Happy Parks to Kids Day!

National Kids to Parks Day is an annual celebration of outdoor exploration at local, state, and national parks and public lands, hosted by the National Park Trust.

This year’s celebration, on Saturday, May 16, is looking a little different: the parks are coming to the kids instead! In honor of the day, state parks from across Montana have contributed activities so that you can celebrate from your own home, backyard, or local public lands. If you want to keep going, check out the Parks to Kids website for even more family-friendly activities.

_Stumped by any of the challenges? See the answer key at the end of the packet._

_Did You Know?_  
Montana has 55 state parks!  
Explore them all at stateparks.mt.gov, or check out the online brochure available [here](#).
Meet the Parks
Can you match each park to its picture?

A. ____________________  B. ____________________  C. ____________________

D. ____________________  E. ____________________  F. ____________________

G. ____________________  H. ____________________

This park was likely named after a ponderosa, which can live for hundreds of years!
The only known campsite of Lewis and Clark, with a name that comes from their journals.
For hundreds of years, native people would use these cliffs for hunting.

The featured springs produce 156 million gallons of water per day!
This park is by the largest freshwater lake in the West.
Named after famous explorers (who never visited!), this was Montana’s first state park.

The first capital of Montana, this is now a ghost town!
The name of this park honors its industrial history.

Parks
Bannack State Park
First Peoples Buffalo Jump
Flathead Lake State Park
Giant Springs State Park
Lewis and Clark Caverns
Lone Pine State Park
Milltown State Park
Travelers’ Rest State Park
Happy Kids to Parks Day! On this extra special “parks to kids” edition, we need your help to round up the names of plants, animals, and facts about Montana to help spell a very important message about our state parks!

1. This flower grows all over the western United States and is the state flower of Montana! It can be purple, pink, or even white. Many Native American tribes in the area considered this plant a real treat!

2. Montana first became a territory in 1864, and this town was named the first territorial capital of Montana. Hint: Today it’s a ghost town and a state park!

3. Hiking, biking, and camping are very popular ways to get outside and enjoy our great state. While outside, you can see many types of trees. This type of tree is a pine tree and is the official tree of Montana. Fun fact, these trees can grow over 200 feet tall!

4. In 1805, these two famous explorers traveled through the west and made their way through Montana with the help of their guide Sacagawea.
5. Sacagawea stopped at the site of a large rock named after this aquatic animal known for its large teeth that can chop through wood. She knew that this rock was a landmark meaning they were close to her family. Hint: It is also a state park today.

6. When people started moving to Montana, they were searching for gold in the hills and in the creek. What was the name of their job?

7. Fishing is a popular activity in many of our state parks. Can you name our state fish? Hint: It is a Blackspotted Cutthroat:

Use the space below to fill out a message to the state parks.

Congratulations! You've completed the history search. Hopefully you've learned a little bit about Montana and the state parks! Happy Parks to Kids Day!
Watch this video to learn the Tie Up Game and Rock in Fist from the rangers at First Peoples Buffalo Jump!

The Tie Up Game (Inuit and Turtle Mountain Chippewa)

In the culture of some tribes, there was a way of making young people learn to work together. If two young people were fighting or arguing, an uncle or aunt would often tie the two together in a way that cooperation between the two had to occur or they would not be able to get out of the tie-up.

In this game, the two would be loosely connected by one rope passing over the other person’s rope with both ends of each rope simply holding each wrist with a slip knot. The two players are told that they must work together to become separated from each other “without taking the slip knots off their wrists.”

After much encouragement to keep trying or after both players are talking to one another and cooperating with one another, then someone can help them solve the puzzle. The social skills are sharing, cooperating, and conflict resolving.

Materials Needed: Two strands of string or rope

Instructions:
1. Tie a slip knot on both ends of each rope.
   a. How to tie a slip knot:
      1. Take the rope in one hand and hold it against your fingers with your thumb.
      2. Wrap the rope two times around a few of your fingers.
      3. Take the long end of your rope and bring it across the front of the loops you made around your fingers toward your palm.
      4. Then take the long end again and bring it underneath the loops you just crossed.
      5. Release the rope from your fingers while still holding on to both ends of the rope with your hand.
      6. Pull the loop end tight (a) and you will have a slip knot (b)!

2. Place the two knotted ends of rope around the first player’s wrists and pull to tighten the string so they cannot get out.
3. Take the other knotted rope and bring it through player one’s arms to make a link.
4. Place the knotted ends of the second rope around the second player’s wrists and tighten.
5. Figure out how to get free!

Solution:
1. Take the loose rope that is between one of the player’s tied hands (we’ll call them player one from now on) and bring it through one of the loops tied around the other player’s (player two) wrists.
a. You will want to pull the rope up from the elbow side of the arm, under the rope, around player two's wrist. Then bring the rope towards the palm of the hand.

