



Cave and Basin
National Historic Site

XPLORERS

PARKS CANADA

Your name: _____



– Cave and Basin –

Aussi disponible en français



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

WELCOME!

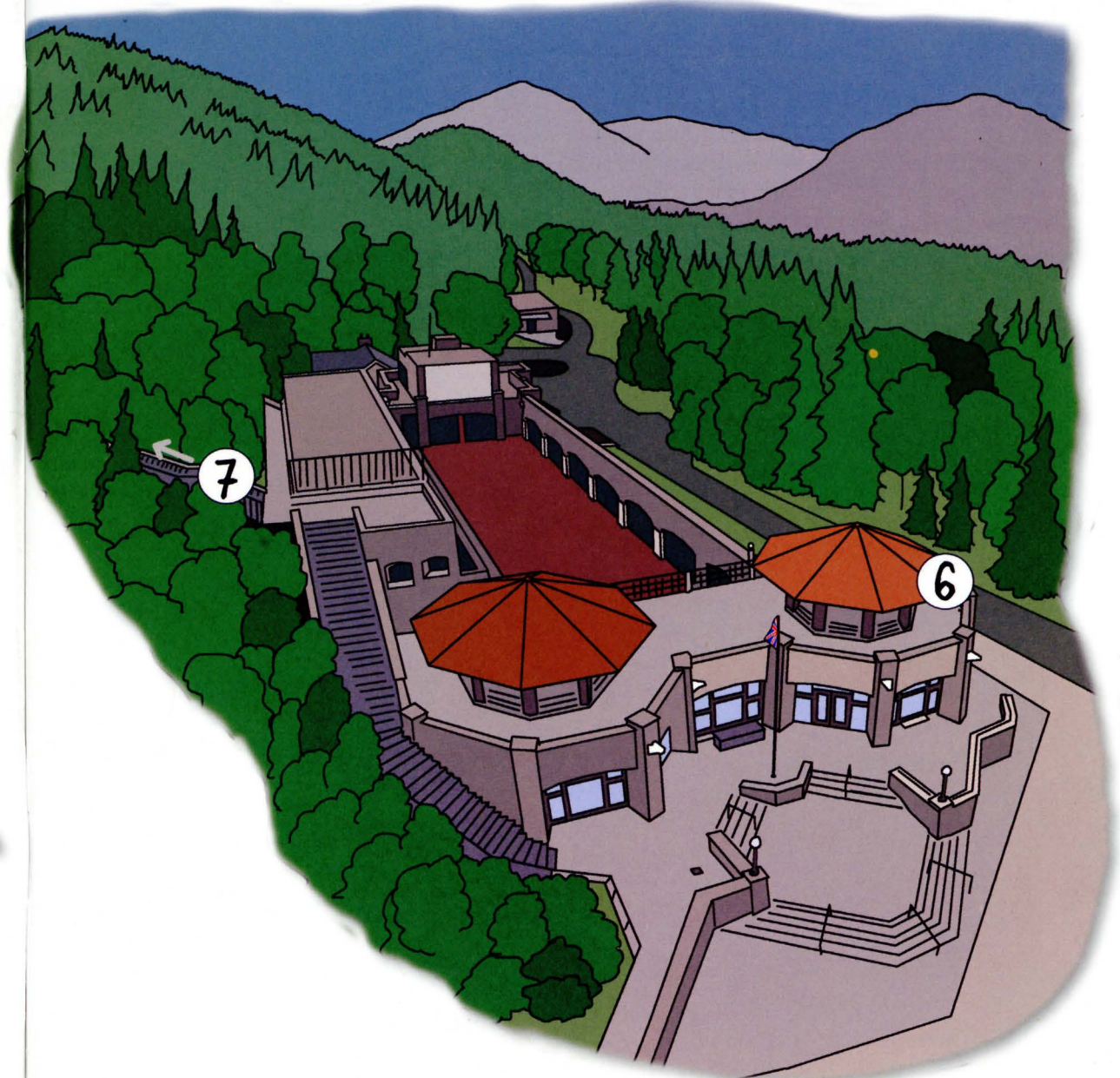
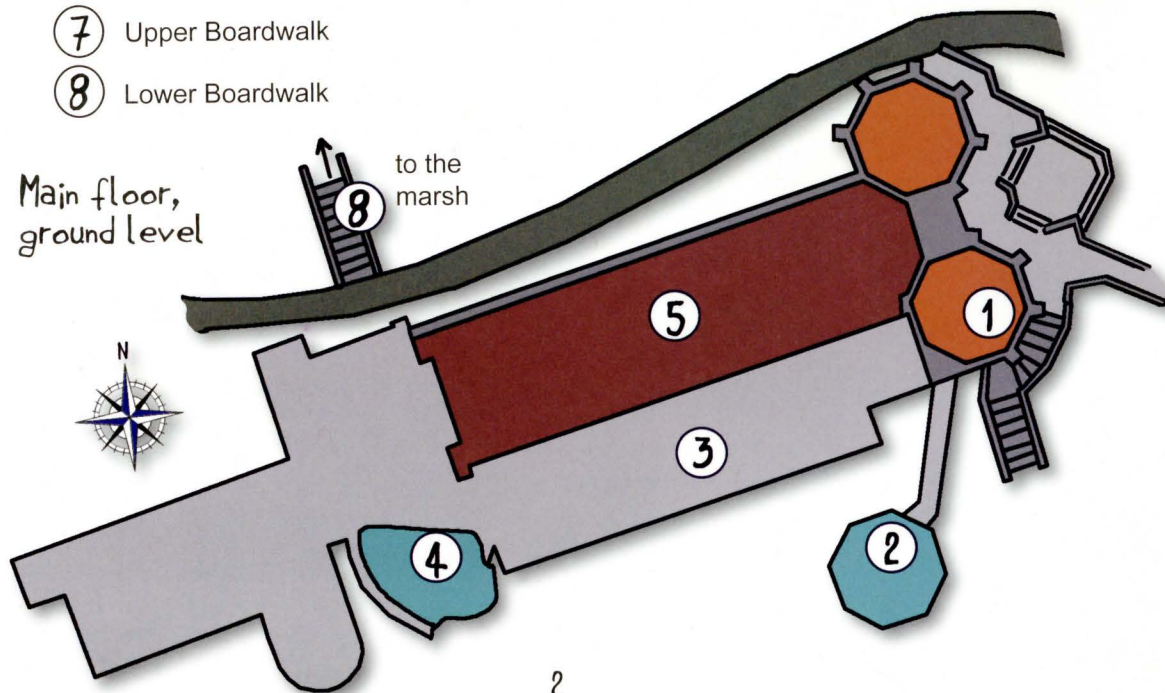
to CAVE AND BASIN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

