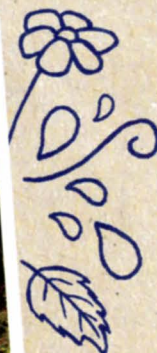




Elk Island
National Park

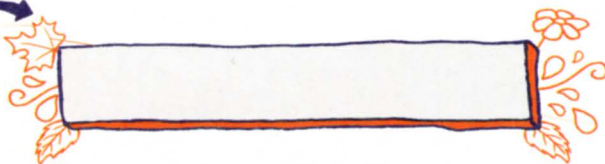


Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

THIS BOOKLET
BELONGS TO



WANT TO
BECOME AN

XPLOER??

Welcome to **ELK ISLAND NATIONAL PARK!**

Elk Island is a great place to have fun with your family, get back to nature, and watch wildlife. Go out and have an adventure!

1 – Complete 4 activities in this booklet.

2 – Once you are done, bring your booklet to the **ASTOTIN THEATRE** or the **VISITOR CENTRE** to **get your special Parks Canada souvenir** and have your certificate signed.

The activities will be easier and more fun to do with an adult.
Show him/her your book to **get started on your first challenge!**

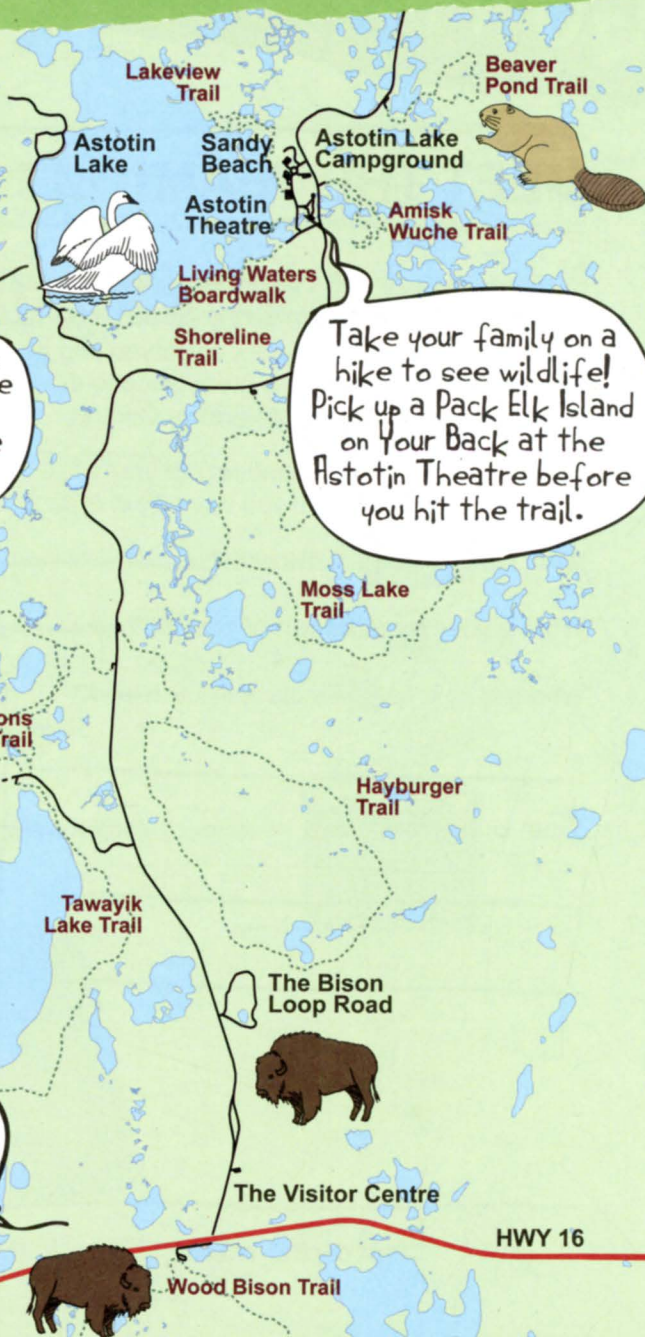
CHECK IT OUT!

This map is your guide to all the cool things to see and do in Elk Island.

Did you know? Astotin Lake is the best place in Elk Island to skip rocks, paddle or make sand sculptures!

Take your family on a hike to see wildlife! Pick up a Pack Elk Island on Your Back at the Astotin Theatre before you hit the trail.

Take Elk Island Home! Stop at the Visitor's Centre to pick up a souvenir of your adventure!



