


(Start Here!)

SLEUTHING GUIDE:

- ♥ Take this Nature Detectives activity page and a pen or pencil with you as you explore. To complete your Nature Detective Training at this park, complete 3 of the 6 activities.
- ♥ Inside you will find a map of the park, which will serve as a guide. Some activities correspond to locations on the map,  and some activities can be done anywhere.
- ♥ Feel free to get help from grownups on this, but remember, you are the creative genius! This page is yours to write your observations and draw pictures. The more thoughtful, the more artistic-- the better!

YOUR CASE: CARIBOU RANCH

Caribou Ranch is home to elk, moose, black bears, the tassel-eared Abert's squirrel, foxes, coyotes, among others. This open space closes from April 1st until July 31st to protect elk mothers, who give birth to calves in the spring. Surprisingly, there are no caribou at Caribou Ranch. This area got it's name from the Caribou mountain range in Canada. Caribou Ranch has long ranching and mining history. Look closely - you can still find old ranch buildings and mine debris.

Nature Detectives Club mystery guides can be found at:

- 1) Agricultural Heritage Center
- 2) Betasso Preserve
- 3) Caribou Ranch Open Space
- 4) Carolyn Holmberg Preserve
- 5) Meyers Homestead Trail at Walker Ranch
- 6) Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat
- 7) Heil Valley Ranch
- 8) Mud Lake Open Space
- 9) Pella Crossing

Drop your completed mystery guide in the Nature Detectives Club mailbox at each park. If you need to finish at home, mail it to us:
 Nature Detectives Club, Boulder County Parks and Open Space, 5201 St. Vrain Road, Longmont, CO 80503

Don't forget to complete the information below so we can send you prizes and return your mystery guides!

Grown ups, please provide the following information:

Detective's Name: _____

_____ Age: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Zip Code: _____

www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org



Printed in 2012

NATURE DETECTIVES CLUB



CARIBOU RANCH

A Mystery Awaits, in a County Park Full of Clues...

♥ **Your mission** is to become a young Nature Detective, collecting clues from the world around you, and solving mysteries of the forest, prairie, wetlands, and mountains.

♥ After completing three of the nine mystery guides (see full listing of parks on back cover) we'll send you a nature sleuthing tool -- something useful, for your future outdoor adventures.

♥ All right, detective, let's go!

(For ages 11 and under)

1

Pine, spruce and fir trees have needles and stay green year-round. There are at least five different types of evergreen trees along a trail at Caribou Ranch! Look at some of the needles. Are they in a bundle of 1, 2, 5? Are the needles long or short? Do the trees smell different? Once you think you have found three different types of trees, draw or write a description of a needles (leaves), a pinecone or anything unique about these trees.

Type 1

Type 2

Type 3



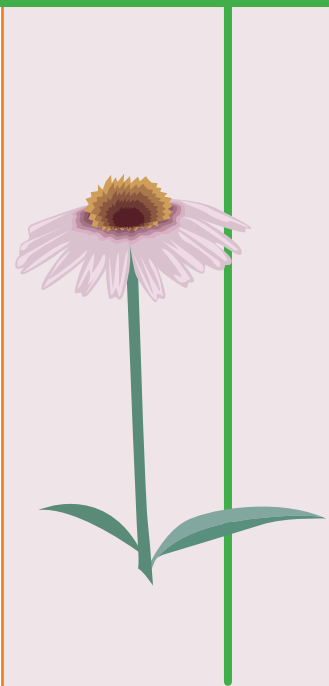
2

Wildflower watch: There are many wildflowers here, and lots of colors, shapes and sizes. Look for a patch of wildflowers. Do you see any insects on or around the flowers? Many types of insects visit flowers for their pollen and nectar, such as bees, butterflies, moths, beetles, and flies. Each of them has a favorite. Draw a close-up of one flower for each color below. For an extra challenge, draw a bug that you see on one of the wildflowers!

