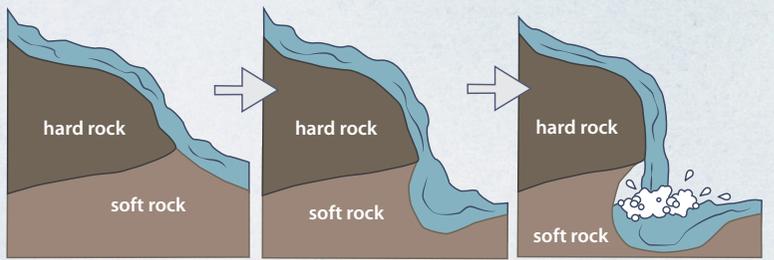


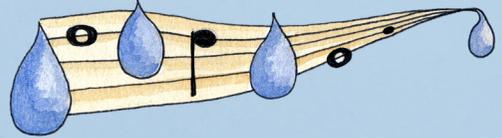
Why Water Falls

Many waterfalls have formed in the Blue Ridge Mountains because it rains a lot and the ground is steep. The moving water in streams cuts down through the earth. Waterfalls can be found where water flows from hard ground upstream onto softer ground downstream.



Erosion is when the ground breaks away by the force of water or wind. It may take thousands of years for erosion to make a waterfall!

“Rock” Music



At the Waterfall

Listen to the waterfall. Does it burble, hiss, whisper, or... roar? Look all around to see if you can figure out which features are making the different waterfall sounds. Write a few words that describe the sounds that you hear.

Give yourself Fox Ears! Cup your hands around your ears. How do your fox ears change the sound of the waterfall?



Hot or Cool

The water in lakes and rivers is usually a different temperature than the air. Do you think the air temperature will feel different near the waterfall?

Away from the Waterfall

What you are wearing (t-shirt, sweater, pants, etc.)? _____

Are you hot, cold, or comfortable? _____

At the Waterfall

Has the temperature changed? _____

Did it get warmer or cooler? _____

If the temperature changed, why do you think it did?

After the Waterfall

Once you begin to leave the waterfall, count your steps and listen carefully.



How does the waterfall sound...

	with fox ears	without fox ears
... 20 steps away?		
... 40 steps away?		
How many steps did you take before you could no longer hear the waterfall?		

Life in the Spray Zone

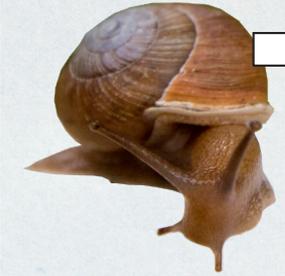
Many plants and animals live in misty air and on the wet rocks surrounding waterfalls. Watch carefully from the trail and see how many can you find.



Salamander Salamanders are often found near water because, like frogs, they are amphibians and lay their eggs in water. Salamanders should not be touched because they have sensitive skin.



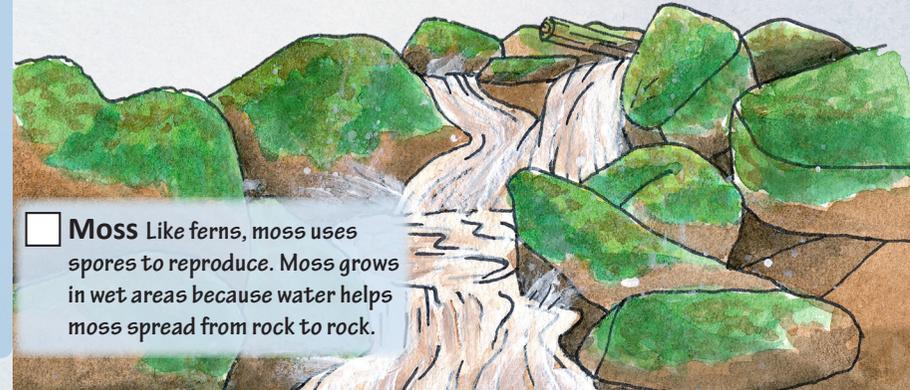
Fern Ferns are among the oldest types of plants on Earth and need moisture to reproduce. Instead of seeds, ferns use single cells called **spores** to reproduce.



Snail Aquatic snails (snails that live in water) have gills for breathing. Land snails have a hole at the top of their shell to allow air through to their lungs.



Butterfly Butterflies drink water and minerals from the damp mud near waterfalls because they cannot drink directly from open water.



Moss Like ferns, moss uses spores to reproduce. Moss grows in wet areas because water helps moss spread from rock to rock.

Mix, Match... Splash!

Different names are used to describe the different types of waterfalls. First, match each description with its photo. Second, see if you can find examples of each waterfall type.

Note: not all waterfall types may be found in one park

Cascade
Water tumbles down along steep rocky steps.



Plunge
Water flows over a cliff and falls through the air.



Slide
Water flows quickly along a very steep and flat rock.



Other words that describe waterfalls are horsetail, fan and punchbowl. Can you find any interesting shapes in the falls? Draw one shape you find and give it a name.

TRACK your hike at
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and get **FREE** prizes!



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Waterfall Wonders

Splish, splash, splosh, bubble... crash!
Falling water is one of the strongest forces on Earth. The sights and sounds of waterfalls are not only powerful, but beautiful. The falling drops of water create a concert for your ears and a kaleidoscope for your eyes!



The water that passes through these mountains is on a long journey to the ocean and you can discover part of that exciting adventure today. Use this brochure to uncover some of the wonders that make waterfalls so magical.

Safety First

Stay on the trail and behind fences if present. Never climb rocks near a waterfall and never walk in the water near or above a waterfall. The rocks are very slippery.