GO MEET

MEET THE TEAM!

Pretend you are a reporter from a local newspaper trying to learn more about Elk Island National Park. Find a park employee and ask if you can interview him or her (Hint: a great place to ask is at the Visitor Centre or Astotin Interpretive Centre).



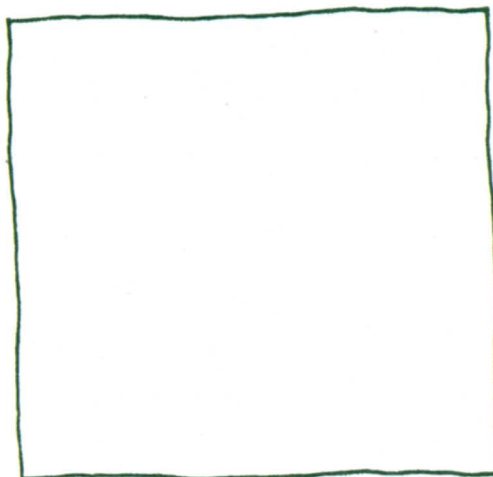
Ask the questions below and record your answers. If you'd like, use the space below to ask your own question. If you have time, draw a picture of the employee you interviewed.

What job do you do in the park? _____

What is your favourite part of your job? _____

Where is your favourite place in Elk Island?

Your own question?



Employee name

USE YOUR SENSES

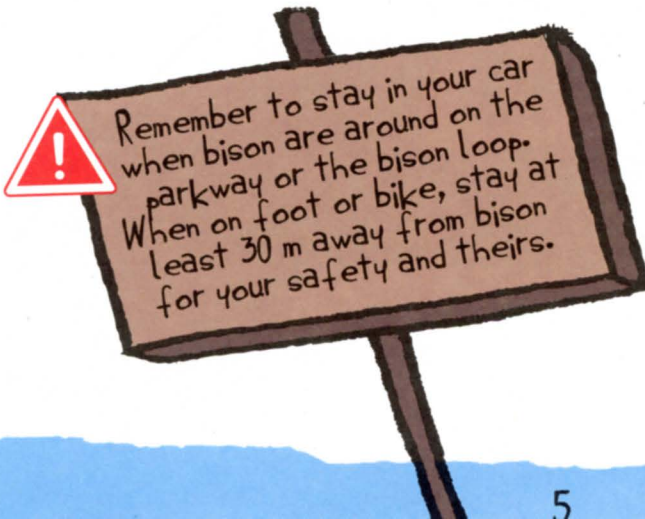


THE BISON CHALLENGE

Bison are a big deal here at Elk Island National Park. While you visit us, take the **Bison Challenge**: a to-do list of all the coolest bison things to do and see in the park!

Keep track of your bison adventures below!

