

Animal and Botanical Marvels Key Terms:

Preserve	Galls	Camouflage
Conservation	Fossil	Diversity
Habitat	Nests	Native Species
Animal Evidence	Observation	Endangered Species
Tracks	Hypothesis	Invasive Species
Burrow	Riparian Woodland	Aquifer
Scat	Ashe Juniper / Live Oak Savannah	

Preserve: An area of land managed to protect its flora, fauna, natural resources, and landscape.

Conservation: The protection and management of earth's biodiversity, including our cultural resources, species, their habitats, and ecosystems from change, loss, or damage to prevent excessive rates of extinction or population declines.

Habitat: A place where a plant or animal can find the three necessary items for survival: food, water, and shelter.

Animal Evidence: A clue or sign that an animal has been in the area.

Tracks: Footprints or other marks left by an animal, person, or vehicle.

Burrow: A hole or tunnel in the ground made by an animal. The animal uses it as a place to live and hide.

Scat: The scientific name for an animal poop.

Galls: A large round growth found on trees that serve as a home to the larva of a tiny wasp. The wasp previously stung the tree to insert its larva.

Fossil: The remains or impression of a prehistoric organism preserved in a petrified form.

Nests: A resting place to raise young, typically made by birds to raise their chicks.

Observation: The action of watching or monitoring one's surroundings to gain information for scientific purposes.

Hypothesis: A possible explanation of an observation, phenomenon, or problem that can be tested by further investigation.

Riparian Woodland: The second type of habitat inside the canyon with a higher diversity of plants, cooler temperatures, and higher moisture content.

Ashe Juniper / Live Oak Savannah: The first habitat we walked through at Westcave Preserve that was a grassland with two main trees.

Camouflage: Markings or a disguise that helps an animal hide from others.

Diversity: A measure of the amount of variety in the types of plants and animals present in a given area.

Native Species: An organism that has adaptations for and is naturally found in a particular area.

Endangered Species: An organism that is very rare and in danger of becoming extinct.

Invasive Species: A living organism that is not native to an ecosystem, causing harm to the environment and its inhabitants.

Aquifer: An underground layer of permeable, porous, or fractured rock that holds and moves water.

Other Activities

Eco Region Coloring Page

TPWD Texas Ecoregion Packet

Habitat Game:

OH DEER! Resource: