

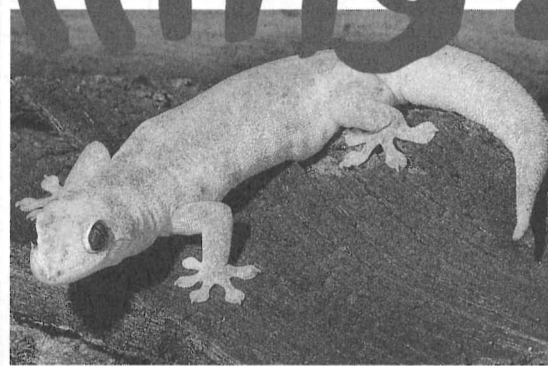
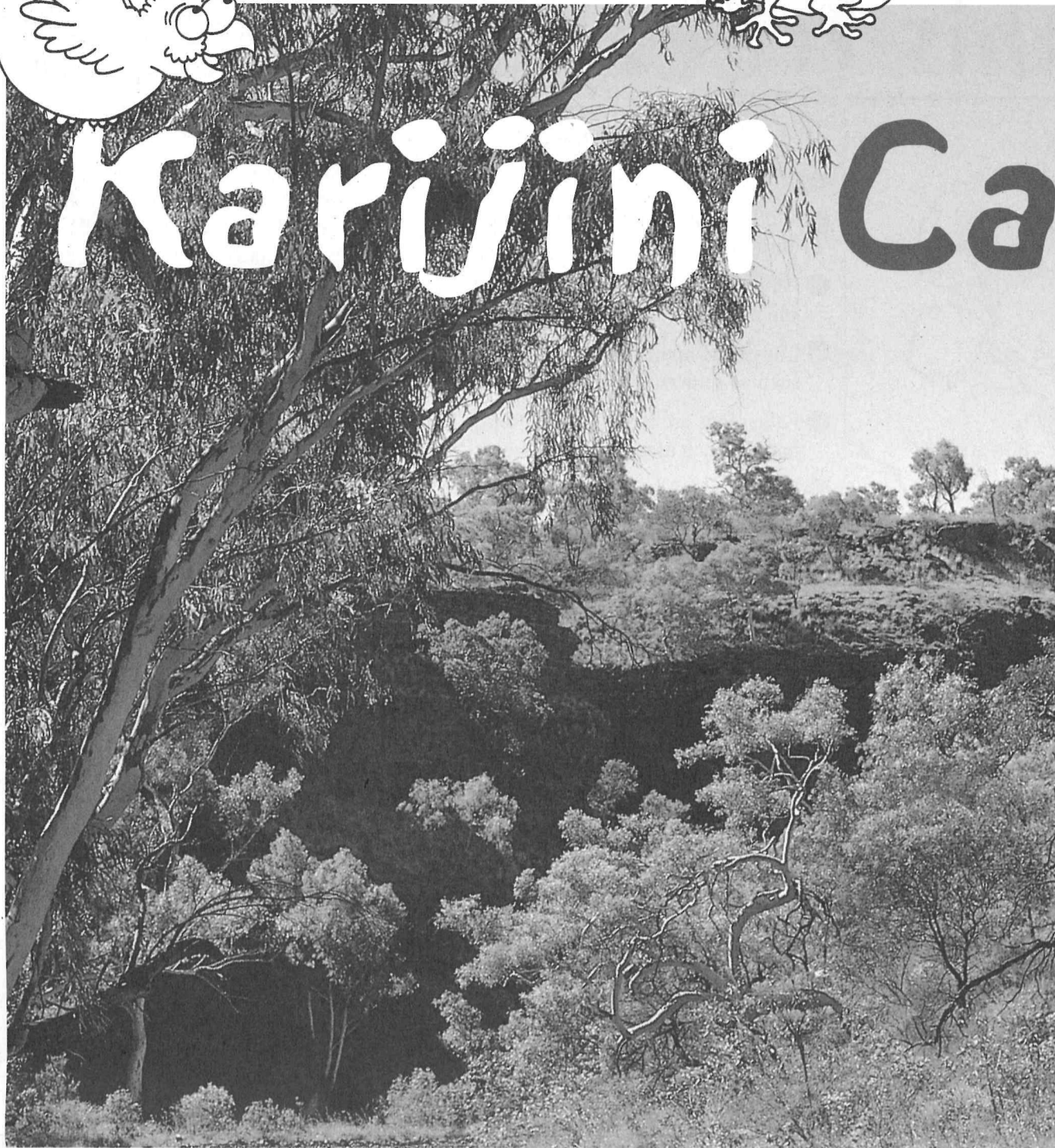
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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

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Karijini Calling!



