

Outside the



MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK

VISITOR AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER

The center is only 3 miles from West Hills High School. By car you must go west over the hill on Mission Gorge Road to Father Junipero Serra Trail. On foot, bike or skate board you can take the flatter and more direct route thru Mission Gorge (NOT open to cars in the westerly direction). This "self-guided adventure" lets you visit some of the features found on the **outside** of the center. A second "adventure" is available which visits the **inside** of the center. To earn credit for this trip you will make some drawings, rubbings, notes, and identify specific plants found in the park. Be sure to read over all four pages of this adventure before you begin. In order to make the "rubbings" take a crayon or very soft pencil with you. To know for sure that you are starting in the correct place and to "prove" you went on this trip find the plaque at the right of the main door and finish the rubbing seen below.



TURN AROUND AND GO BACK UP THE PATH.

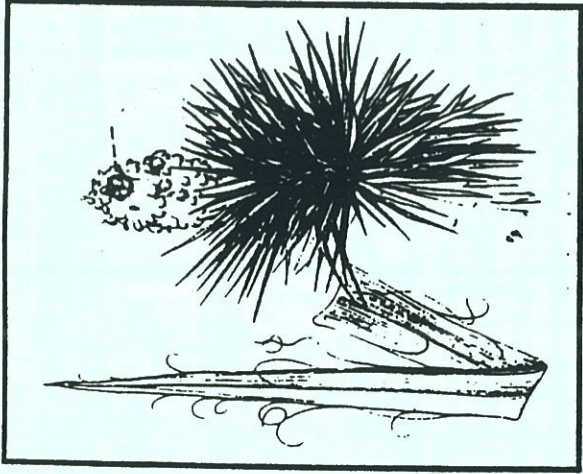
On your left is an exhibit about the **California Quail** (*Callipepla californica*), the California State _____. Even if you don't see one you can recognize them by their distinctive _____ note call. On your right is a description of the **Golden Eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*). What do you see up over your head? _____. On your left is a bronze (*Crotalus viridis helleri*) the _____. (We point this out just to remind you that this is a real wild animal park and you must be aware that you are a visitor to their home). Continue up the path noting the other exhibits until you get to the _____ (*Odocoileus hemionus*). We sometimes find these animals grazing on the lawns at West Hills High. What are some of the "facts" you find written about these even/odd (circle one) toed ungulates. (Not sure about their toes? Look at the concrete a little to the left of where you are standing) _____

CROSS OVER PAST THE PLAQUE SHOWING A MAP AND TELLING OF THE HISTORY OF THE PARK. TAKE THE WALK WHICH LOOPS AROUND AND DOWN TO THE AMPHITHEATER. There are 11 local plants described and exhibited here:

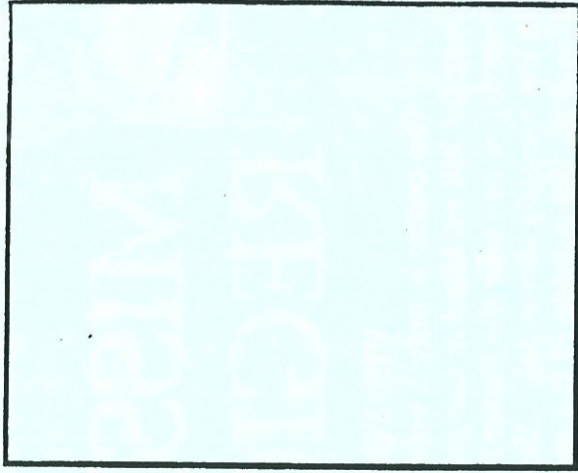
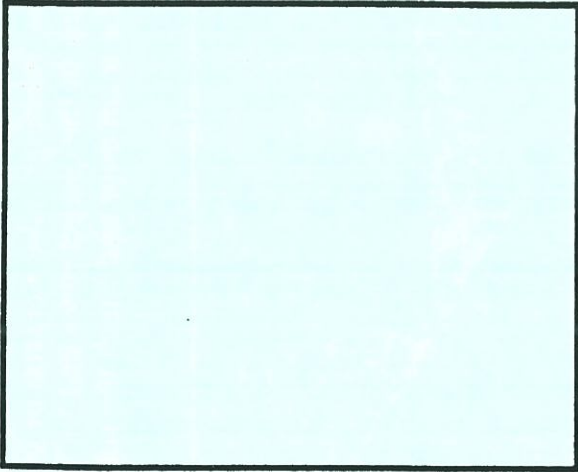
Desert Fragrance (*Hymenocela monogyra*)
Wartystem Ceanothus (*Ceanothus verrucosus*)
Matilija Poppy (*Romneya coulteri*)
California Blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*)
Mexican Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*)
Mohave Yucca (*Yucca schudigera*)
Lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*)
Laurel Sumac (*Malosma laurina*)
Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*)
Mexican Flannelbush (*Fremontodendron mexicanum*)
Our Lord's Candle (*Yucca whipplei*)



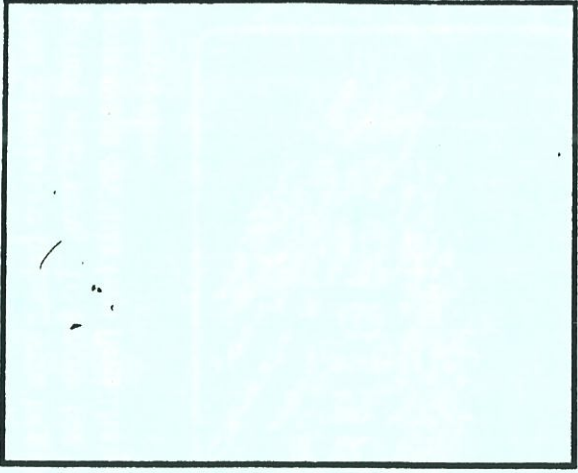
Later in our adventure you will be asked to identify some of the plants shown in bold print. These spaces are provided for you to sketch their characteristics and add any descriptions that may help you in this task.



Mohave Yucca (*Yucca schudigera*)



Lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*)



Laurel Sumac (*Malosina laurina*)

Our Lord's Candle (*Yucca whipplei*)

CONTINUE AROUND THE PATH TO THE AMPHITHEATER.

What are the *Scientific names* of the 3 indigenous animals represented in bronze around the amphitheater?

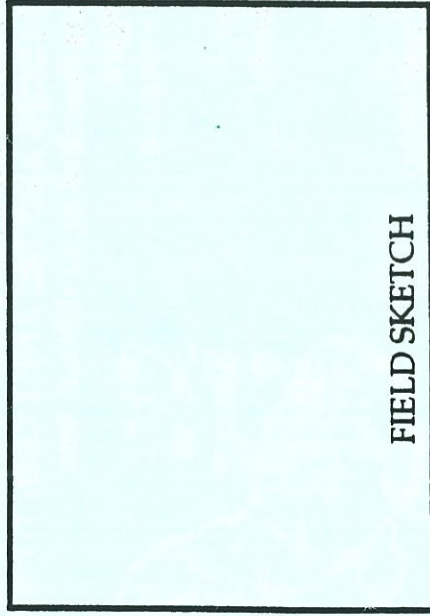
1. The Dusky-footed Woodrat (_____)
2. The Mountain Lion (_____) and
3. The Coyote (_____)



GO PAST THE "SOLAR CALENDAR" TO THE PLAQUE DESCRIBING IT.

In the space provided make an *anthropological field sketch* of the calendar and briefly describe what it is and for what it was used.

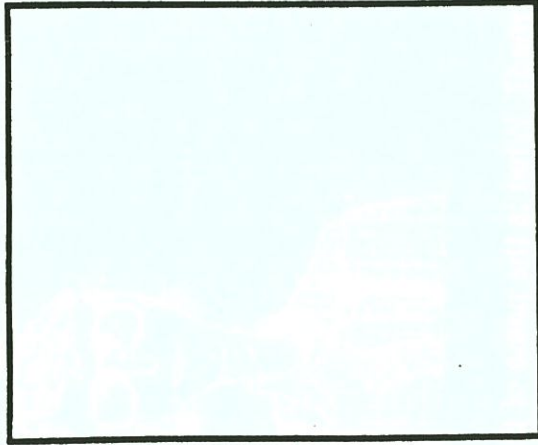
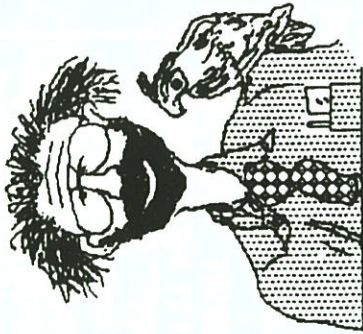
DESCRIPTION



FIELD SKETCH

CONTINUE ON PAST THE "REPLICATED FLUME" and "WHY SAVE A ROCK?" EXHIBITS TO THE PANORAMA AREA WHERE THERE ARE EXHIBITED 9 MORE INDIGENOUS PLANTS.

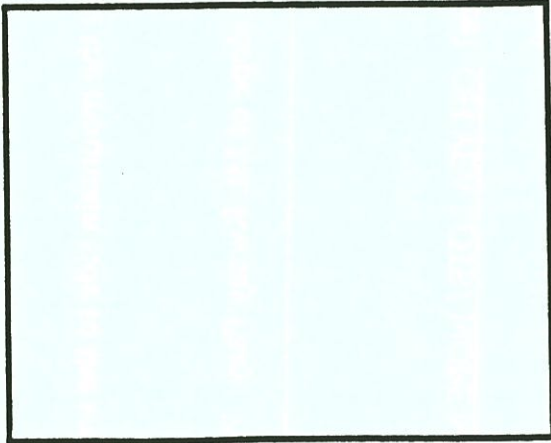
- Sandbar Willow (*Salix hindsiana*)
- California Wild Rose (*Rosa californica*)
- Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*)
- White Sage (*Salvia apiana*)
- California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)
- Purple Needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*)
- Coast Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*)
- Toyon, or Christmas Berry (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)
- Romona Wild Lilac (*Ceanothus tomentosus*)



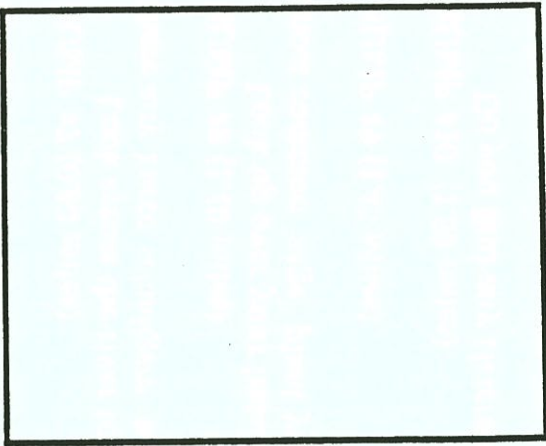
Sandbar Willow (*Salix hindsiana*)



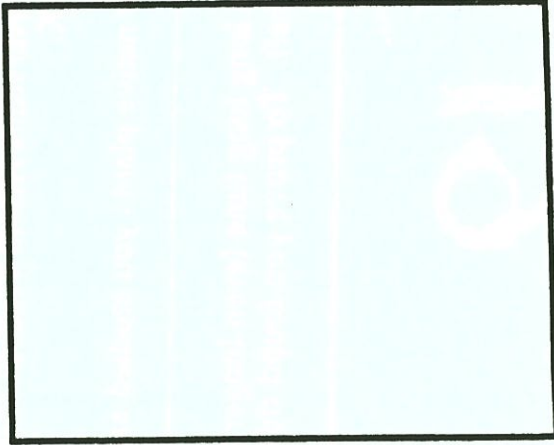
Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*)



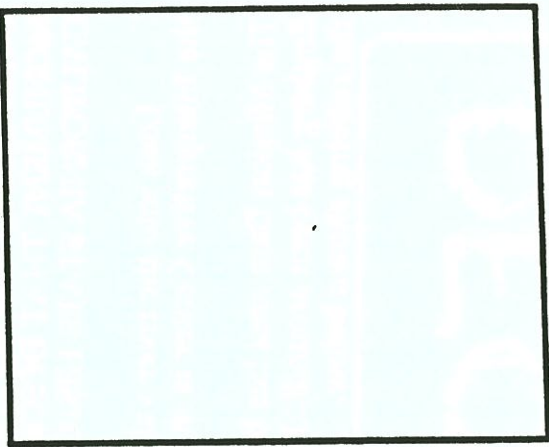
White Sage (*Salvia apiana*)



California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)

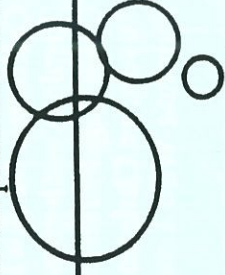


Toyon(*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)



Coast Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*)

NOW THAT YOU HAVE MADE YOUR EXOTIC, PERFECT, DETAILED, EXACT DRAWINGS OF THE 10 SAMPLE PLANTS ITS TIME TO GO FOR A LITTLE TRIP TO SEE IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY SOME OF THEM "IN THE WILD." GO DOWN TO NUMBER ONE FATHER JUNIPERO SERRA TRAIL (That's the entrance). See the gate that closes the road from _____ PM to _____ AM during this season? We'll be trying to identify plants in relation to the 11 speed bumps between here and the eastern park exit 1.75 miles away. HERE WE GO!



BUMP #1 (at the gate)
00.00 miles

About 10 meters past the gate on the left are some of the most common plants in this park. You saw and drew one of these on page #2 of this paper. It is called a _____.

BUMP #2 (0.20 miles)

BUMP #3 (0.35 miles)

Do you see any *Salvia apiana* in this area?
YES, LOTS OF IT / NO, THERE'S NOT ANY HERE

BUMP #4 (0.45 miles)

BUMP #5 (0.55 miles)

See the large fallen rock by the right side of road? What is the name of the plant on the slope about 3 meters behind and above it? _____

BUMP #6 (0.70 miles)

BUMP #7 (0.80 miles)

Look across the river to the right. Check out the mountain side to the west. Are there any *Yucca schottigera* to be seen? YES/NO.

BUMP #8 (1.40 miles)

Look up over your head to your right on the slope of Mt. Kwaay Paay. What is the most common "sage" plant you find here? _____

BUMP #9 (1.45 Miles)

BUMP #10 (1.50 miles)

Do you find any *Heteromeles arutifolia* here? OH YEA LOTS/ NOPE NONE

BUMP #11 (Stop Sign at the EXIT GATE 1.75 miles)

TURN LEFT DOWN TO THE PARKING AREA OF THE MISSION DAM. FIND THE MONUMENT THAT DESCRIBES THIS AREA AND MENTIONS THIS IS THE 52nd CALIFORNIA STATE HISTORICAL LANDMARK.

Look into the river valley. Which of the 10 native plants you studied and drew at the Interpretive Center is most common here? _____

The Mission Dam area has been recognized for a long long time (even longer than Mr. Engberg has been around!....Now that's a long time!). To prove you found this area, finish the rubbing shown below.

DEC 6, 19