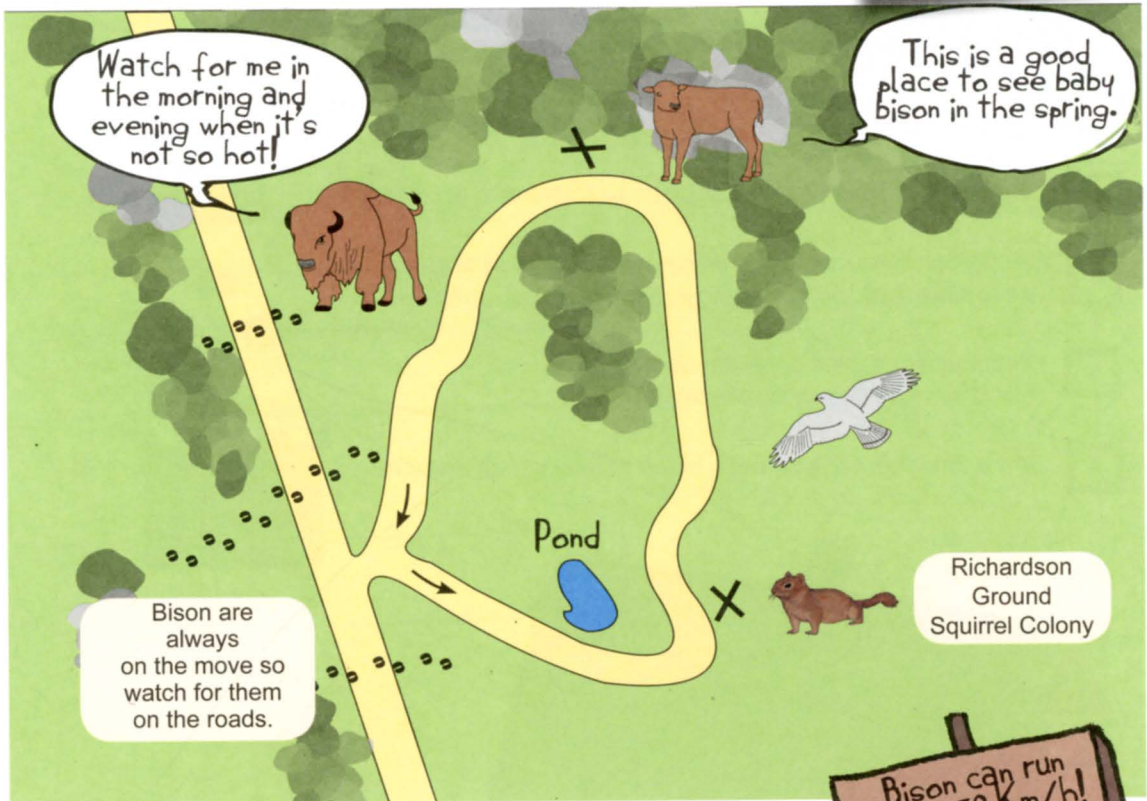
- ☐ Hear the roar of male bison during the mating season (July-August) as they try to impress the lady-bison!
- ☐ Say cheese! Take pictures of bison to share with your friends!
- ☐ Keep your eyes, ears, and nose out for signs of bison: hoof-prints, hair, bones, wallow and of course, poop!
- ☐ Participate in a park program about bison (our favorite is **Bison Backstage!**)
- ☐ See a film about Elk Island's bison at the Astotin Theatre!



TAKE A LOOK

BUSY BISON LOOP ROAD

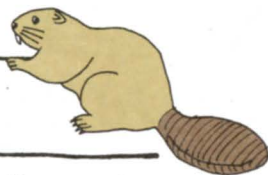
The Bison Loop is a great place to see plains bison. Hop in the car for some of the best wildlife viewing around!



Didn't see bison? Try the early morning or later on in the evening when it is cooler. Bison don't like heat and often sleep in the trees during the day.



IMAGINE



LEAVE IT TO BEAVERS

Beavers are everywhere in the park and the best way to find them is to look for their houses. Beavers use mud and branches to build houses called lodges. Find a lodge along the road or on a trail and draw the outside. Then imagine what it looks like inside.



I saw _____ lodges during my time at Elk Island!

The best times to see beavers at work are early morning and dusk!

JOIN IN

ATTEND A PROGRAM

Become an expert on Elk Island while having lots of fun with your family! We challenge you to participate in as many park programs as you can, and collect a program stamp at each one!

Keep your eye out for program posters to find out when to catch your favorite activities, or visit the Astotin Theatre or the Visitor Centre for more info.



Name of program

Best thing I did

Stamp

Name of program

Best thing I did

Stamp

Name of program

Best thing I did

Stamp

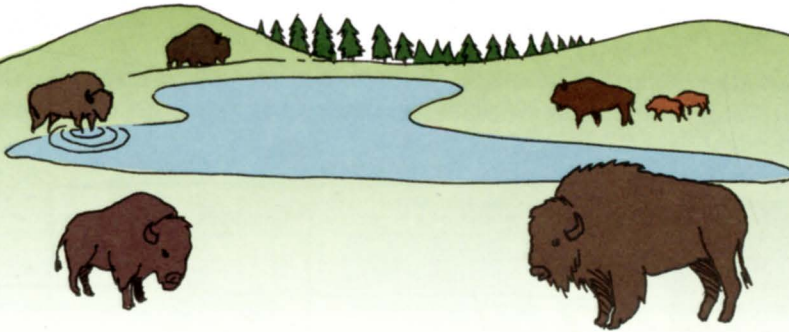
My favorite program was:

MAKE BELIEVE



JOIN THE HERD

Grab some friends and roam over to the Astotin Theatre to dress up like a bison! Draw or paste a picture of yourself with your new bison herd!



Imagine what life
would be like
exploring the
grasslands with
your pals!

SEARCH FOR



GEOCACHE: BISON TRACKER



Take your family on a treasure hunt using a GPS (Global Positioning System) device! Pick up a **Geocache Kit** from the Astotin Theatre and start your adventure!