Photos by Babs & Bert Wells/Conservation

What it means to be a Karijini National Park Junior Ranger

Become a Junior Ranger and you can help preserve Karijini National Park so that it's still in great shape 100 years from now. By observing park rules, picking up litter and learning how to care for the park, you can help make the Ranger's job a little easier.

KARIJINI is the name given to the Hamersley Range by the Banyjima, Yinhawangka and Kurrama Aboriginal people, whose traditional homelands include the Park. These people have been associated with the area for more than 20,000 years.

Karijini is the state's second-largest national park. It covers more than 600,000 hectares and contains some of the oldest exposed rock formations on the Australian continent.

The Karijini Junior Ranger Oath

As a Karijini Junior Ranger I will do my best to preserve and protect the wildlife and natural features. I will set a good example for others to follow. I will continue to learn as much as I can about the natural world.

Name: _____

Date: _____

See back page for details about what to do

Water—how we depend on it

At Kalamina Gorge walk quietly past the rock pools and see the colourful rainbow fish.

perhaps even survive in mud during times of drought.

What else can you see in the water?

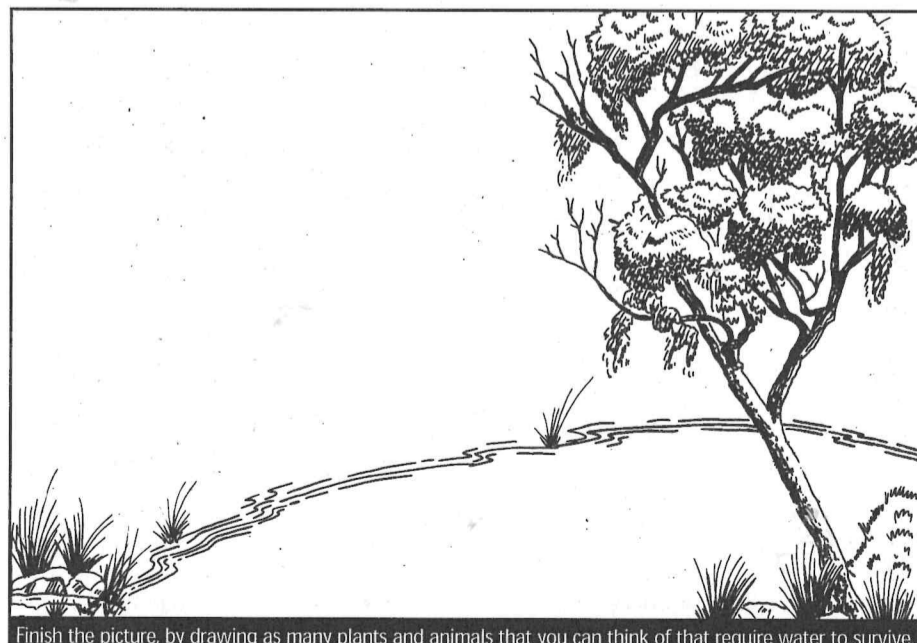
If you watch the pools in **Hamersley Gorge** closely, you may see the common eel-tailed catfish. These fish have spines that can give a very painful sting, so be careful. Freshwater herring can also be seen in larger pools here. They are usually the first to die when streams stop flowing and pools stagnate.

Did you know that pools and creeks, like the ones in this national park, are amongst the most important areas we must protect?

Water is the source of life and supports the basis of the food chain, involving many animals and plants. **Do you know what a food chain is?** Here are a few clues: water allows plants to grow . . . tiny animals feed on the plants . . . tiny fish eat the animals . . . waterbirds eat the fish . . . hawks and other meat eaters kill and eat the birds.

In **Dales Gorge**, spangled perch can be found. They live in brackish (sort of salty) water and

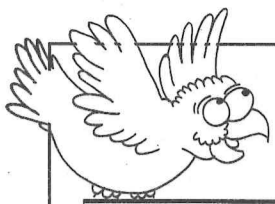
As you can see, if it wasn't for the water in the pools and creeks, few of the tiny plants, animals, fish, waterbirds or hawks could survive.



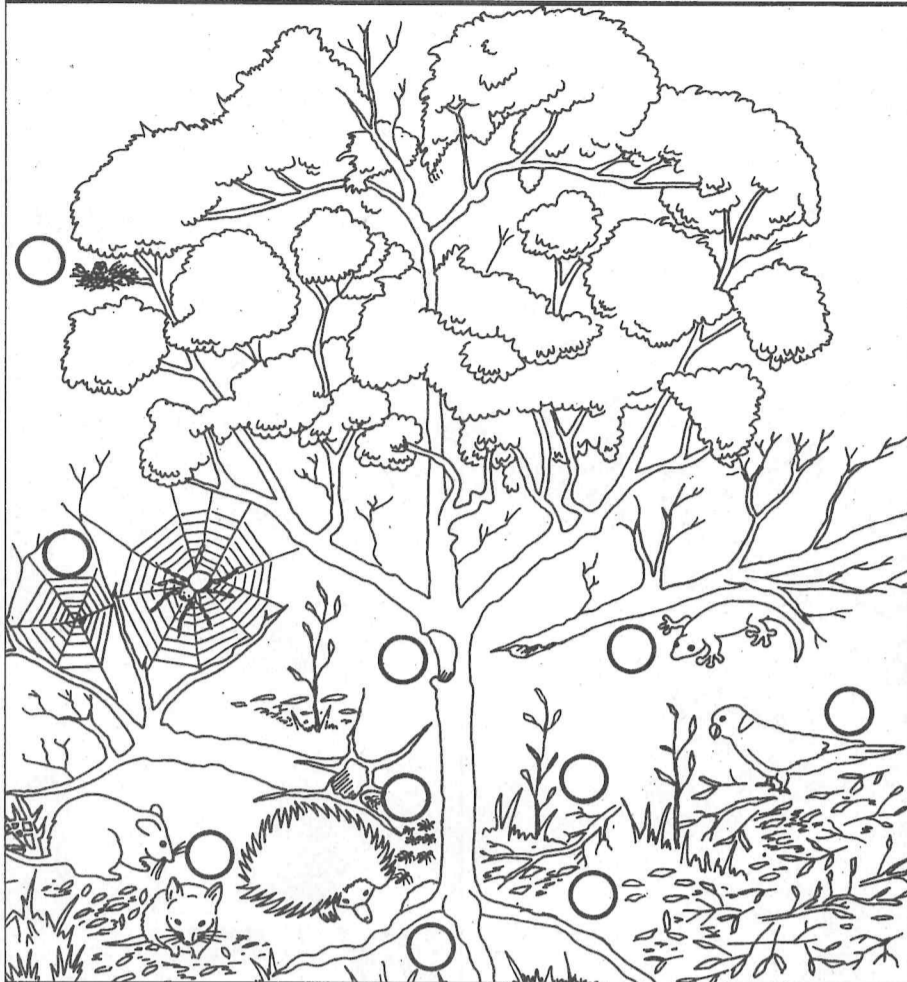
Finish the picture, by drawing as many plants and animals that you can think of that require water to survive.



The Junior Ranger Activity Paper for 6—12 year olds \$1.00
Karijini National Park Visitors Centre, Pilbara Region. TEL: (08) 9189 8121



Label this Tree!



Write the correct numbers in the circles around the tree.

- 1 Birds use twigs for nests.
- 2 Hollows form nesting homes for birds.
- 3 Ants nest in and under hollow logs and are food for echidnas.
- 4 Logs form homes for small animals such as spiders.
- 5 Fallen logs are hiding places for the hunted, such as geckoes and frogs.
- 6 Branches and leaves fall to the ground to form leaf litter and fallen logs.
- 7 Birds forage in the twig and leaf litter for small bugs to eat.
- 8 Nutrients are taken up by plant roots for plant growth.
- 9 Small animals and fungus turn the leaf litter into soil-rich nutrients.
- 10 Leaf litter keeps moisture in the soil for plant growth.



No Fires

Gas barbeques are provided in the park for people to use, or they can bring their own portable gas stoves.

Wood fires are no longer permitted. It may seem strange to say that we are running out of firewood in our natural areas, but this is actually happening. Around many picnic and camping spots there simply isn't any firewood left.