2. You will have a loop that was made by bringing player one's rope through player two’s wrist loop.

3. Bring that loop made from player one’s rope around the back of player two’s hand and pull!

4. You will now be free!

Rock in Fist (Blackfoot)

This is considered a hiding game or an Indian youth game that leads up to the hand or stick games played by adults.

Materials: small rock, three small sticks, a cloth

Players sit across from each other. On the floor between them is one small rock and three sticks on a piece of tanned hide or trade cloth. The rock should be small enough to fit in a hand without “showing” (by larger grasp) the rock. The sticks can be 6” to 12” long and decorated or just simple—cut sticks.

The person hiding the rock exchanges the rock, from hand to hand, in front or in back of his/her body, or under a shirt or cloth. When ready to “show,” both hands must be put forward to the other player with fists closed in up, down, or any position to show “ready for guess.”

The player who is guessing may take as much time as needed to make a decision by observing and sensing, then making a decision by pointing to the hand that they think holds the rock (It is considered bad manners to touch the other player’s hand).

If the player guesses wrong, the hider gains a stick, which is placed in front of him/her. If the player guesses right, no stick is awarded, but the "guesser" now gets the rock and he/she will be the "hider."

When all three sticks are gone from the middle, the game is not over until one player has won all three sticks back from the other player. Players continue, gaining sticks from each other, until all sticks are on one side.
Watch [this video](#) to learn from Ranger Allie about lichen, and then head out for a walk and see how many mosses and lichens you can find!

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**Moss and Lichen Bingo**

Look around and see if you can get three in a row!

- Orange Lichen
- Dried out moss
- Something with both moss and lichen on it
- Long, stringy lichen
- A moss or lichen you think is cool
- Moss growing on a tree
- Lichen growing on a rock
- Bright, green lichen
- Moss or lichen growing on a rotting log
Giant Springs State Park

Hello, babies!

Part 1: Match the baby to their name (Hint: two of these babies have the same name).

- snakelets
- kittens
- fawns
- goslings
- ducklings
- owlets
Part 2: True or False?

1. Many animal babies in the park are born in the winter.

2. Some snakes are born alive instead of in eggs.

3. Great horned owls make their own nests out of twigs and leaves.

4. Baby deer can walk just after they are born.

5. We have a pet bull snake here at the Ranger’s Station at Giant Springs State Park.

6. Rattlesnakes usually nest in rock crevices.

7. Canada geese build their nests far from the water so their babies do not drown.
Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park is in the London Hills of Southwest Montana. It was discovered in 1892 by Tom Williams and Bert Pannel when they saw steam rising from the side of Cave Mountain while they were on a hunting trip. Dan A. Morrison built wooden stairs and blasted tunnels in the cave to start leading tours in the early 1900s. He wasn’t very nice to the cave, though. He would let his visitors break off pieces of the cave formations as souvenirs, many of which took hundreds of years to form. That all changed when the cave became a state park in 1937. Since then, people have been protecting the caverns and the wildlife that depends upon them.

What is one thing you can do to help protect the cave when you visit?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

Some of the most interesting animals that live in the caverns are bats. There are six species of bats that live in Lewis & Clark Caverns, and they like to use the underground tunnels as a nice, dark place to roost. Bats are nocturnal, which means they like to rest during the day and wake up during the night! Many will hibernate, sleeping the whole winter away in the cave. These little critters hold on to the ceiling of the cave with their feet and sleep upside down!

If you were a bat, how would you sleep?
_________________________________

The bats don’t like to sleep on the slippery cave formations, which are made from a mineral called calcite. Cave formations (also called speleothems) are usually created when dripping water slowly seeps into the cave, leaving behind minerals that build up over thousands of years. Some of these formations have really fun names, like cave bacon or cave popcorn! One of the most common speleothems is called a stalactite, which looks like an icicle hanging from the roof of the cave.

If you could name a type of cave formation, what would you call it?
_______________________________________________________

We love caverns, and if you love them too, you might become a speleologist! “Speleo” comes from the ancient Greek word that means “cave.” A speleologist is a scientist who studies caves.

What other word have you learned that uses “speleo” in it?
_______________________________________________________
Across:
3. Some bats ___ during the winter
5. A type of cave formation that looks like a movie theater snack
6. Last name of the man who developed the caverns for tours
7. When do bats wake up
9. A cave scientist

Down:
1. The mineral that most of the cave formations are made of
2. A type of formation that looks like a breakfast food
4. Lewis and Clark Caverns is in the ___ of Montana
8. How bats sleep
10. The number of bat species that live in the cave
**BUG BINGO**

Each square has an example that is found in Montana. You don't have to find that exact species, just one that is similar. Draw your own finds in the blanks. Good luck!

