



THE
BRENTON
ARBORETUM

presents:

Leaf Walking Trail Adventure Packet

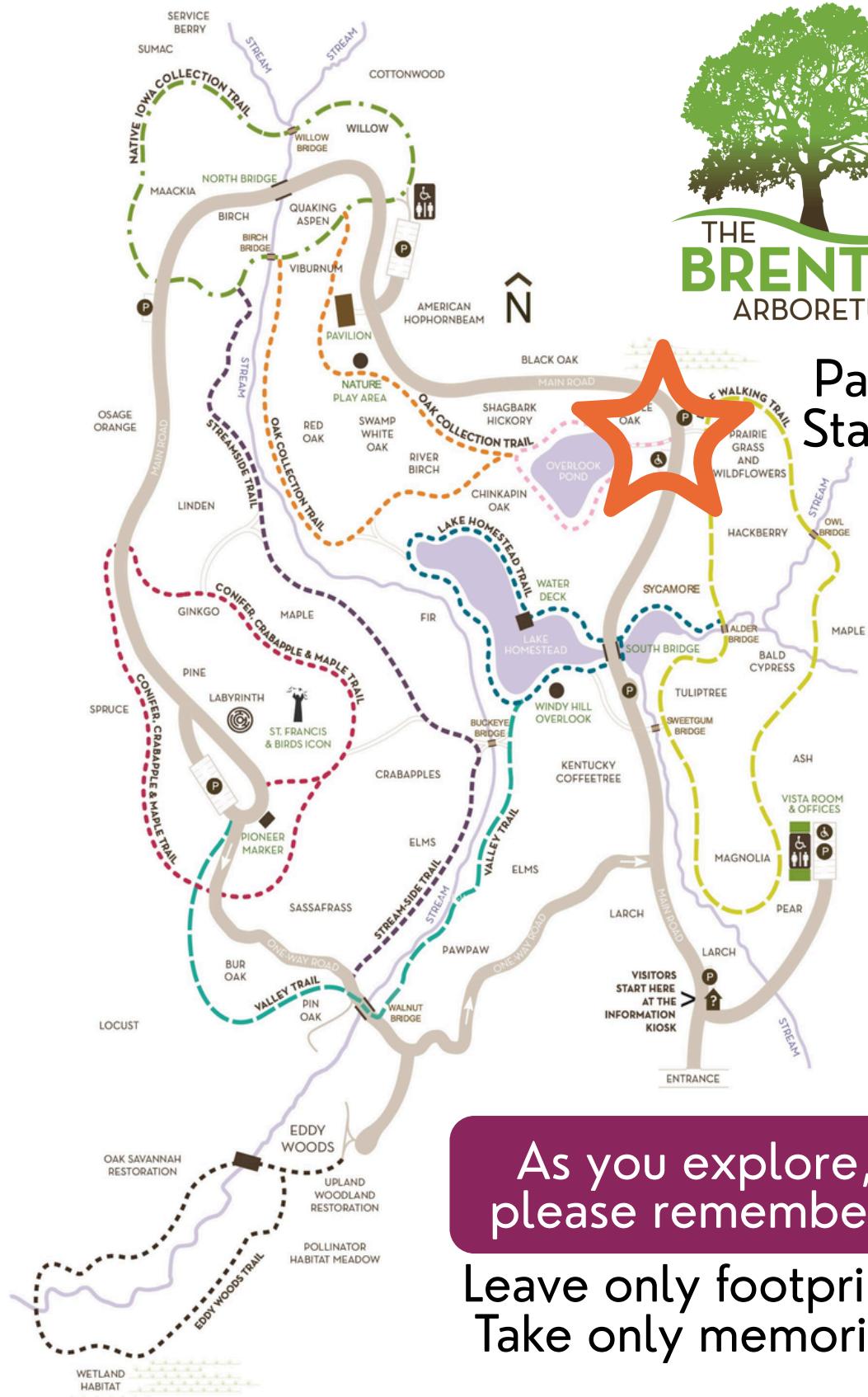


ARBORETUM MAP



THE **BRENTON** ARBORETUM

Park and Start here



As you explore,
please remember:

**Leave only footprints
Take only memories**

Your Adventure Begins in the Tallgrass Prairie

The prairie began 10,000 years ago and is home to many types of plants and animals.