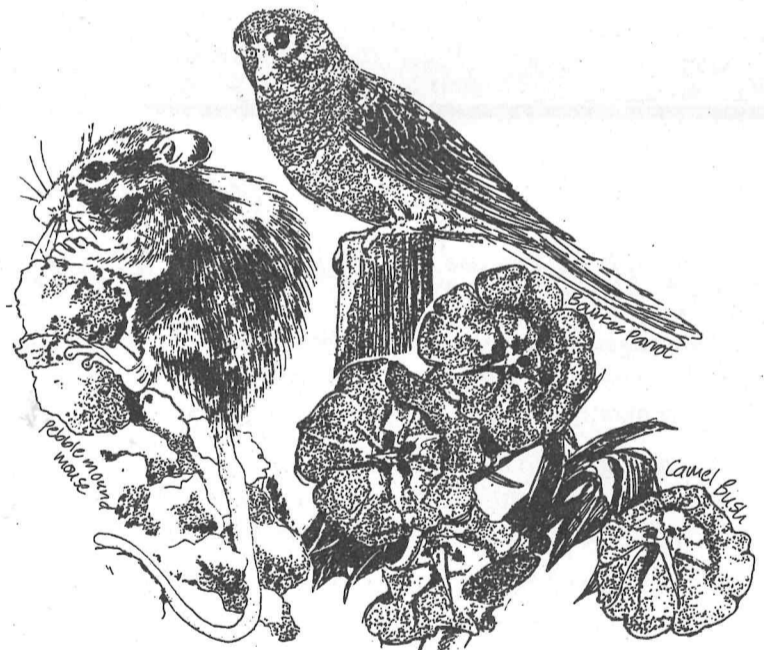
For years people have been collecting dead wood for fires, using up the local supply. Some people have made the problem worse by breaking off live branches. This destroys the trees, the shelter they offer, and the close bond with nature that the bush provides around a camping site.

More and more people are enjoying the outdoors and the firewood problem is getting worse. Too much fallen timber is being burnt. This means we're going to have to change our habits to keep our special outdoor places nice to visit.

HOW LONG WILL LITTER LAST?

Cigarette Butts	1—5 years
Aluminium cans and tabs	500 years
Glass bottles	1,000 years
Plastic bags	10—20 years
Plastic coated paper	5 years
Nylon fabric	30—40 years
Leather	up to 50 years
Wool socks	1—5 years
Orange and banana peels	up to 2 years
Tin cans	50 years
Plastic six pack holders	100 years
Plastic bottles and styrofoam	indefinitely

Wildlife in the Park



Two interesting wildlife homes in the Park are the huge termite nests and the rock piles of the pebble-mound mouse.

Please do not disturb them.

Termites come out at night to collect and store spinifex seed and straw. Don't get too close to the nest as a maze of tunnels spread out from here.

Mammals and reptiles (such as the bungarra) may use 'caves' in the mounds for shelter and nests.

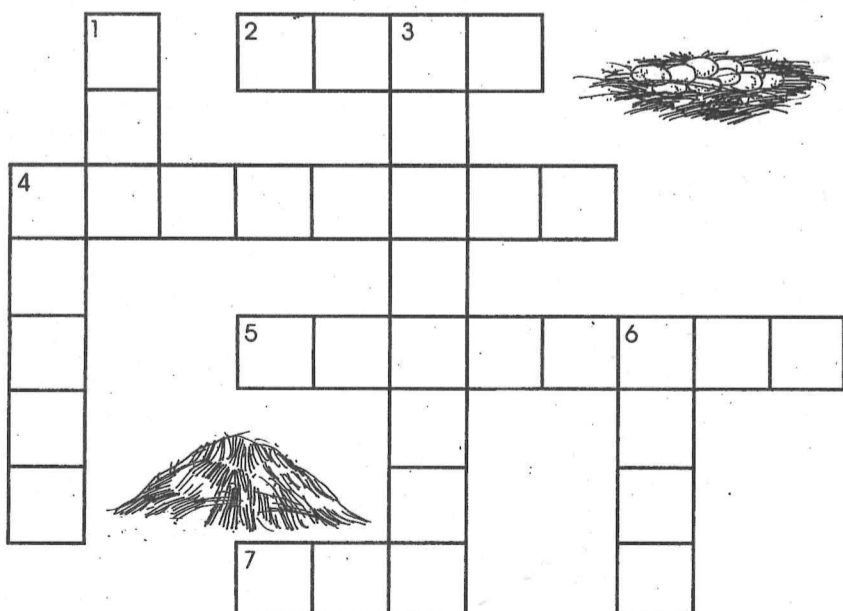
The pebble-mound mouse makes a mound of small, rounded pebbles. It can carry pebbles up to half its own weight in its mouth. It arranges these in piles, shuffling them into position with its forelimbs.