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<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mosquito</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bee</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ant</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cricket</strong></td>
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<td><em>(Culax spp.)</em></td>
<td><em>(Agapostemon spp.)</em></td>
<td><em>(Camponotus pennsylvanicus)</em></td>
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<td><em>(Hydriomena spp.)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Moth</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lady Bug</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cicada</strong></td>
<td><strong>Butterfly</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fly</strong></td>
<td><strong>Praying Mantis</strong></td>
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<td><em>(Vespula spp.)</em></td>
<td><strong>Aphid</strong></td>
<td><strong>Free Space</strong></td>
<td><em>(Nymphalis antica)</em></td>
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<td><em>(Mantis religiosa)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Wasp</strong></td>
<td><strong>Free Space</strong></td>
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<td><em>(Rhodasestra multicolor)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Dragonfly</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grasshopper</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stink Bug</strong></td>
<td><strong>Free Space</strong></td>
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<td><em>(Dactylotum bicolor)</em></td>
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<td><strong>Pillbug</strong></td>
<td><strong>Beetle</strong></td>
<td><strong>Free Space</strong></td>
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<td><em>(Armadillidium vulgare)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cockroach</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>(Periplaneta americana)</em></td>
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Outdoor Bingo and Scavenger Hunt

Instructions: Come out and explore Milltown State Park, located just a few miles outside Missoula, MT. Or explore your own backyard or neighborhood. When you find something that fits a clue, draw, write a description, or take a picture of your discovery and cross it off the grid! See if you can make it to a bingo (five things in a row diagonally, horizontally or vertically) or even a blackout (crossed off all squares)!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A fallen tree or branch</th>
<th>A flower in bloom</th>
<th>A bird in flight</th>
<th>A tree stump</th>
<th>Something that an animal might eat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A brightly colored rock</td>
<td>Something green</td>
<td>An animal with four legs</td>
<td>A feather</td>
<td>An animal track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An animal that is more than one color</td>
<td>A cone from a tree</td>
<td>FREE SPACE: SOMETHING YOU FIND INTERESTING</td>
<td>A bird sitting in a tree</td>
<td>A sign of spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A street sign or trail sign</td>
<td>A place where an animal might live</td>
<td>A vehicle in motion</td>
<td>A rock with an interesting shape</td>
<td>A tree with needles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bird song</td>
<td>An insect that flies</td>
<td>Something rough</td>
<td>A pond or a river</td>
<td>A place where you put trash</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Share your experience with us by posting your pictures and tagging us on Facebook and Instagram!
Corps of Discovery Camp-In

Travelers' Rest State Park in Lolo, Montana is located on the only spot where we are certain that the Lewis and Clark Expedition camped. For more than two years, this group of 33 people traveled across the continent, learning about the people, plants, and animals that they met along the way.

It was a journey of learning...but it was also a really, really big camping trip!

Here's how you can do your own at home:

1. **Set up your campsite.**
   - When Lewis and Clark packed for their expedition, they made sure to bring along plenty of oiled cloth, so everyone had nice, dry shelter—as long as the enlisted men were willing to sleep five to a tent!
   - However, by the end of the two-year journey, the tents were destroyed, and the whole expedition was forced to find shelter wherever they could.

   So you have two choices:
   - Set up a tent in your house or yard...
   - ...or build a fort with pillows, blankets, and whatever else you can find!

2. **Orient yourself.**
   - The Corps of Discovery might have hiked miles, or rowed through a rainstorm—but when they got to camp each night, they had to follow strict military rules. Some men would stand guard, and others would begin digging latrines (toilets), carrying water, and cooking food. Every night, they set up their campsite the same way, with the kitchens and latrines a certain distance from where they slept.

   Grab a ruler or measuring tape.

   How far is your campsite from your kitchen? From the bathroom?

3. **Cook some dinner.**
   - The Corps of Discovery ate mostly food they found or shot—usually deer, elk, or bison, but they also tried hawk, gopher, muskrat, seal, horse, and more, along with lots of new plants, berries, and roots. Yum!

   They did bring some basic items with them as well, including "portable soup" (similar to stock cubes today), pork, flour, and salt.

   - **Ingredients**
     - 2 cups of flour
     - 1/2 tsp of salt
     - 1 Tbsp baking powder
     - 2 Tbsp butter
     - 3/4 cup of water

   Have some fruit or nuts for a snack, or try making this easy trail bread called bannock.

Want to do a full meal? Find more easy camping recipes here:
https://tinyurl.com/yx248ylp
Have some fun.  

After a long day and a lot of chores, there was still some time for fun!  
The members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition had all sorts of  
evening activities to keep them busy. Sometimes there would be quiet  
chores, like mending clothing or cleaning your gun. Other times, they  
would play games, have races, or play music for each other.  

