

Deer's Ears

Deer call this area and most of Central Oregon home. Deer find many types of food in the forest and use the trees to hide from predators. A deer's big ears catch sound like a baseball glove catches a ball.

Find a spot to sit and make deer ears by cupping your hands behind your ears. Listen for sounds from birds, animals, people, and the wind. When you hear a sound around you, make a symbol on the sound map that represents the sound you heard and where it came from. Don't forget to listen for sounds up high and down low!

Sound Map

X
(You are here.)

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This TRACK Trail is supported by the Central Oregon Health Council



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Explore Your Senses

in Central Oregon



Just like the animals that live in the high desert, people can use their senses to learn about their environment. Humans have five major senses that we depend on – sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste. Use your senses to discover what this forest is like for the plants and animals that live here.

Some animals, plants, and mushrooms have adaptations that help them survive but can be harmful to you. If you can't identify it, DO NOT touch it.

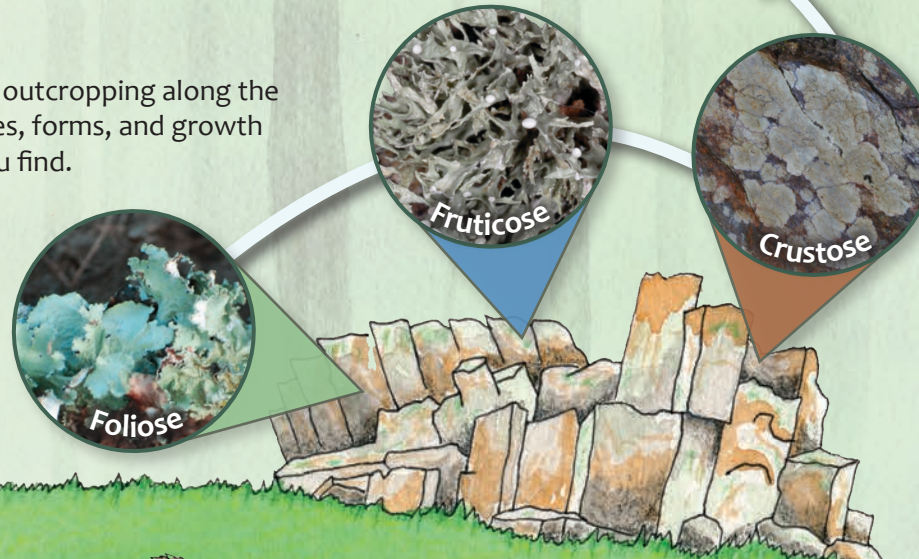
How do large ears and good hearing help a deer survive?

Explore Your Senses

Make your way along the trail relying on your senses of sight, smell, hearing, and touch to learn what life is like for the animals who live here. Discover how animals use their senses to find food, avoid predators, and navigate through the woods.

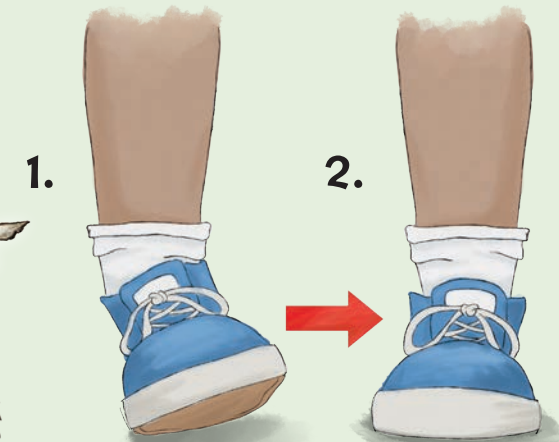
Sensitive Stuff

Lichens are very sensitive to the environment around them. Different types of lichen can only grow when conditions are right for them. Look for the three main types of lichens: **Foliose** (leafy), **Fruticose** (stringy or tree-like), and **Crustose** (flat, crusty patches).



Fox Walk

Try to walk along the trail silently so you can observe more wildlife and birds. One way to do this is called “fox walking”. Walk slowly, lifting your front foot high. Set the outside of your foot down first, then slowly roll the inside of your foot down. Shift the weight onto your front foot and repeat. How does fox walking feel different than walking normally? Did you see or hear more wildlife?



Life On A Rock

Rock surfaces can be mini-worlds unto themselves! Find a rock outcropping along the trail. How many living things do you see? Look for colors, shapes, forms, and growth patterns to help identify the differences. Gently touch what you find. Circle the words that describe how the rock habitat feels.

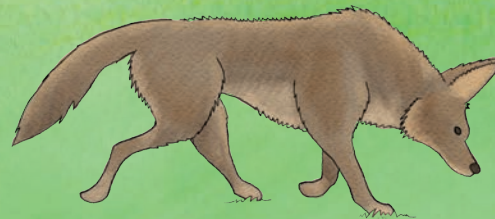
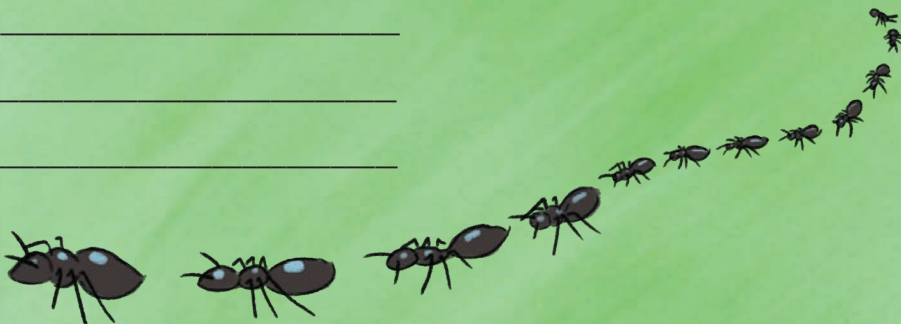
warm cool dry moist soft hard

How might this rock habitat change in different seasons?

Ant View

Imagine what it would be like to be as small as an ant! Get down on all fours, to get a bug’s view of the world. List three things that you see, smell, or feel that you didn’t notice before.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



Coyote’s Nose

Coyotes have an incredible sense of smell. What can you smell around you?

- ☐ Smell the dirt
- ☐ Smell the sagebrush
- ☐ Smell a tree trunk

If you were a coyote, what would you use your sense of smell to do? _____

Squirrel Climb

With small sharp claws, squirrels are excellent at climbing trees. Find a tree you can walk up to without trampling any plants on the ground. Look at the tree – its bark, limbs, leaves, and color. Touch the tree and circle the words that describe its trunk.

soft slick smooth
hard coarse rough

Find a second tree that looks completely different. As a squirrel, which tree would be easier to climb to escape a predator? Why? _____

