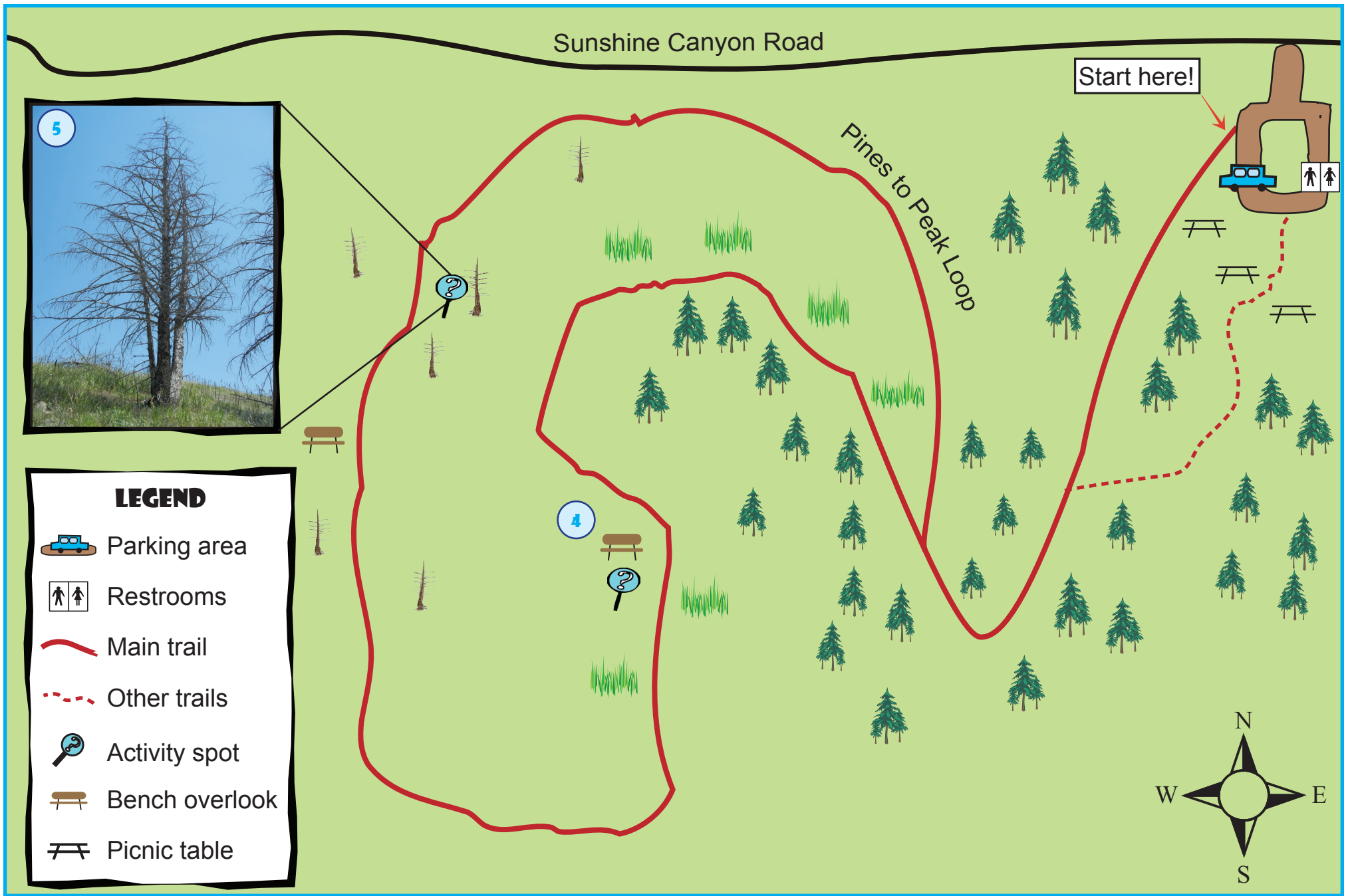


BALD MOUNTAIN NATURE DETECTIVES MAP

Feel free to write or draw on your map!




4 **What's in a Name?** *MAP ACTIVITY!*

Hike to the bench overlook at the summit. Look at the landscape around you. Based on your observations, why do you think this park is named Bald Mountain?

5 **Who Lives Here?**

Look for dead trees near the trail as you hike. There is a photo of a dead tree on the map . This kind of tree is called a "snag." It is important to many animals that live here. Look closely at snag trees. Can you think of any animals that might make it their home? Draw a picture of an animal at home in a snag!