What do you want to do with  
your evening at camp?  

**JOURNAL**  
As a special assignment, Lewis, Clark, and at least  
four others kept a daily journal. Try one of the  
following:  
- Draw something you saw today.  
- Think about an animal you’ve seen. Imagine  
someone has never seen it before. How would you describe it to them?  
- Draw a map of your backyard or neighborhood.  

**MAKE SHOES**  
For much of the journey, the members of the Corps  
were mocassins. But thanks to rocks, sticks, and  
spiny prickly pear cactus, these shoes would often  
get holes or fail apart.  
In Montana, they had to make a new pair almost  
every other day!  

To make your own version, all you need is a paper  
grocery bag, scissors, masking tape... and your feet!  
Check out this video for instructions:  
[see](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ad1FY6ROqfQ)  

**PLAY A GAME**  
When they had extra energy... or met new friends on  
the trail—the Corps played games. They particularly  
loved running races. See how fast YOU can run, or try:  
- **Prisoner’s Race**: This is similar to capture the flag. If  
you don’t have enough people for teams, tag is a  
pretty close second!  
- **Darts**: Grab 2-3 sticks or tent stakes, and stick  
them upright in the ground. Make a ring with a  
piece of rope, a metal hanger, or a weighted paper  
plate. See if you can toss the ring on the sticks!  

**GET DANCING!**  
The Corps of Discovery brought along a turtle  
and would celebrate happy moments with music  
and dancing. They would also often show off their  
moves to the tribes they met along the way.  
- Grab whatever instruments you have in the  
house and make some music!  
- Create your own Corps dance move  
- Listen to these fiddle tunes of the expedition,  
and try out a jig!  
[see](http://www.crazette.com/music_video.html)  

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Clean up.  

The Corps of Discovery were away from their homes for over two years. They could buy or  
trade for some items from people that they met along the way. However, there were many  
items that they would not be able to replace if they got broken or lost, so they had to be extra  
careful about cleaning up their campsite every morning. After hiking four miles one day,  
John Ordway realized that he had left his axe behind... and the captains made him hike all  
the way back and get it! That happened to many of the men at least once.  

In fact, the expedition did such a good job cleaning up and leaving no trace that it’s very tough  
for us to be sure where they camped each night. Of the hundreds of spots that they stayed  
night, Travelers’ Rest State Park is the only place where we are sure that they camped.  
And even that required archaeologists to piece together a lot of little pieces of evidence,  
including a journal entry, a single button, and traces of mercury in the ground.  

Clean up your entire campsite. Try to leave nothing behind.  

Have an archaeologist (an adult) come and see if they can  
find any evidence that you were there. If they cannot, you’re  
ready for the expedition!  

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Montana State Parks  
Travelers’ Rest  
Connection
Answer Key

1. Meet the State Parks

A. Lone Pine State Park
B. Travelers’ Rest State Park
C. First People’s Buffalo Jump
D. Giant Springs State Park
E. Flathead Lake State Park
F. Lewis and Clark Caverns
G. Bannack State Park
H. Milltown State Park

2. Bannack State Park – Montana History Hunt

1. BITTERROOT
   11 6

2. BANNACK
   4 1

3. PONDEROSA PINE
   7 9

4. LEWIS AND CLARK
   5 10

5. BEAVERHEAD ROCK
   2

6. MINER
   3

7. TROUT
   8

WE LOVE OUR PARKS!
10 3 5 6 2 3 6 8 11 7 4 11 1 9
3. Giant Springs State Park: Hello, Babies!

*Part 1:*
- baby rabbits = kittens
- baby snakes = snakelets
- baby owls = owlets
- baby geese = goslings
- baby squirrels = kittens
- baby deer = fawns
- baby ducks = ducklings

*Part 2:*
1. False! Many babies are born March/April to September/October.
2. True! Baby rattlesnakes are born alive.
3. False! Great horned owls use nests built by other animals, or holes in trees.
4. True! Fawns can stand up minutes after birth!
5. True! Our snake’s name is Juniper.
6. True!
7. False! Geese prefer to build their nests close to the water.

4. Lewis and Clark Caverns: Crossword Puzzle

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  1.    a
  2.    b
  3.    c
  4.    d
  5.    e
  6.    f
  7.    g
  8.    h
  9.    i
 10.   j
 11.   k
 12.   l
 13.   m
 14.   n
 15.   o
 16.   p
 17.   q
 18.   r
 19.   s
 20.   t
 21.   u
 22.   v
 23.   w
 24.   x
 25.   y
 26.   z

3 h i b e r n a t e
2 p o p c o r n
6 m o r r i s o n
7 n i g h t
9 s p e l e o l o g i
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