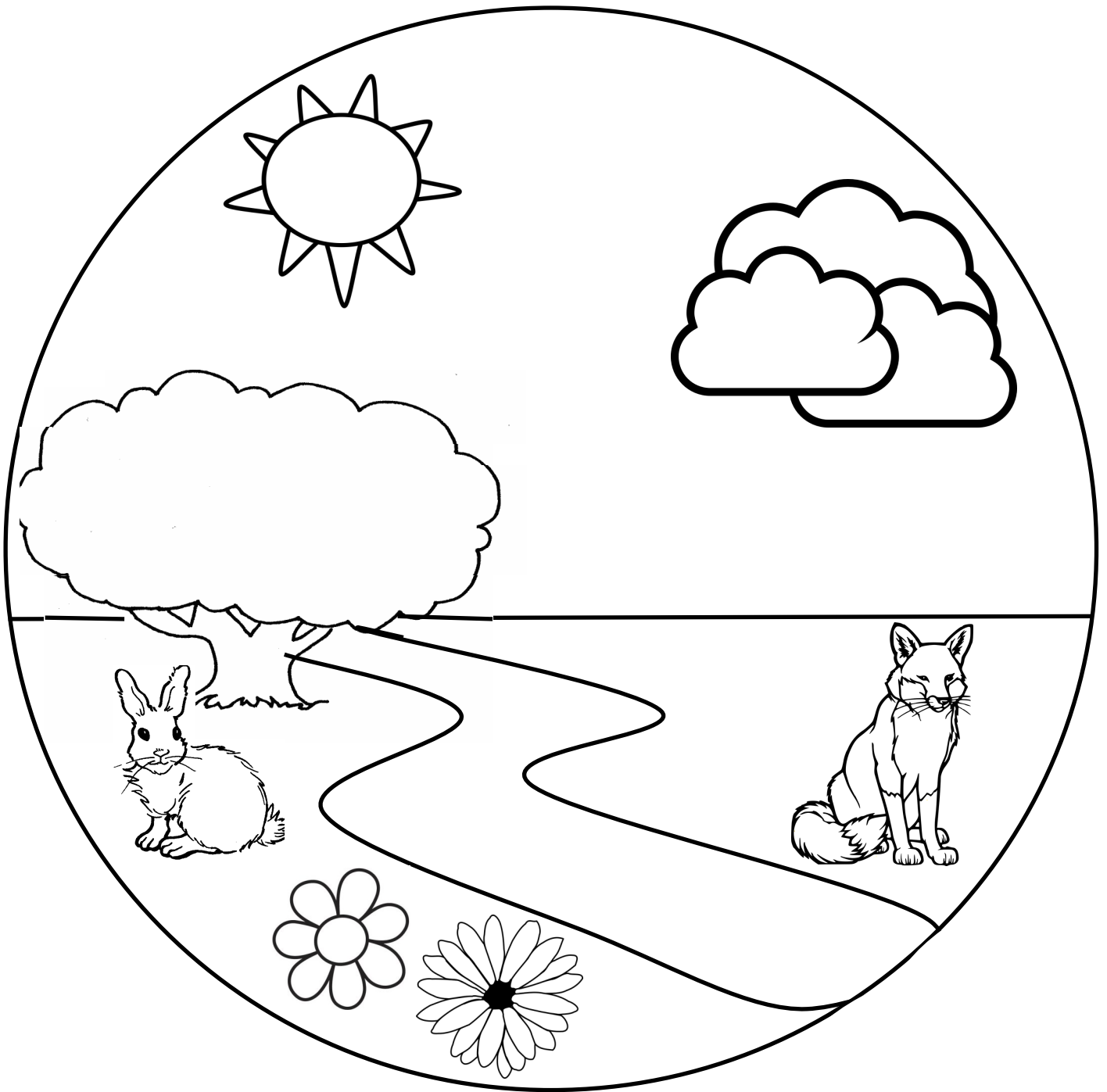


Jay C. Hormel Nature Center



Activity Booklet

Please enjoy the variety of activities to do, both on the trails, and at home, while the interpretive center is closed to the public.

Trail Treasures

Take a walk along the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center Trails or even right in your own backyard and look for each of the items listed below. **Draw, write, or say the name of each item you find in the box next to the description.** But remember, always leave nature's treasures just as you found them. See if you can fill in each box without using the same item twice!! If you do not have something to write with. Take a stick and poke through the paper at the box of the "something" you have found!