See and smell the bubbling waters of the Cave and Basin Hot Springs. This place has been important to Indigenous people for thousands of years and it is here that Banff National Park was born.

You'll see the numbers below on activity pages in your booklet. Find them on the map to see where to go to complete the activity. Happy Xploring!

- ① South Belvedere
- ② The Cave
- ③ Story Hall
- ④ The Basin
- ⑤ Pool Deck
- ⑥ Belvedere Viewing Deck
- ⑦ Upper Boardwalk
- ⑧ Lower Boardwalk

At the end of your visit,
go to a Parks Canada
staff member in uniform
to have your certificate
signed and get a
souvenir.

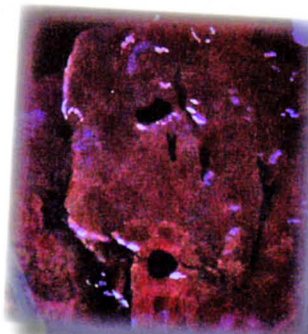


TAKE A LOOK

Go to
①
on the map

THE FLOW OF LIFE

Check out the two large paintings near the Cave entrance. Indigenous Peoples were the first to discover this hot spring. Roland Rollinmud is an artist from the local Stoney Nakoda Nation. Find the animals hidden within his painting "The Flow of Life".