Pollinators



Rusty Patched Bumblebee

Grasses



Big Bluestem

Because the habitat is almost gone. Many species are almost gone.

Small mammals



Plains Pocket Mouse

Eastern Fringed Prairie Orchid

Birds



Peregrine falcon

Predators



Great Plains Wolf

Flowers



Many prairie species can be seen every day

Look and See,
can you find the following?



A



B



C



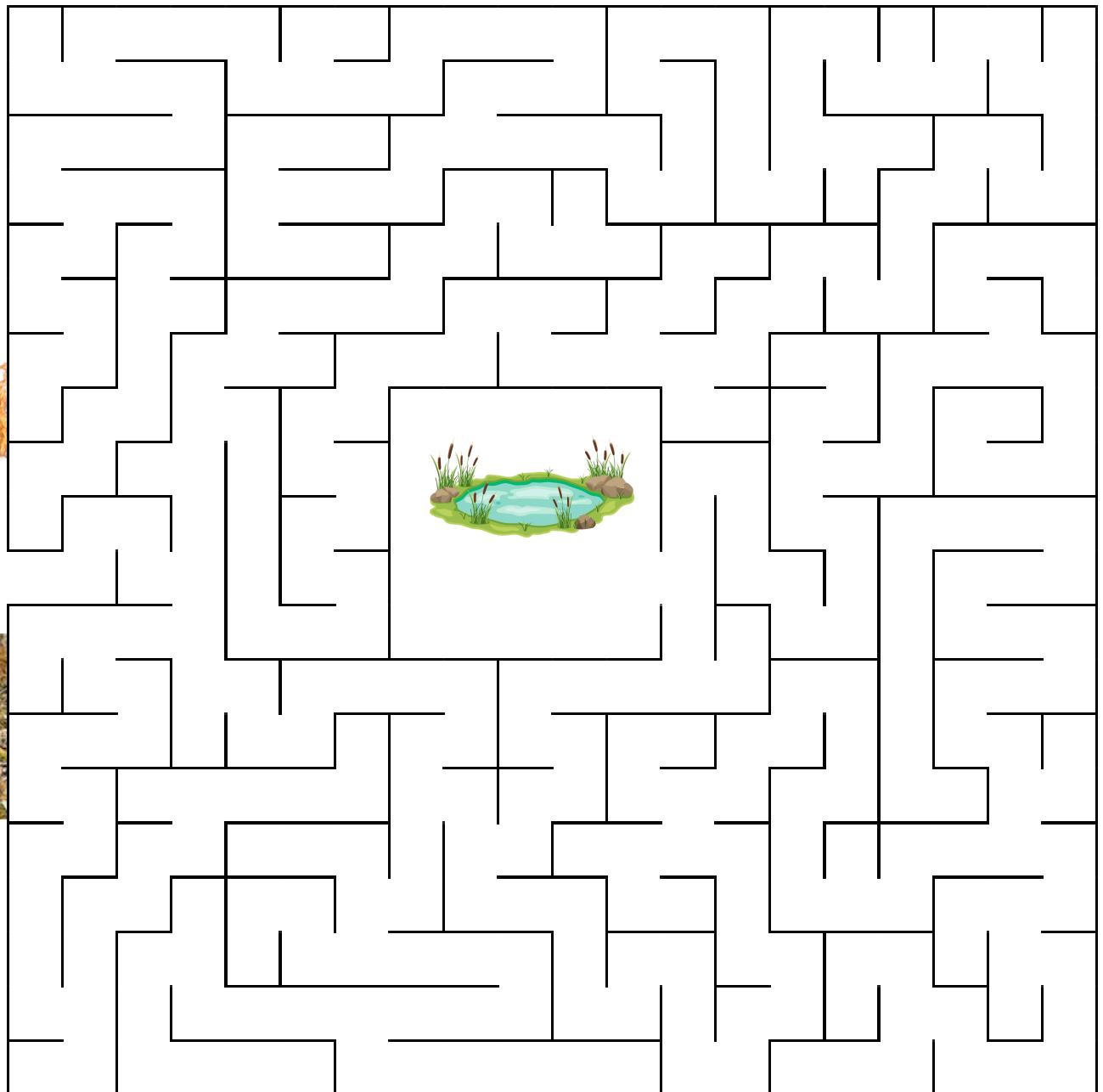
D



E

Can you name these prairie plants?

Maze



Help the blue-racer escape the fire.

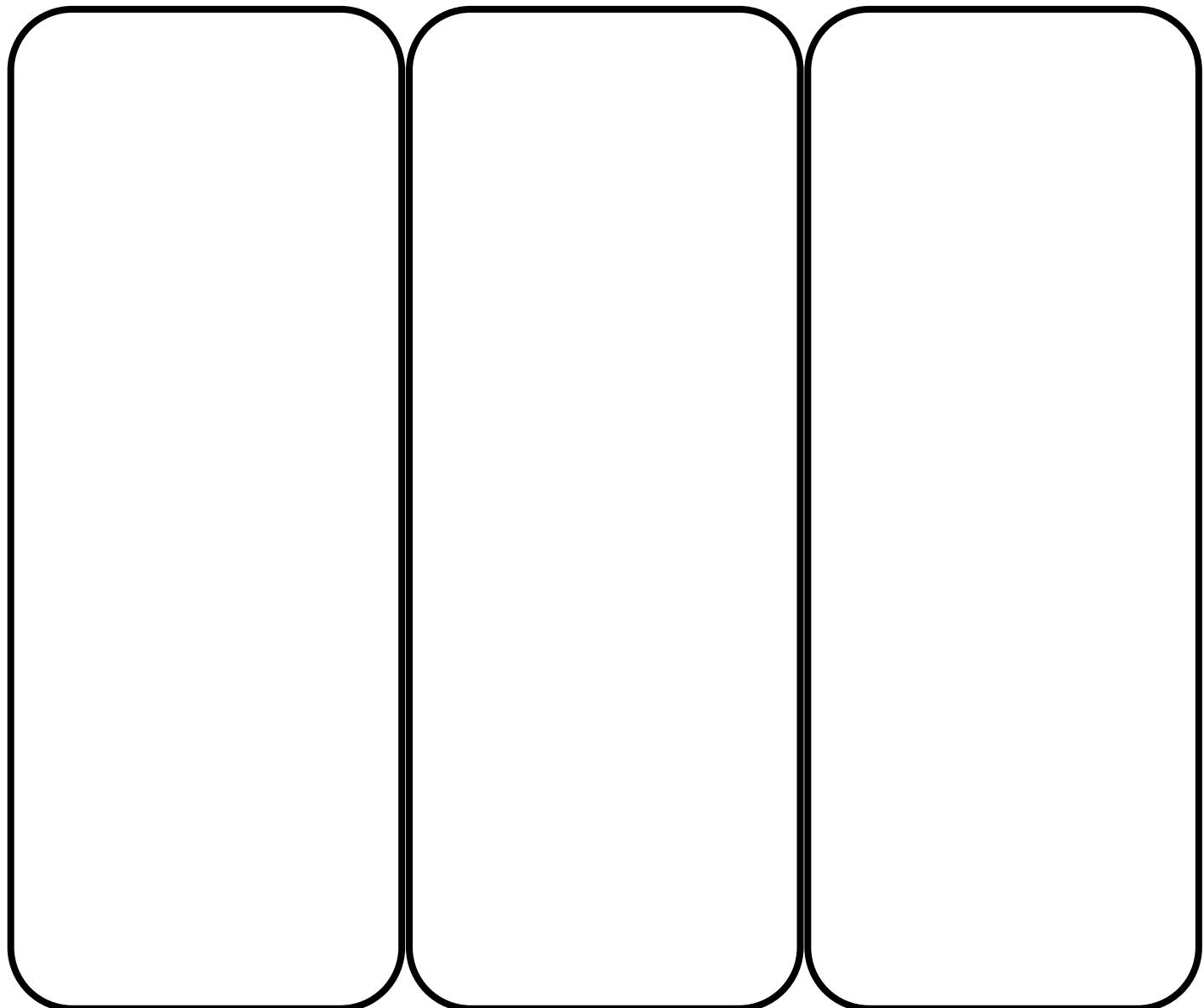
I see, I think,
and I wonder!