Something
Smooth

Something
Rough

Something
Fluffy

Something
Green

Something
Orange

Something
Mossy

Something
Straight

Something
Dark

Something
Small

Something
Down Low

Something
Smelly

Something
Bright

Something
Big

Something
Pretty

Something
Up High

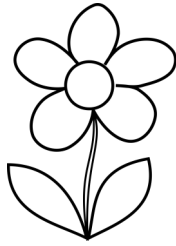
Something
Slimy

Using your Senses

Use your senses as you walk along the nature center trails! See what different items you can smell, touch, see, and hear! (sorry, no tasting!) Check out the lists below to see if you can experience all of them. Make sure not to pick or take anything!

Things to smell

Evergreen trees
Mud
Wildflower
Leaves
Prairie Grasses
Fresh Air



Things to touch

Pine cones
Tree Bark
Wet or Dry Prairie Grass
Branches
Gneiss Rock (The HUGE rock!)
Leaves
Sticks
Feathers
Mud

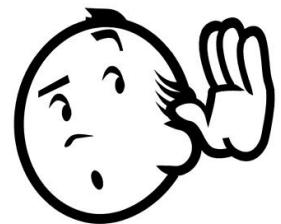
Things to see

Birds
Bugs (dragonfly, bees, etc.)
Trees
Animals (deer, squirrel, etc.)
Plants
Flowers
Feathers
Clouds
Cat Tails
Mushrooms
Animal Tracks



Things to hear

Bird songs
Animal sounds
Wind
Insect sounds
Water
Frogs or toads
Leaves



Fun Trail Activities & Games!

Check out this list of fun activities and games you can do while enjoying the trails here at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center.

Tree Huggers

This is kind of like hiking musical chairs, with tree identification built in. One person serves as the Tree Master. As you are hiking, the Tree Master calls out the name of a tree (oak, for example). Everyone then has to run and hug an oak tree. Last one to hug an oak is out. Continue until only one person remains. That's your new Tree Master. We can play this for miles.

Flood

A great game played with little children. Pretend that the pathway is lazy river that you are walking down. Every so often as you walk you will yell out the word FLOOD and that means the river/trail has "flash flooded" and in order to not be swept away you have to grab hold of something close (a tree, bench, bush, sign, etc.) until the leader has said the flood has stopped and you can continue on the path. Its great fun for the kids who do not know the next time you are going to yell FLOOD as it might even be in the middle of the conversation!

Close-Ups

Have someone with a camera or smartphone walk ahead on the trail and take a macro—or super close-up—shot of an object along the trail: a mushroom, a knot in a tree, a crack in a rock. The close-up should focus on part of the object rather than the whole thing. (If you take a picture of the entire object, it will be too easy to find!) When the rest of the group catches up to the photographer, define a small 10-by-10-foot area—and then it's a race to see who can find the object first. It takes just minutes to play, but the fascination of finding hidden objects in the woods makes it fun and keeps you moving!

Twenty Questions

The classic. The one that started it all. One person thinks of a person or a place; the others get 20 yes-or-no questions to guess what or who it is.

ABCs

This is great for kids who are learning their alphabet. Starting with the letter "A," everyone has to find something along the trail that begins with "A" before moving through the rest of the alphabet.

Fun Trail Activities & Games Continued!

Check out this list of fun activities and games you can do while enjoying the trails here at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center.

Trail Bingo

Everyone picks one object you're likely to spot on the trail; for example, a stream, a hiker with blue shorts, a squirrel, and a red backpack. After everyone has chosen an object, play begins.

- The game works like Bingo: Everyone is looking to find the same objects, but only one person can claim each sighting.
- If you come across a hiker wearing blue shorts (or a squirrel, a stream, et cetera) the player who sees the object first should say, "BINGO! Blue shorts!" You must say BINGO first!
- No one else can claim those blue shorts. They must spot and call out other blue shorts. If you find a group of something, like a group of several squirrels, that sighting counts as only one squirrel. Only one person can claim squirrels; everyone else must find another squirrel or group of squirrels.
- The first person to find and call "bingo" for all of the objects chosen by the group wins.
- Make sure the objects you choose are neither too rare nor too common. If you're trying to find a tree while on a hike, the game will end instantly. Try finding a birch tree or a dead tree.

Essence

One person thinks of someone whom everyone in the group knows. It could be a friend, a teacher, a family member, or a celebrity. The players try to guess the identity of the person, but unlike 20 questions, you can only ask rhetorical questions rather than yes or no questions. All questions must follow the format: "If this person were a _____, what type of _____ would they be?" Fill in the blanks, asking what type of car, food, weather, city, geographic feature, animal, et cetera the person would be. The first couple of answers sometimes reveal the identity of the person, so we have a rule that you must ask at least five questions before guessing. The real fun of the game is figuring out the "essence" of the person you are trying to guess.