☐ Bison



Lynx ☐



☐ Mountain Goat



Moose ☐

What other animals can you spot?

USE YOUR SENSES



Go to
2
on the map

INSIDE THE CAVE

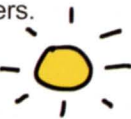
Imagine you are the first person to enter this magical cave. Inside, you'll discover new sights, sounds, smells and textures. Write one item in each square and share them with others.



Something
colourful

Something rough

A source of light



A constant sound

Something floating
on the water



Something underwater

A strong
smell



Something moving

Something mysterious



Try this activity
at the Basin
and the Marsh

IMAGINE

Go to
3
on the map

IMAGINE A PARK

Canada's first national park was created to protect the Cave and Basin for everyone to enjoy. Imagine you could create a brand new national park. What would be in your park?

IN MY DREAM
PARK....

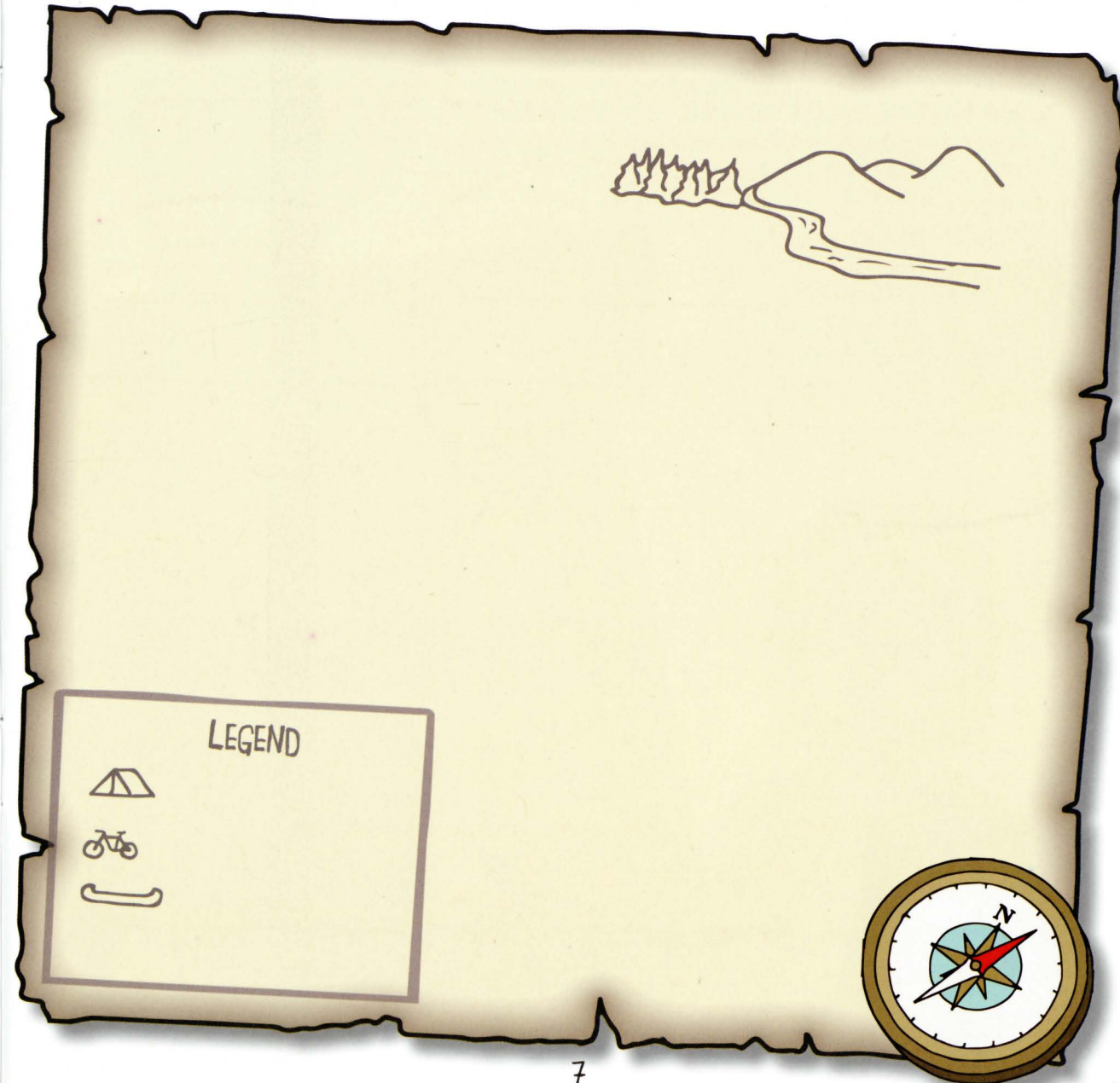
There would be...
(list cool animals and bugs)