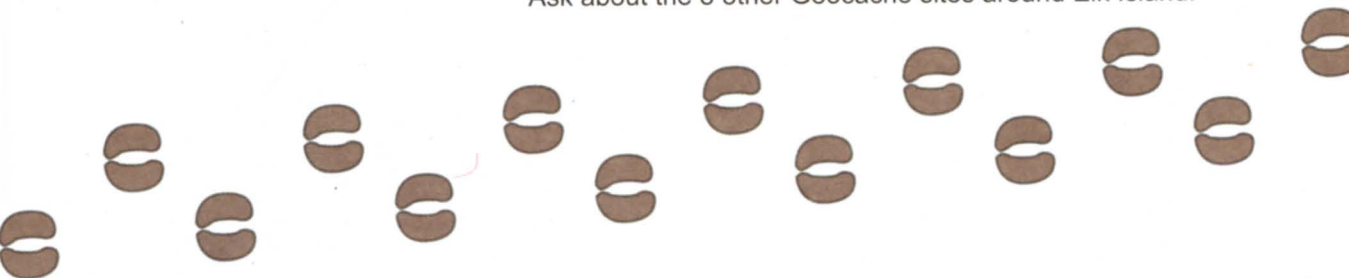
Like a Parks Canada scientist, use the GPS to follow a bison's path through the day-use area. Write down what evidence you find at each cache, and then bring the kit back to the theatre for a prize!



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Want to keep playing?

Ask about the 8 other Geocache sites around Elk Island!

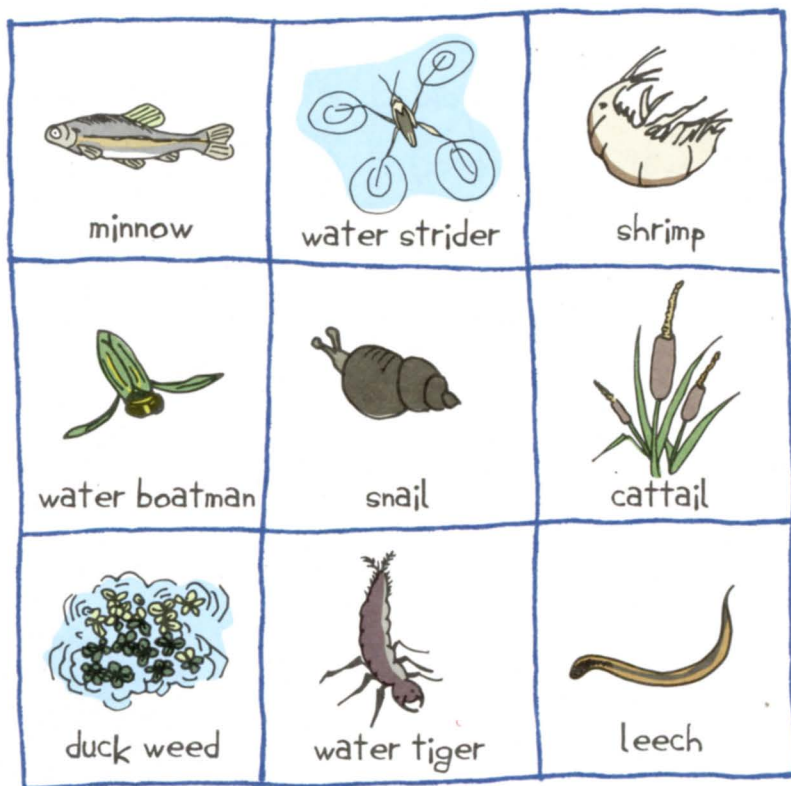


TRY IT OUT !!

UNDERWATER BINGO

You don't need a submarine to discover the creatures of Astotin Lake!
Borrow a *Pack Elk Island on your Back* from the Astotin Theatre, and look inside for the pond dipping kit.

Follow the instructions in the kit, and use the guide to identify the creatures you find!
Circle the critters you meet on this Underwater Bingo card.



USE YOUR SENSES



THE SOUNDS AROUND

Nature is noisy! Listen to the sounds around you.

1. Find a spot outside where you can sit or stand.
2. Ask your friends and family to join you!
3. Close your eyes and listen quietly for one minute.



What did you hear?

What natural sounds did you hear?
(birds, water, wind etc.)

What human-made sounds did you hear?
(cars, people talking, etc.)