Categories

Think of a specific category, such as state capitals, foods, countries that begin with "M," sports teams, et cetera. Everyone takes turns naming something that fits into that category. Play rotates through the group until a player can't think of something within a 5-second time limit or an answer gets repeated.

Phenology

Choose your favorite tree and draw what you think it should look like during each of the four seasons.

Spring	Summer
Winter	Autumn

Phenology is the study of plant and animal life cycles and how they are affected by changes in weather and climate. You can study phenology too by paying close attention to the plants and trees in your backyard. When do they sprout leaves? When do you first see flowers? When does fruit appear and what does it look like? When do the leaves fall? Which animals call the plants and trees home? Do different animals use the plants and trees at different times of year?

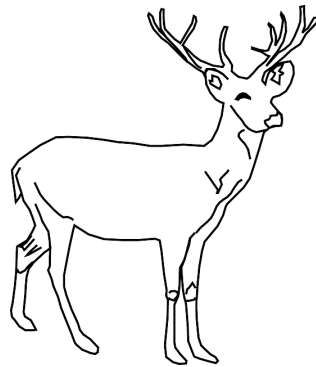
How Do You Take Care of the Outdoors?

Use the boxes below to show how you take care of the environment in the different places you spend time every day. Use words, pictures or a combination to show all your ideas!

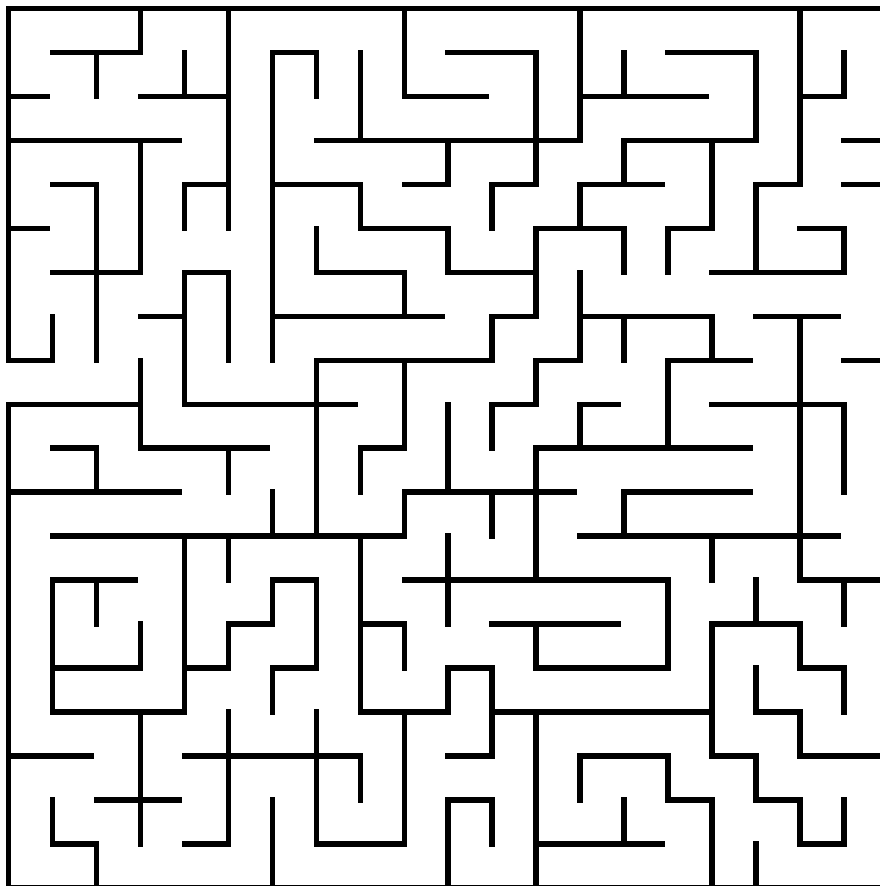
At home...	At school...
On a hike...	On vacation...

Hiking Trail Maze

Help the hiker get through the nature center trails to see all the cool plants and animals along the way!