Look at the colors
around you...

What Can I
See?

What does it
make me
think about?

What do I
wonder
about this?

Three large, empty, rounded rectangular boxes for writing responses to the questions above. Each box is outlined in black and has a slight shadow.

Sounds Along the Trail

Can you hear these familiar bird songs today? Who is singing?

Cheery-
up-
Cheerily

A



Meee-
ooowww

B



Dick, dick,
see, see, see

C



Jeeah

D



Kerrr-r-
r

E



Who cooks
for you,
who cooks
for you all?.

F



Can you find a tree with leaves and nuts like this?



That's an American Chestnut!

The American chestnut, *Castanea dentata*, once covered forests across the eastern United States. Nearly four billion of these giant, fast-growing trees provided food, shade, and homes for countless animals and people.

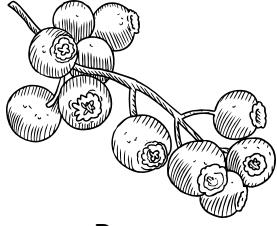
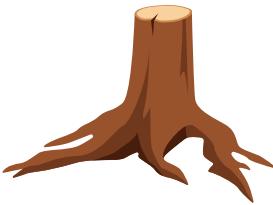
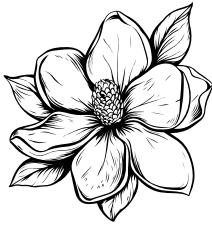
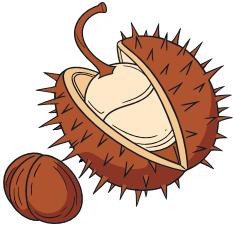
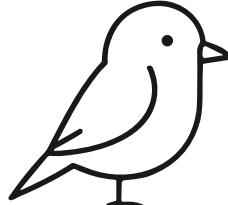
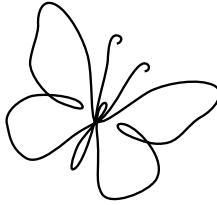
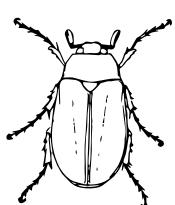
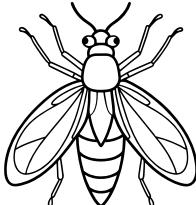
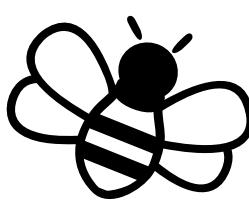
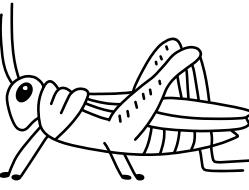
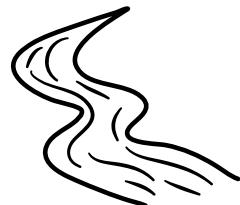
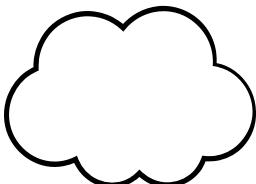
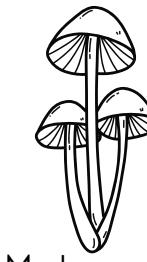
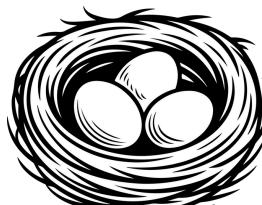
For thousands of years, Native Americans cared for the forests where chestnuts grew, using fire and other methods to help the trees thrive. The nuts were an important food source—packed with calories, vitamin C, and antioxidants—and they nourished both people and wildlife.

