



## Springs Preserve Origen Teaching Tool ANSWER KEY

Welcome to the Springs Preserve—the Birthplace of Las Vegas! People have been discovering the Springs for thousands of years, and you are about to step into their shoes. Are you prepared to become an explorer? Here are some things you will need:

- Listening ears! A good explorer must be on alert. That means listening to teachers, guides, the sounds of nature, and all that surrounds them.
- A proper journal! A good explorer takes notes of the things they see, hear, and learn so they will be able to take that information back home to share with others. Use this paper as your explorer's journal.
- A pen or a pencil! Or a crayon or a marker! A good explorer must be able to take notes on all their exciting adventures.
- Water! Exploring in the desert is hard work. Make sure you stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water.

Let the adventure begin!

### Miracle in the Mojave

1. You are currently surrounded by a large desert called the **Mojave Desert**. How much rain does this desert get each year? **4 inches**
2. The movie showed many prehistoric creatures that lived in the Mojave before it became a desert. Which was your favorite one? **Smilodon (saber tooth cat), Columbian mammoth, Short faced bear, American lion, early horse, and Teratorn are all mentioned in the movie**
3. Name one thing in the movie you would like to learn more about: \_\_\_\_\_.  
Use the space below to fill in more information about the topic you picked as you explore the Springs Preserve.

### Spring Mound

1. Imagine you are an explorer finding the Springs in the desert for the first time. What is the first thing you would do with that water? Describe what the water might have looked and felt like coming out of the earth. **Different accounts of encounters with the Springs mention that the waters were deep and plentiful. John C Fremont wrote in his diary that the water was good to drink, but a little warm for his taste. Early explorers would have swam, drank, watered their horses, and maybe washed up with the water they discovered.**

2. Many animals were drawn to the Springs as well as people. See how many animals you can spot on the Spring mound. \_\_\_\_\_. Use the space below to draw a picture of your favorite Spring Mound creature.



### Flash Flood

The life of an explorer is filled with many hazards, and you are about to witness a true natural wonder: the power of the flash flood!

1. Write down one tip for keeping safe during a flash flood!  
**Head to high ground immediately. Get out of your car if swept up in a flood. Pay attention to weather reports. Do not enter water. Do not try to outrun water.**
2. Flash floods do important work in helping the desert environment. Name one good thing that happens because of flash floods:  
**Flash floods help spread seeds throughout the desert, and recharge the desert ecosystem. They also provide water for desert animals such as the fairy shrimp and the red spotted toad.**

### Animals

You're about to explore the wild world of Mojave desert animals. Each of these animals has special features or adaptations that help them survive in the wild. See if you can find one animal that matches each of the following features.

*In the cracks I like to hide, nestled down deep inside  
I puff up my skin so predators can't pull me out  
That's what being a **Chuckwalla** is all about*

*To live to be 100 years old, it's better to hide and not to be bold  
I'm a **desert tortoise** with a shell all around, living in a burrow underground*

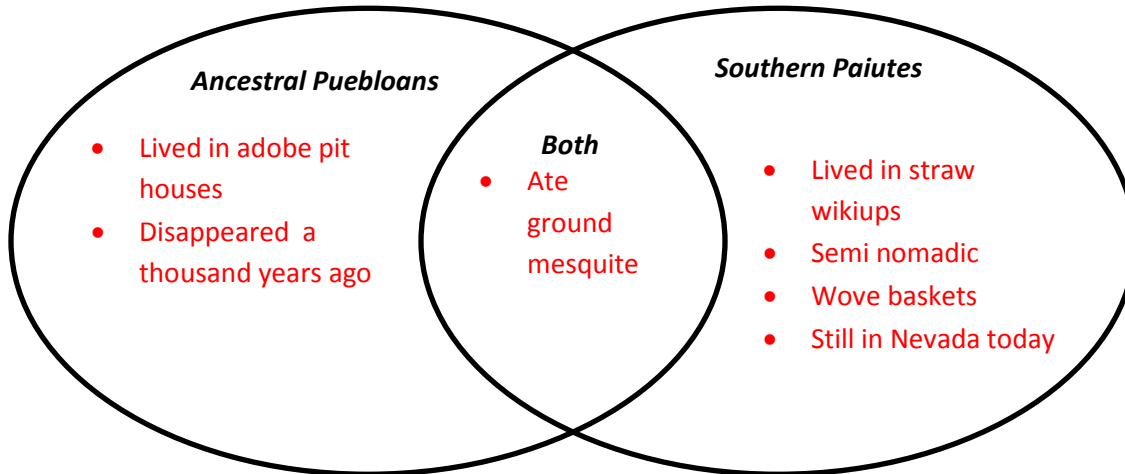
*I can dig underground for up to three miles, with big buck teeth in my smile  
I have big old claws to dig over and over, but it's because of pouches they call me **pocket gopher***