Start Here

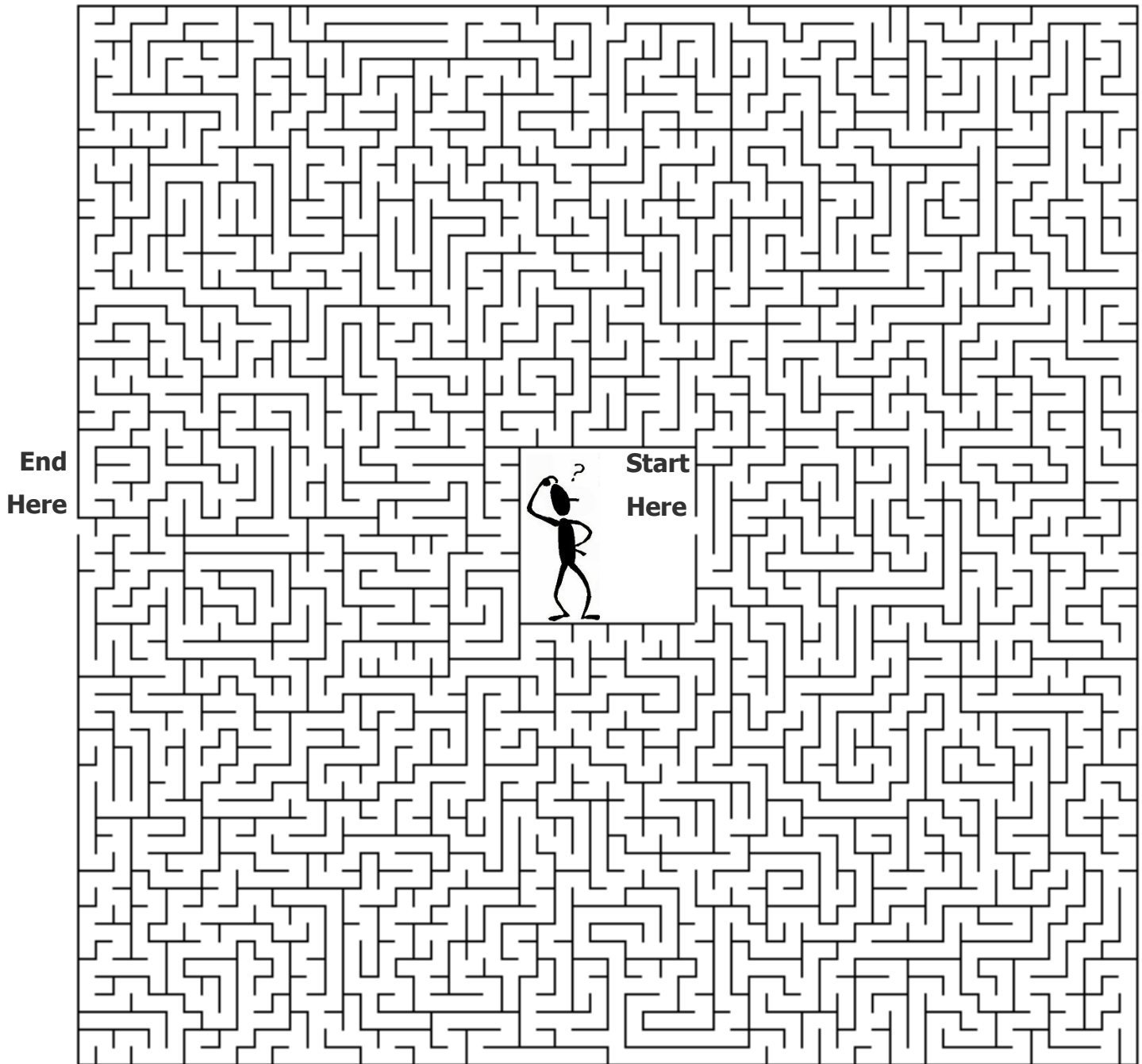


End Here



Hiking Trail Maze Part II

Want a bigger challenge? When the hiker was admiring all of the great outdoors around they got lost! Can you help them find their way back home?



Jay C Hormel Nature Center Word Search

Can you find all the words of things that you might see when you spend time outside in the word search below?

Word Bank

ANT
BIRD
BUG
FISH
FLOWER
GRASS
LEAF
ROCK
SNAKE
SOIL
TREE
WALK

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



Jay C Hormel Nature Center Word Search

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

Word Bank

ANIMALS
 ANT
 BEE
 BIRD
 BLOOM
 BLUEBELL
 BUTTERFLY
 CHIPMUNK
 CLOUDS

CREEK
 DEER
 EARTHWORM
 FLOWERS
 FOX
 FROG
 GOOSE
 GOPHER
 GRASS

GROW
 HAWK
 HIKE
 LEAVES
 MARIGOLD
 NATURE
 OUTDOORS
 OWL
 PRAIRIE

PUDDLE
 RAIN
 ROCK
 SNAKE
 SOIL
 SPRING
 SQUIRREL
 SUNSHINE
 TRAIL

TREE
 TURTLE
 WALK
 WOODPECKER
 WOODS