People could
(list fun things they could do)

Things I would protect for
other kids to see are: (list cool
stuff you'd want to share with others)



Draw a map of your dream park. Show where you want campsites, hiking and biking trails, and other fun activities that people would do in this park.



FIND IT



Go to
3
on the map

STORIES OF LAND AND PEOPLE

The Cave and Basin is where Canada's first national park was created, over 130 years ago. Part of our job here is to share stories about national parks and historic sites across this big country.



Find the three
Xplorers boxes in
the Story Hall and
peek inside.

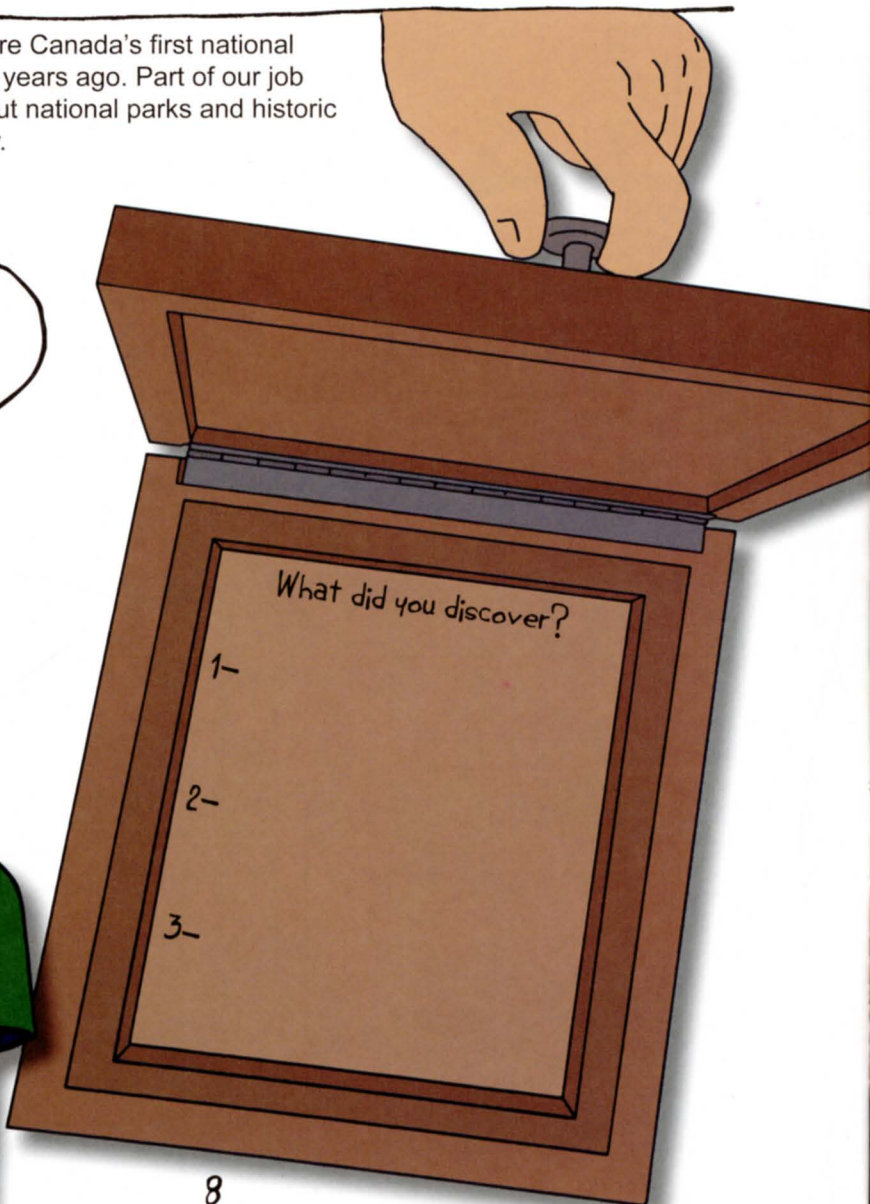


FIGURE IT OUT ???

Go to
4
on the map

ROCK STUDY

When water bubbles up from under the earth from these hot springs, it forms a special type of rock. Take a close look at the rock beside the Basin along the narrow boardwalk.

Circle the 4 descriptions that match your observations.



1. smooth to touch: O
2. bumpy: T
3. very sparkly: R
4. super shiny: C
5. rough to touch: U

6. clear (can see through it): L
7. hard: F
8. bright blue in colour: E
9. full of tiny holes (porous): A

Write the capital letters to find out the name of this special rock formed by the hot springs.

GO INVESTIGATE



Go to
4
on the map

SNAIL DETECTIVE

The Cave and Basin area is the only place in the world you'll see a Banff Springs snail. Your mission is to investigate the Basin in search of these hot water creatures.

1. Each snail is the size of:

☐ An apple seed

☐ An apple

☐ A watermelon

2. The snails were sitting on floating scum made up of bacteria and algae.

Yes ☐

No ☐

3. When I looked closely

I counted _____ snails.

Psst: This is a protected snail habitat. Look but don't touch.

Answer: 1. apple seed