*I'm the largest lizard here on the continent, and having venom makes me feel confident  
My name is **Gila monster**, and you'll see, that during the day I'm rather sleepy*

Use this space to write your own rhyming couplet about a cool creature in our animal exhibit:

## Native American Village

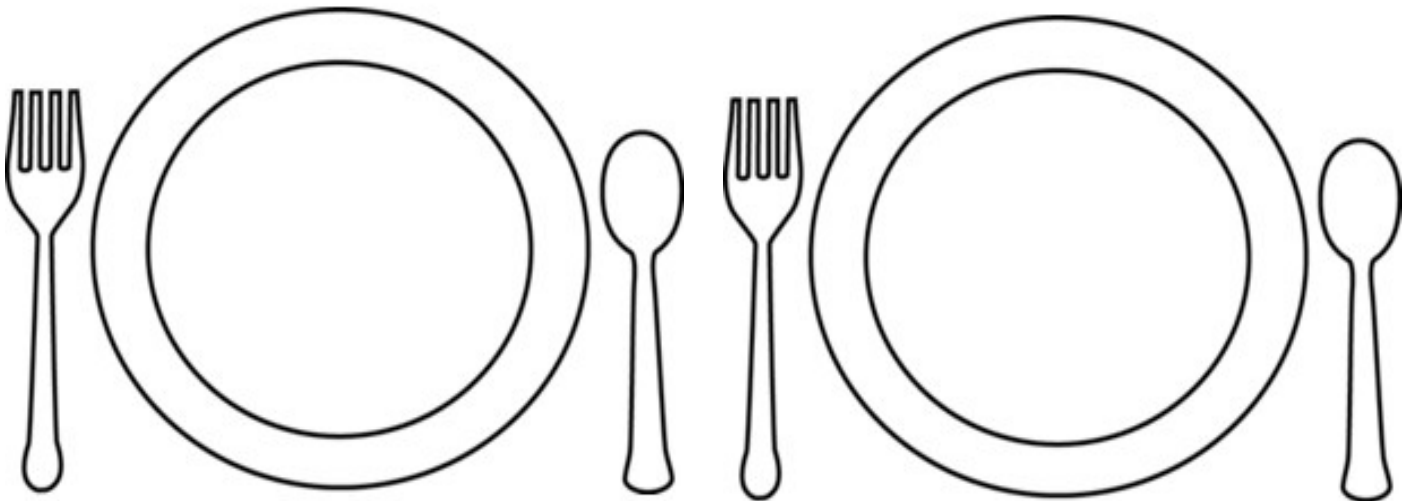
You've discovered villages of the native people that came here before you. Three tribes have settled in the Springs throughout time: the Mojave, the Ancestral Puebloans, and the Southern Paiutes. Explore the village and take notes on how the tribes are the same, and how the tribes are different.



## History

The railroad was vital to the birth of Las Vegas, turning this desert oasis into the bustling city that is here today.

1. Before exploring the train, on one plate make a list of what you had for breakfast or lunch today. Where did you get these foods from? How do you think the early Las Vegans got their food? As you explore the history section, on the other plate make a note of all the food or drink you see. How is it different from what we have today?



2. How much is the land in the land auction selling for? Why do you think the land was worth so much or so little?