Chestnut leaves were full of nutrients that fed insects, which in turn fed birds and fish. Animals like squirrels, deer, bears, and turkeys all loved the sweet chestnuts.

Sadly, today the American chestnut is almost extinct. In the early 1900s, a fungus called chestnut blight spread through the forests and killed nearly every mature chestnut tree. Scientists and conservationists are now working hard to bring this “mighty giant” back to America’s forests.



BINGO

Match the Flower to the Tree



Elderberry



**American
Chestnut**



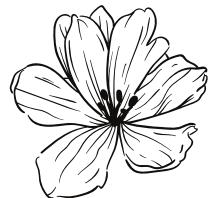
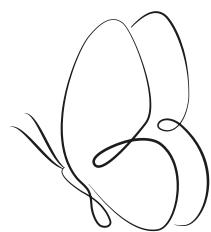
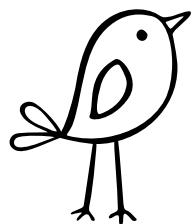
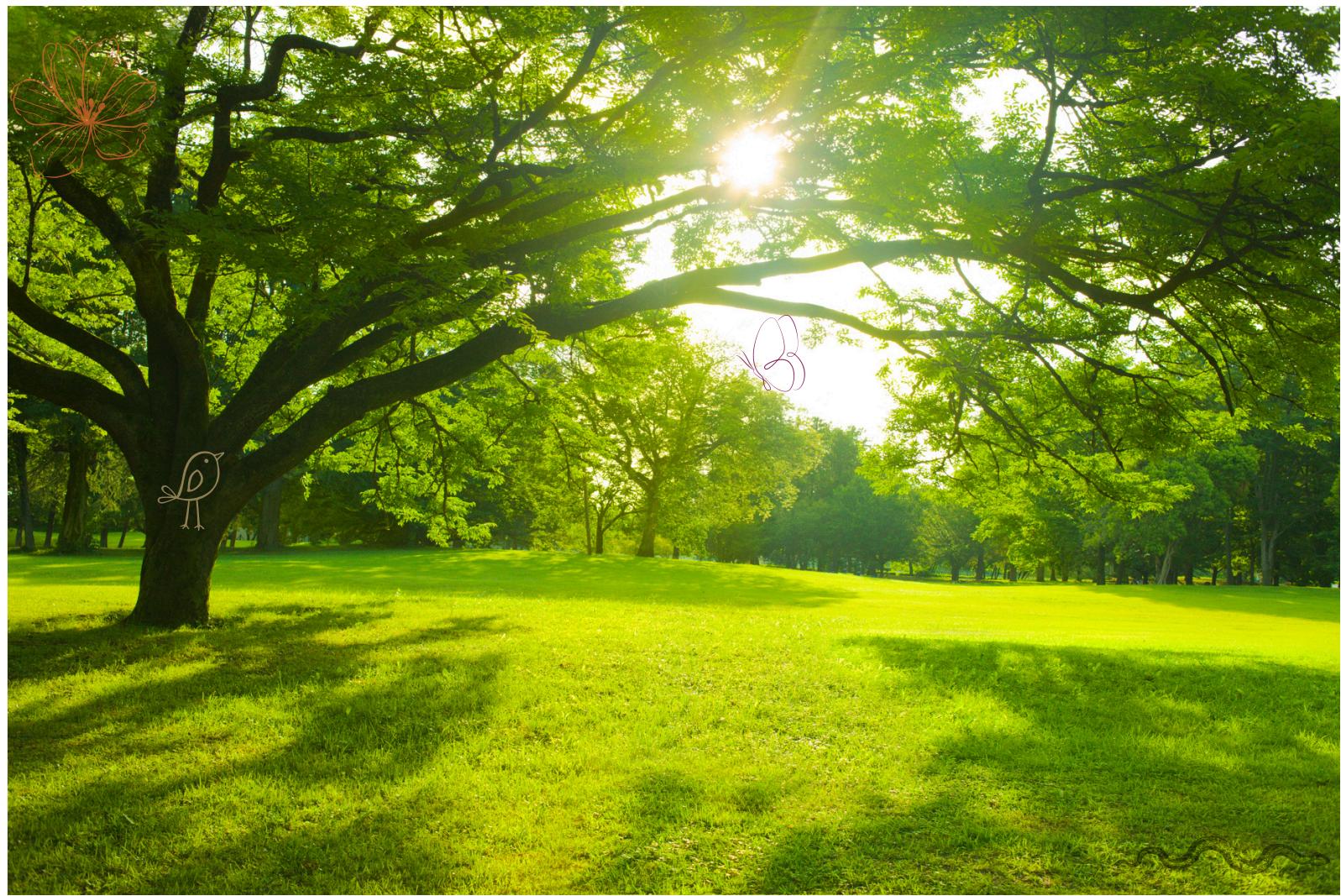
Tulip Tree