4. The colour of the water in the Basin looks mostly:

☐ Green and blue

☐ Black

☐ Orange

☐ Brown and yellow

5. The air near the basin smells like:

Can't spot a Banff Springs Snail? Ask a Parks Canada staff member for help.



REMEMBER



Go to
5
on the map

POOL DECK PLAY

About a hundred years ago, Cave and Basin had the largest swimming pool in Canada. It's now covered by a brick floor. Today we offer fun activities where the pool used to be.

Find the spot where this photo was taken. Compare the photo to what you see here today.

What is still the same?

What's different?

What's happening on the deck today?



Anyone
up for dip?



The Upper Hot Springs is a perfect place to soak in the hot water and relax after Xploring the Cave and Basin. (Note: there is an entry fee to swim at the Upper Hot Springs.)

TAKE A LOOK



Go to
6
on the map

A BEAUTIFUL VIEW

Belvedere is a word from Italy that means "beautiful view". The beautiful landscape you see in front of you has been protected for the whole world to enjoy. People visit Banff National Park for many reasons. Some of them are:

- ☐ Beautiful mountains
- ☐ Icy peaks and glaciers
- ☐ Amazing nature trails
- ☐ Really big animals
- ☐ Spending time with friends and family
- ☐ Rocky caves (you're at the right place!)

Check ☒ each thing you have seen during your visit to Banff.

What are some other reasons you think people should visit this place?

LISTEN



Go to
7
on the map

THE SOUNDS AROUND

The Cave and Basin Hot Springs have attracted humans and wildlife here for a long time. It can be a busy place, and noisy!

1. Find a spot on the Upper Boardwalk where you can sit or stand.
2. Ask your friends or family to join you.
3. Close your eyes and listen for one minute.