As you travel through the park, watch carefully: you may see red kangaroos, euros (the common kangaroo of the rocky country), and perhaps a dingo or echidna.

There are many amphibians and reptiles such as frogs, geckoes, dragons, legless lizards, pythons and other snakes. Native rodents and marsupials are nocturnal (they only come out at night) and are very shy.

Write down what animals you have seen during your visit to the park.

What am I?



ACROSS

2. I am an echidna and I eat these.
4. I am a big lizard the Aboriginal people used to hunt and eat.
5. This home for small animals and insects is a prickly grass.
7. Are all native animals in our national parks protected?

DOWN

1. I am a big bird with long legs. I can run fast but I can't fly.
3. We build big mounds from mud and spinifex for our homes.
4. We have wings, feathers and lay eggs.
6. At present I am a tadpole but soon I will be a ...?

Caring for Karijini – Can you be like these people?

Draw pictures for each one.

SALLY SENSIBLE protects herself from the sun, wears suitable clothes, sturdy shoes, and carries water when she goes walking.

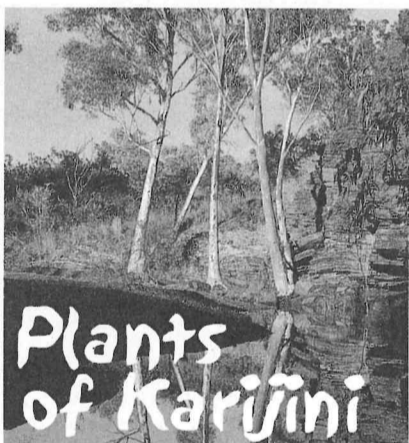


WILLY WISE knows not to use soap or sunscreen in the pools. He does not throw rocks into the gorges as people may be walking below.

CLAUDE CLEAN puts his litter in the bin — or, better still, takes it home with him.

ROBYN RESPONSIBLE doesn't pick wildflowers, remove rocks or disturb wildlife. She knows firearms and pets are not allowed in the Park.

COLIN CAUTIOUS stays on roads and trails to protect the fragile arid environment. He knows wet roads are slippery and that it is safer to wait until they dry out. He keeps a careful watch for wildlife.



Plants of Karijini

Karijini's hills, plateaus and ridges are covered with spinifex hummocks and scattered eucalypts.

SPINIFEX is that prickly grass that sticks in your feet and legs.

If you look closely you can see how the leaves in the heart of the hummock die off, creating a hollow.

In this protected centre decay attracting anything that feeds on rotting vegetable matter supporting a whole food chain of small creatures.

Many native marsupials, rodents, snakes and lizards depend on spinifex to keep cool, conserve body heat and feed in this harsh environment.

Driving or walking on spinifex kills an important habitat, so please make sure you stay off the clumps.

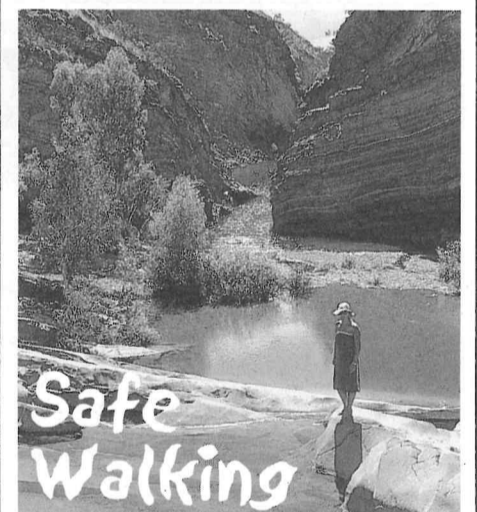
Take care with litter, rubbish and wildlife

Often in the Park you may find a spot which makes you feel no one has ever been before — until you look more closely. Then you spot a cigarette butt, aluminium can or maybe a glass bottle hidden by the vegetation.