Magnolia

Hidden Images

Circle the hidden objects



Bridges Provide Connectivity



Humans have learned to help animals by building "wildlife bridges." These bridges help creatures safely get from one side of an obstacle, like a busy highway, to the other.

Humans build and use bridges to get across challenging terrain like rivers or roads. Animals use bridges in just the same way, but they can't build their own.



Build a Bridge Challenge

Imagine an ant needs to cross a small ravine. Can you collect materials like leaves, twigs, bark, or cones to build a small bridge?

Remember to not harm the plants as you work!



ANSWER KEY

Page 4:

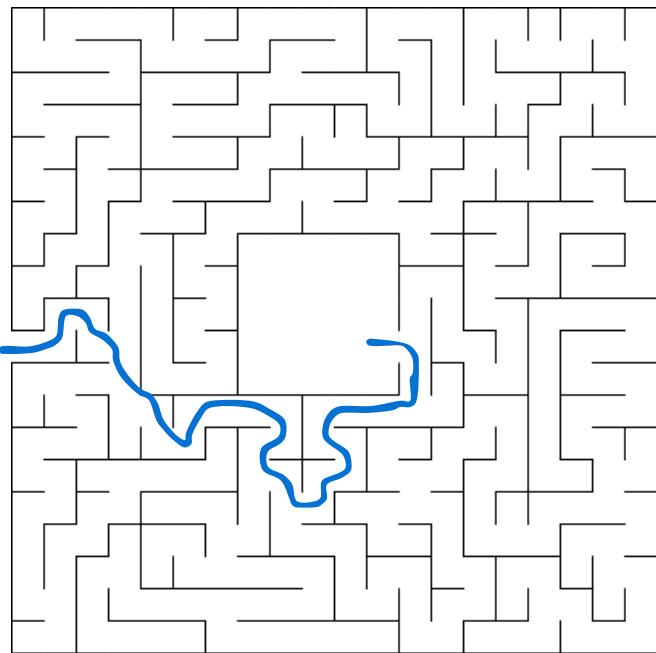
- A. big bluestem, B. common milkweed, C. blazingstar, D. aster, E. Indian grass

Page 7:

- A. American robin, B. grey catbird, C. dickcissel, D. blue jay, E. red-tailed hawk, F. barred owl

Page 10:

Page 5:



Elderberry



American Chestnut



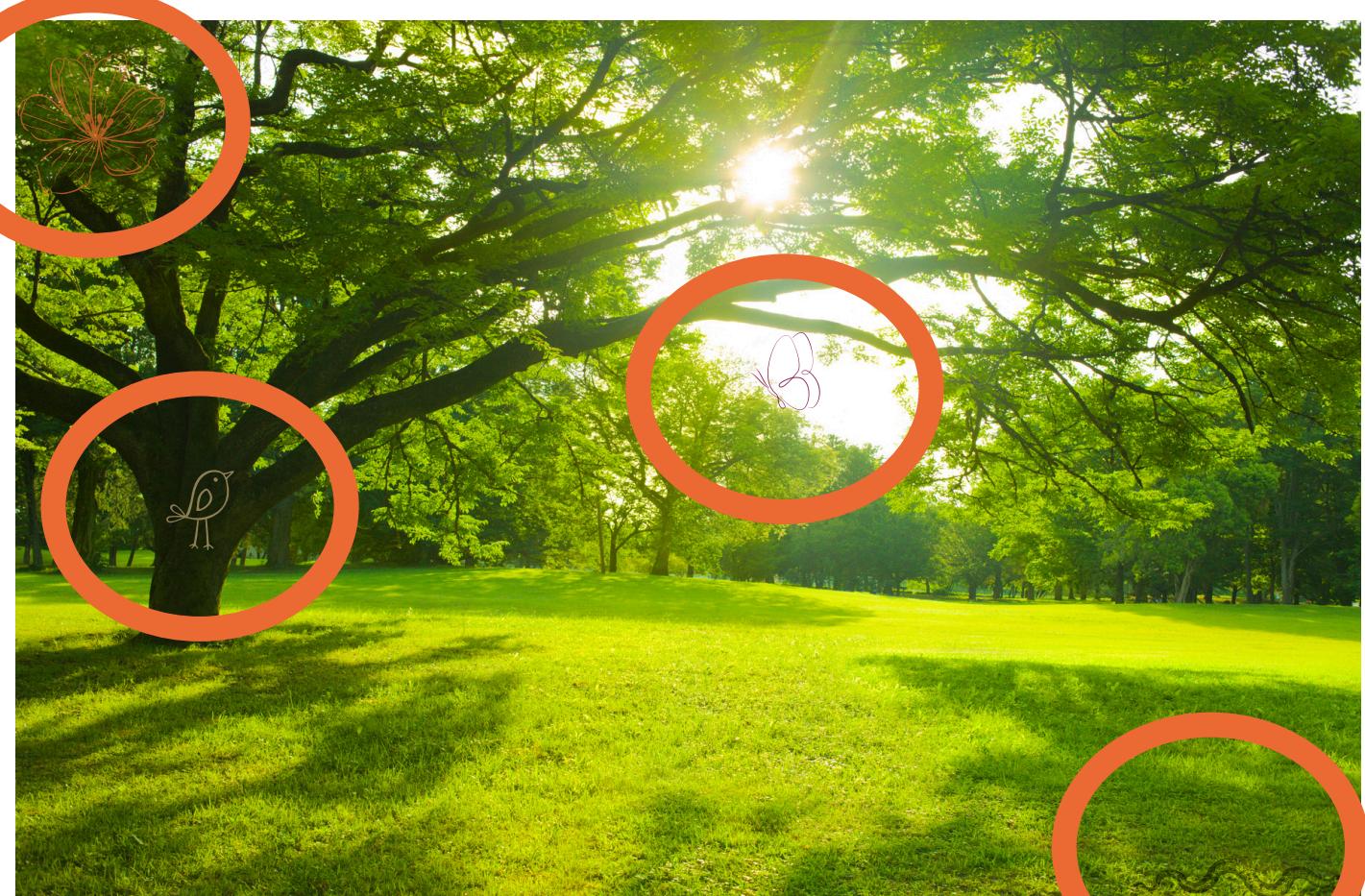
Tulip Tree



Magnolia

Answer Keys

Page 12





THE
BRENTON
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*Thank you for exploring
with us today!*