Red, Pink or Orange Flower

Blue or Purple Flower

White or Yellow Flower



Your Map is Inside!
↓

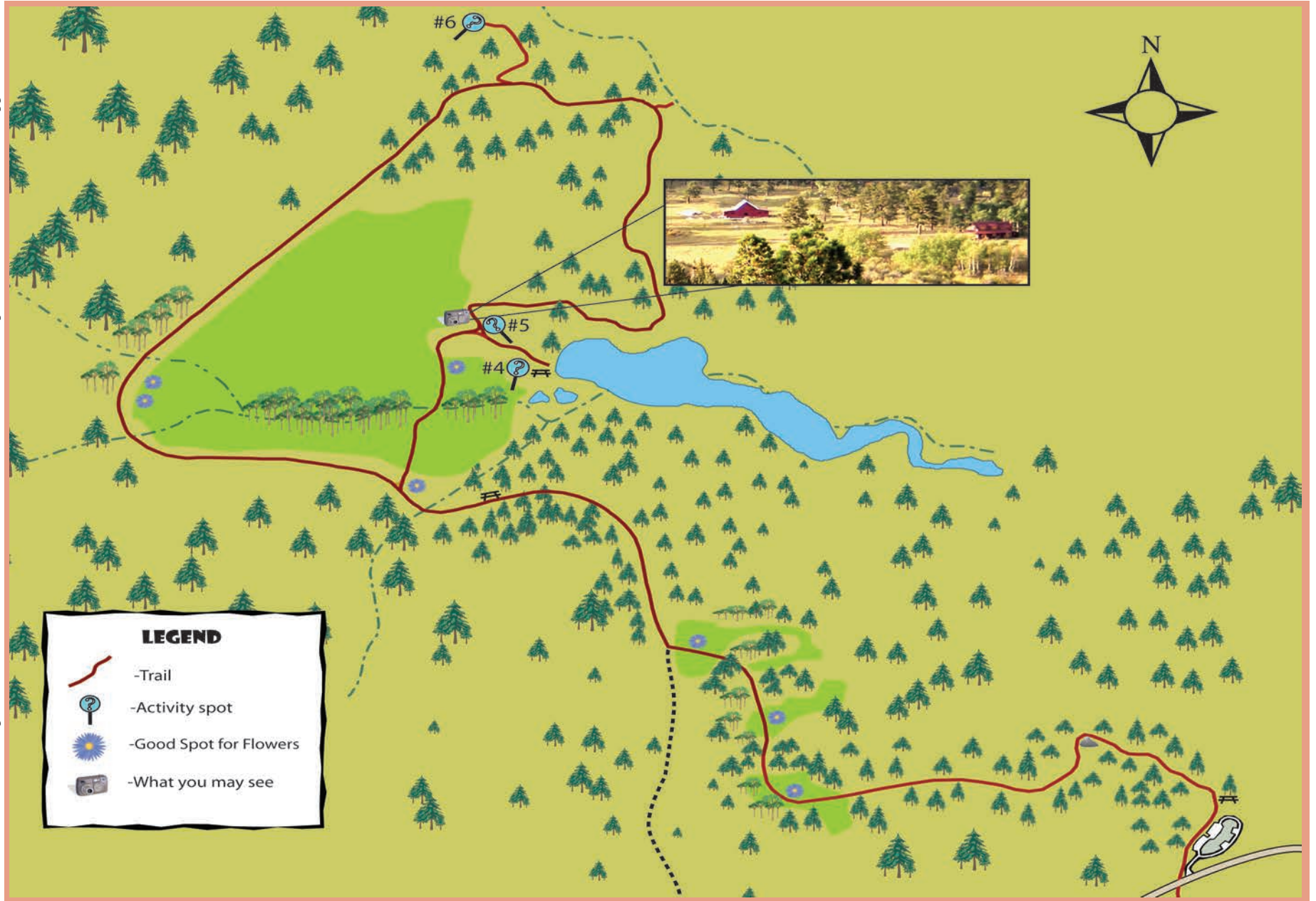
CARIBOU RANCH NATURE DETECTIVES MAP:

Feel free to write or draw on your map!

Super Sleuth challenge: Keep your eyes peeled for an old mine shaft to the Bluebird Mine. The grate guarding the entrance keeps people out, but lets an important animal through. Guess what animal?

POP!

Stumped? Hold a mirror under this line so that the words look upside down. The answer will appear.



3 A midden is a squirrel's kitchen – where it goes to pick apart conifer cones and eat the seeds inside the cones – dropping the pieces of on the ground. Look for a midden at the base of a tree or rock, and mark it with an “X” on the map.



5 Sit on the front porch of the DeLonde house. Imagine that your family works this ranch, and this is your home. Write three lines about what it's like growing up at Caribou Ranch. Make the first letter of each line fit with the letters below so they form the word ELK, one of this meadow's frequent visitors!

E

L

K

4 **Make a Sound Map:** Sit on the bench here or find a nice spot nearby. Listen carefully and quietly, and mark sounds you hear on your map below with a dot and a word or drawing that describes the sound. Try to get four or more sounds on your map!

Front

Left

You

Right

Back

6 **Super-Hiker Activity:** Hiking out to the Bluebird Mine site makes the day's trip 4.2 miles, but a chance to see the old Bluebird Mine can be rewarding for detectives. Imagine the year is 1907. You are an artist for the *Denver Post*, hired to draw a picture of life at the Bluebird Mine. Draw what you imagine this mine looked like 100 years ago. Feel free to include imaginary miners!

EXTRA!

LIFE AT THE BLUEBIRD SILVER MINE