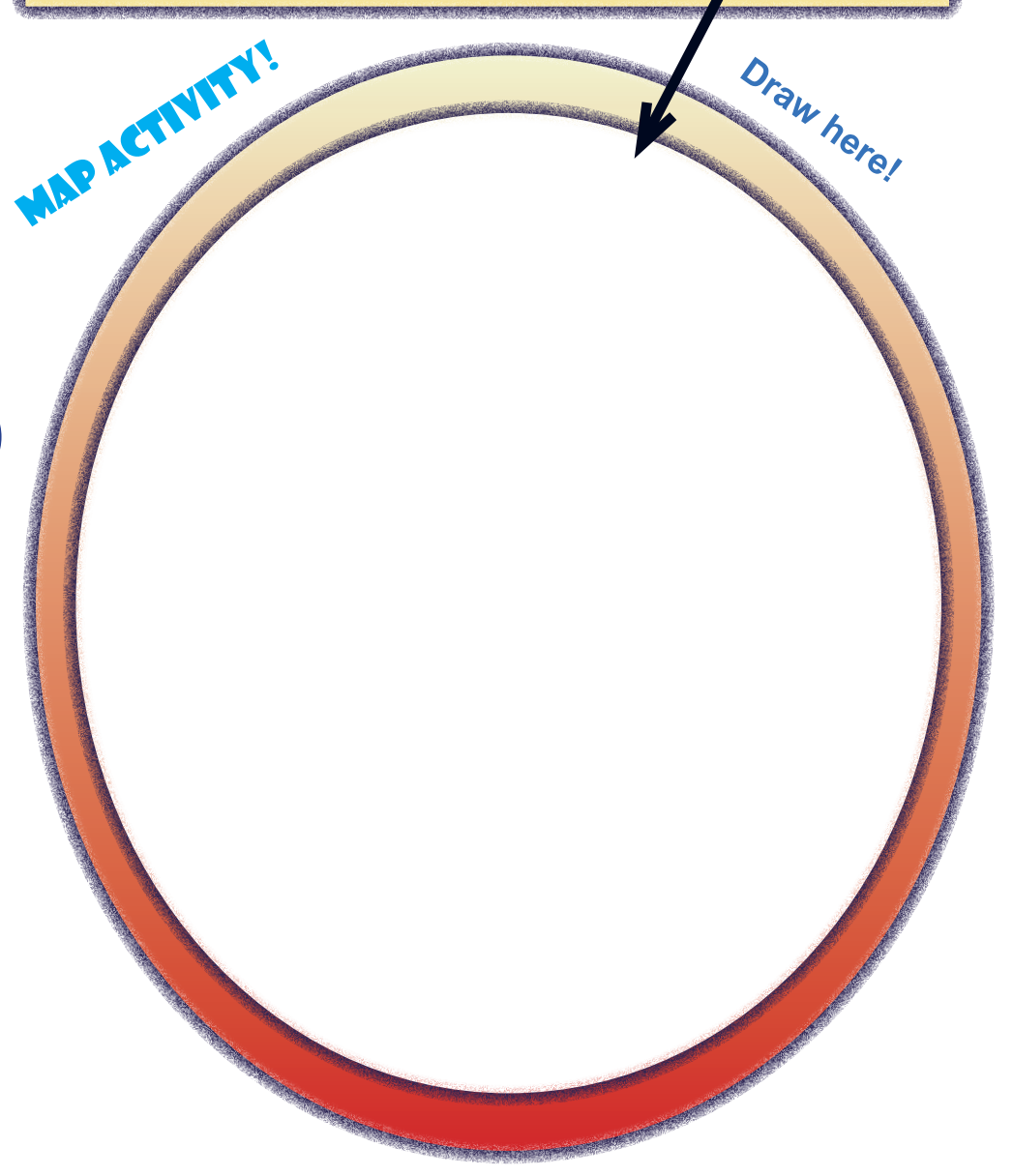
6 **Let Your Nose Do the Walking**



Nature is full of different smells. As you hike, let your nose guide you! Get close to the ground to smell the flowers, grasses, and rocks. What do the trees smell like? How many different smells can you find? Use the box below to count each time you find a new smell.

Keep a smell tally!

Why do you think it is helpful for plants to smell so good?





Trees may seem to be all the same when you first look at them, but like people, each tree has a unique shape, size, and color. Here's a fun way to get to know a tree a little better:

Find a spot where there are a lot of trees. Pair up with an adult partner. Close your eyes, and let your partner guide you carefully around the area until he or she finds a tree for you to meet. Keep your eyes closed and use your other senses to get to know it. Feel the trunk and branches, smell it, etc.

When you think you know your tree, have your partner lead you back to the start spot. Open your eyes and see if you can find your tree again! Did you find it?

Yes or No

Meet a Tree

3



Keep a color tally!

Nature is full of many colors. Sometimes colors blend together to make new colors. Hike for the next 5 minutes and keep tally in the boxes below each time you see that color in nature. Why do you think there are different colors in nature? Why isn't everything just one shade of green or brown?

Color Map

2

Start here!

MYSTERY GUIDE

- Take this Mystery Guide and a pen or pencil with you as you explore. To complete your Nature Detective training at this park, complete at least 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 grown-ups on this, but remember, these activities are for you! You can write or draw anywhere in this mystery guide. The more thoughtful and artistic, the better!

YOUR CASE: BALD MOUNTAIN

Walk among the ponderosa pine trees. You may see tuft-eared Abert's squirrels, chipmunks, bluebirds, chickadees, deer, and perhaps even a mountain lion. You can also see evidence on the surrounding land of the Fourmile Canyon Wildfire that burned for 11 days in September of 2010.

Nature Detectives Club Mystery Guides can be found at:

- 1) Agricultural Heritage Center
- 2) Anne U. White Trail
- 3) Bald Mountain Scenic Area
- 4) Betasso Preserve
- 5) Caribou Ranch Open Space
- 6) Carolyn Holmberg Preserve
- 7) Heil Valley Ranch
- 8) Mud Lake Open Space
- 9) Pella Crossing
- 10) Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat

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

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, State: _____

Zip code: _____

Phone: _____

Look for Nature Detective inserts and activities in each issue of Images.



What does your animal eat?

Draw your predator here!

As you start your hike, notice the sign near the trailhead warning that you are "hiking in mountain lion habitat." Mountain lions are Fox, coyotes, and hawks are also predators living here. Predators use their quick reflexes, powerful jaws, and good eyesight to track down prey!

What makes a predator good at hunting? Design and draw a predator.

Design a Predator

1

NATURE DETECTIVES CLUB



BALD MOUNTAIN SCENIC AREA

A mystery awaits in this 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 a mystery guide we will send you a useful tool for your future outdoor adventures.
- All right detective, let's go!