TAKE A WALK

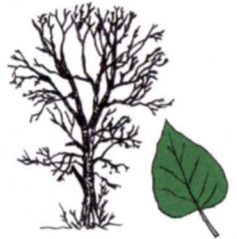
MEET A TREE

The forest found in Elk Island is called aspen parkland — where the boreal forest of the north and the grasslands of the south meet.

Hit the trail and try to identify some of the trees that call Elk Island home.
Use crayons or a pencil to make a leaf or bark rubbing!



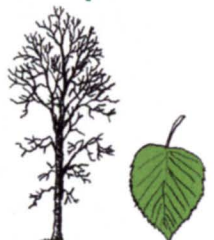
Trembling
aspen



Balsam
poplar



White
spruce



Paper
birch

See a tree you can't identify? Draw it/describe it to parks staff at the
Astotin Theatre!

TAKE A LOOK!

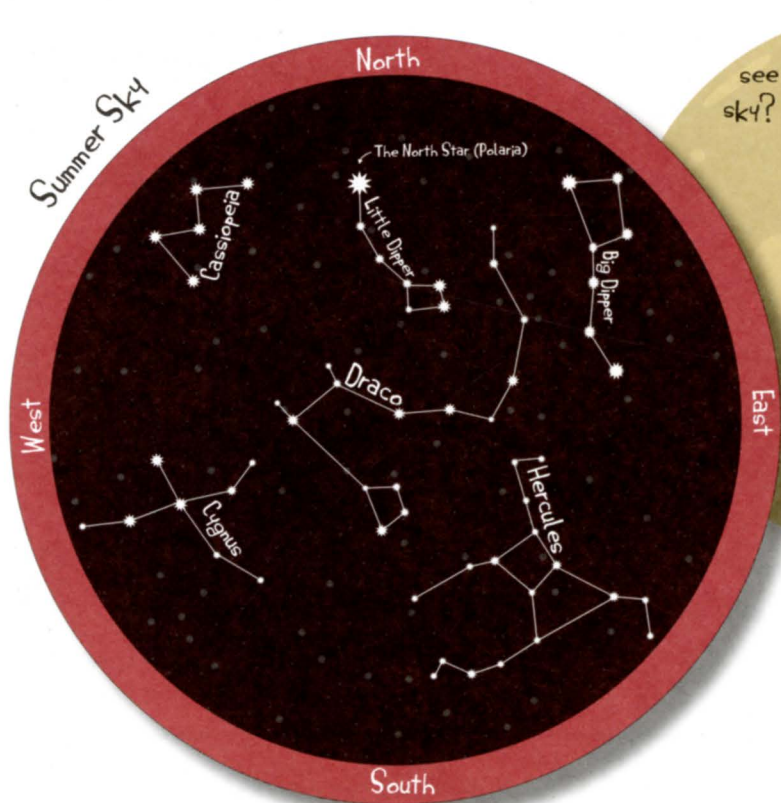


SHAPES IN THE SKY

Elk Island protects the night sky! As a part of the Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve, Elk Island has some of the best star gazing in the area.

Head down to Sandy Beach and watch the stars come out.

See if you can spot these constellations.



Do you
see any other shapes in the
sky? Draw them here and name
your constellation