What human-made
sounds did you hear?

What natural sounds
did you hear?



CHECK IT OUT



Go to
4
7
8
on the map

SLIME SLEUTH

Are you curious about all the slimy things living in the hot water pools and streams? This slime is made up of algae and bacteria that loves to live in this sulfur rich water. Find three types of slime. Describe them using the chart below.

	1	2	3
What colour is it?			
What does it smell like?			
How would you describe it? (eg. furry, spongy)			
What does it make you think of?			
What else do you see in the water or nearby? (eg. fish, bubbles, snails, bugs)			

Look, don't touch!
These organisms
are very sensitive!
And they are
super gross!

This hot spring water is full of blue-green algae—one of the oldest organisms on the planet. The oldest known fossil of this creature is over three billion years old!!!



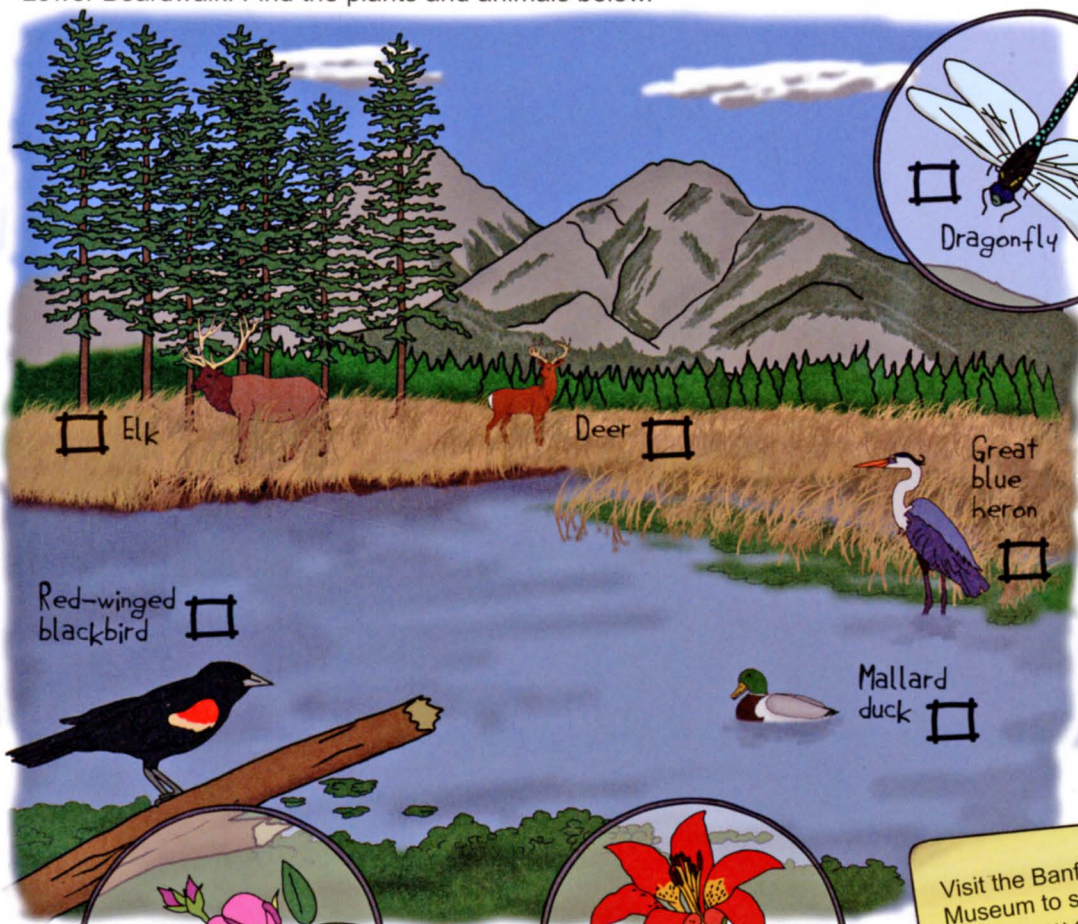
TAKE A WALK



Go to
8
on the map

XPLORE MORE!