Inquisitive small mammals and reptiles often pop their heads into cans, looking for moisture or just being nosy. Once their heads are in they are unable to pull them out. They will wander around like this until they starve to death. The same can happen to animals who are

inquisitive enough to squeeze their way into glass bottles thrown away by careless people. Although the animals can get in, the smoothness and slope of the bottle's neck often means they are unable to get out and soon die. Skeletons of animals have been found intact in bottles.

If we can carry our supplies in with us, we should be able to take our rubbish home too. Perhaps you could tuck a little bag in your pocket and pick up rubbish as you see it. This is one way you can help the animals and the Ranger.



Safe Walking

Karijini National Park has many different walk trails that are divided into levels of difficulty and fitness.

Your parents may like to ask the Ranger for advice on which trail may be most suitable for your family.

Always make sure you stay with your group—never go off on your own.

Be like Sally Sensible! When walking in the Park wear a hat, sunscreen and sturdy walking shoes.

Make sure your party has plenty of drinking water (at least four litres per person per day in summer) and bring your rubbish back to your camp.

(Perhaps you could be the rubbish carrier?) At gorges, remember Willy Wise and stand well back from the edge.

Don't throw stones as people may be walking below.

True or False?

Answer true or false to the questions below.

1. Keeping the park clean and natural needs the help of all park visitors.
2. Park rangers are here to protect visitors as well as animals and natural features.
3. If you are lost it is better to stay where you are.
4. Animals in national parks must never be fed by people because they may become sick and die.
5. It is all right to use soap in pools and streams.
6. Taking short cuts instead of using trails can cause erosion of trails and hillsides.
7. Walking on spinifex clumps can kill them.

Have you seen these?

Find the plants and animals hidden in the Karijini word puzzle below. Use the list of words provided to help. Check off each one as you find it in the space next to its name. Ask your parents if you don't know what they are. Perhaps the Ranger may be able to help you or suggest where you may go to see something on the list.

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--------------------|------------|
| mulla mulla | bungarra | crested pigeon | mulga |
| rivergum | spinifex | iron ore plant | snappy gum |
| falcon | catfish | galah | geckoe |
| bustard | euro | cadjeput | termites |
| fern | kangaroo | echidna | cassias |
| coolabah | bat | frog | python |
| figs | rock wallaby | pebble-mound mouse | |

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

Why do you think national parks are important?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

What you must do

Attention Adults: This page describes the requirements for the Junior Ranger Program.

In order to earn a Junior Ranger Patch, each child must fulfil all of these requirements. You may help your child to answer the questions but the work must be the child's own.

Please read the requirements carefully before signing below.
I have read and fully understand the requirements for the Junior Ranger Program.

Adult signature: _____ Date: _____

Complete all of the requirements listed below to become a Junior Ranger. After finishing the activities required, take this newspaper to the Visitor Centre, where you will be awarded your Junior Ranger patch.

Have a great time in Karijini National Park!

1. Take a good look around the Visitor Centre. Which display did you enjoy the most?
2. Take a walk on any park trail. Which trail did you walk?

Adult signature: _____ Date: _____
3. Fill a bag with rubbish you've picked up and put it in the bin. Don't forget to recycle if possible.

Adult signature: _____ Date: _____
4. Most animals and insects are dressed in colours similar to their surroundings. Why don't they wear bright colours like us?
5. Find a quiet spot to sit in the shade. Watch carefully. Are there any animals or insects around? Draw the special things you see in the space below. You may find early morning or late afternoon the best time to do this. Why do you think this is so?



6. **ENVIRO HUNT ACTIVITIES (6—9 year olds: do four of these activities. 10—12 year olds: do all six of them.)**
 - a) Find an animal home. Who lives there?
 - b) Find food for a bird. What is it? Which bird eats it?
 - c) Look for an insect on a plant. Draw it. What is it doing on the plant?
 - d) Can you find an animal track or sign? What animal made it? Where do you think it was going?
 - e) Look for something prickly. What is it?
 - f) Draw what you think would be the perfect animal to live here in Karijini National Park. What would you call it?
 - 7) **6—9 year olds:** Complete at least three activities from this news paper.
10—12 year olds: Complete at least five activities.
- Adult signature: _____ Date: _____