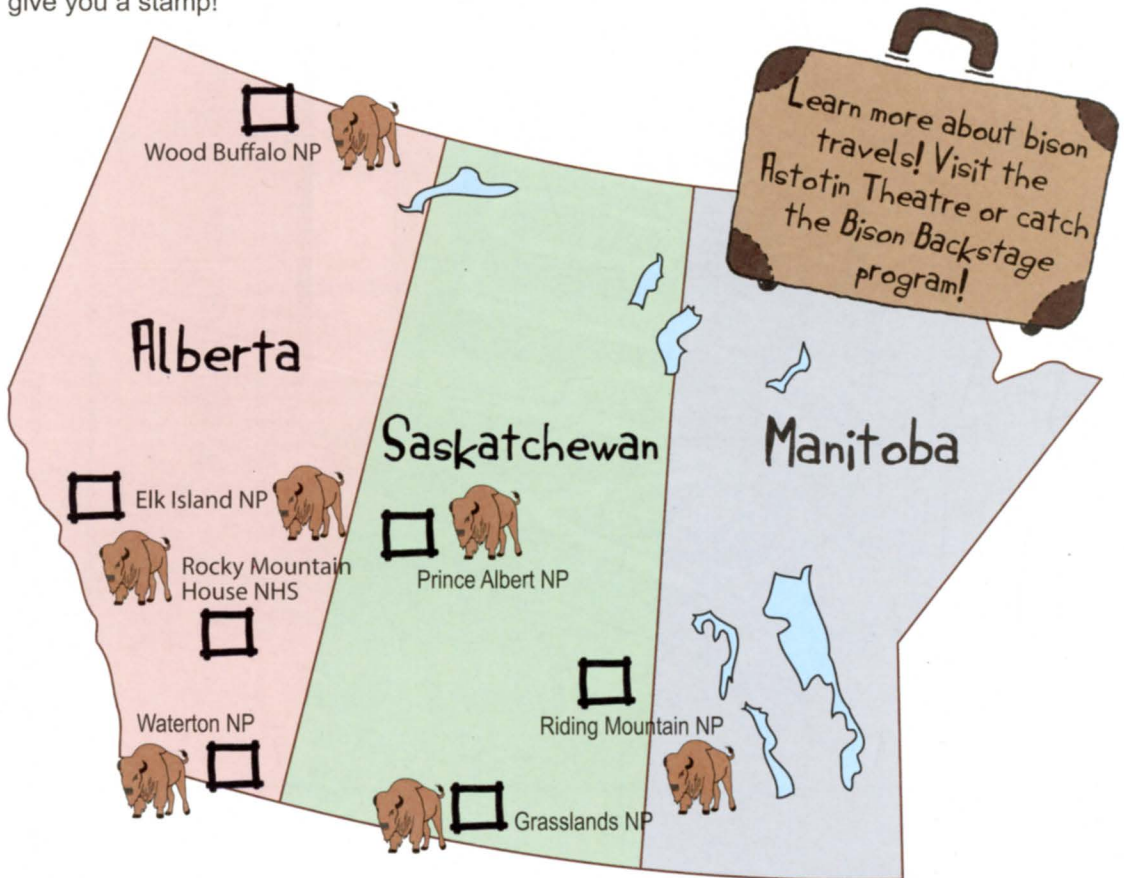


CHECK IT OUT

BISON ON THE ROAD

Our bison love to travel! To help the bison species stay healthy, we've sent our bison to other national parks and around the world.

Take your family on a road trip to visit other national parks and historic sites that have Elk Island bison! Bring along your Xplorer's booklet and ask staff to sign the box or give you a stamp!





Elk Island
National Park



IS AN OFFICIAL PARKS CANADA XPLOER

date

staff



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

CAN YOU HELP US OUT ???

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING COMMENT CARD QUESTIONS

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO THE ASTOTIN THEATRE OR THE VISITOR CENTRE.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!



1. While completing your Xplorers booklet, was it (Circle your answer).

Crazy Fun

Fun

Kinda Fun

Not so much fun

Booorinnng



2. Check ☒ the activities you did and circle the 3 you liked the best.
Which 3 activities did you like least? (Put a big X through them.)

☐

Meet the Team

☐

The Bison Challenge

☐

Busy Bison Loop Road

☐

Leave it to Beavers

☐

Attend a Program

☐

Join the Herd

☐

Geocache: Bison Tracker

☐

Underwater Bingo

☐

The Sounds Around

☐

Meet a Tree

☐

Shapes in the Sky

☐

Bison on the Road

3. How old are you? (Circle your answer.)

Under 6

Between 6 and 8

Between 9 and 11

12 and older

4. What was your favourite part of your adventure at Elk Island?

DON'T FORGET
TO CHECK
THE OTHER SIDE!

CAN YOU HELP US OUT???

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES IN YOUR XPLOER BOOKLET.



Extra Comments

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears slightly aged or off-white. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

Stuff your adult needs to know...the fine print

Participation is voluntary. All information provided will remain anonymous and confidential, and the 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.

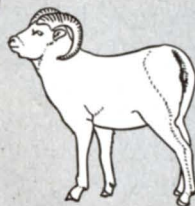


YOUR MISSION:



PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK

WATERTON
LAKES
NATIONAL
PARK

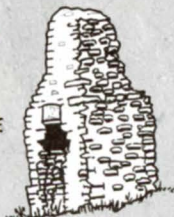


JASPER NATIONAL PARK



YOHO NATIONAL PARK

ROCKY
MOUNTAIN
HOUSE
NATIONAL
HISTORIC SITE



BANFF NATIONAL PARK

LIKE TO XPLORE??

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



Let's Go!

Play. Learn. Grow. With

CLUB

PARKA



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