Water from the hot pools always flows down the mountainside to the marsh. It creates a wetland habitat that many unusual plants and animals call home. Take a walk on the Lower Boardwalk. Find the plants and animals below.



Visit the Banff Park Museum to see the animals you couldn't find. They're sure to stay still for photos.



GO MEET



MEET OUR STAFF

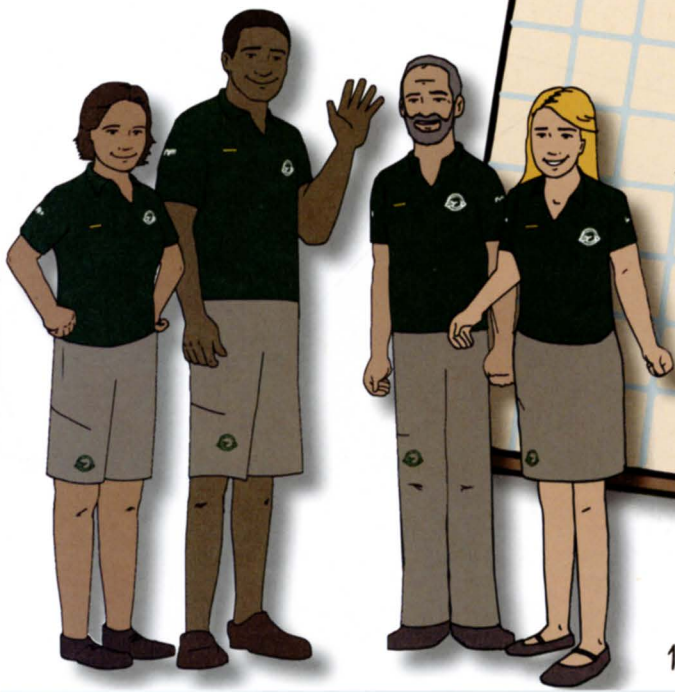
Find one of our friendly Parks Canada staff and invite them to chat. They enjoy talking about the Cave and Basin and what they think is special about it. Ask them:

What is your name?

What is your job at the Cave and Basin?

What is your favourite thing to do here?

Tell them your favourite thing about this place.



CAN YOU HELP US OUT ???

Way to go Xplorer! Now be an Xplorer Xtraordinaire by giving this page with your comments to a Parks Canada employee...

...and don't forget to ask for your special souvenir!

I am an XPLOER XTRAORDINAIRE and I will respect nature and stay curious about history.

1- I thought this booklet was: (Circle your answer.)



SUPER FUN



FUN



BORING

2- My three favourite activities were on pages _____ and _____

3- My age: _____

4- My Xplorers day was: _____

Stuff adults need to know... Participation is voluntary. All information provided will remain anonymous and confidential. Results will be used in aggregate form only. If you have any questions about the collection and use of the information in this survey, please email us at information@pc.gc.ca or call 1-888-773-8888.

MY FAVOURITE THINGS

What I liked the most during my visit:
(Write or draw it here)

During my visit, my favourite
place was:





Cave and Basin
National Historic Site

XPLORERS

PARKS CANADA

IS AN OFFICIAL PARKS CANADA XPLORER

_____ date

_____ staff



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

LIKE TO X PLORE??

You can have fun in lots of
Parks Canada places! Go to
parksCanada.gc.ca/xplorers
to see where they are.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



BANFF PARK MUSEUM
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE



LAKE LOUISE IN
BANFF NATIONAL PARK

KOOTENAY
NATIONAL PARK



YOHO
NATIONAL
PARK

Let's Go!
Play. Learn. Grow. With

**CLUB
PARKA**

Visit www.parksCanada.gc.ca/Parka for Parka's app, videos, activities and more!