



Kids Crane Fest Quest
October 8-14 2023
National Wildlife Refuge Week


Join us at the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge to explore this vital habitat for plants and animals. A habitat is the home of plants and animals that supplies food and shelter. Where is your habitat?

answer _____





You will explore the habitat on the Monte Vista Refuge Tour Loop. As you go along, stop at the numbered signs, and look for wildlife activity. Get out of your car to make observations and fill out the activity sheet for each station. Begin at the yellow gate entrance to the Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge loop.


A few things to know first:



You cannot tell a male crane from a female. They look the same. Cranes bond for life.


- What time of day are you here now?  answer _____
- Cranes feed in field from sunrise to mid-morning and again in the late afternoon to sunset. Can you see them eating? _____
- From 10:00-4:00 cranes loaf around in the wet meadows and feed on bug and roots. What else do you think they might eat? _____
- At night cranes roost in shallow water. Why do you think they need water to stand in when they sleep? _____
- When cranes take off from the ground they flap their wings until they find warm rising air, called a thermal. Hundreds of birds will do this together to gain altitude. It is a wonderful sight to see. Did you see this?

Circle one YES NO

#	Milage	Activity
1		You should be at the yellow gate. Can you walk like a bear to the next sign? Bears walk on all 4 feet.
2	.1	Stop and look at the pond on your left. How many birds can you see? Count them. _____
3A	Meadowlark Nature Trail-	Begin walking on the trail. Look at the sign. Why do you think there are spikes on top of the sign? _____ Look for footprints along the trail. What kind to you see, other than human? _____
3B		Stop here and listen for 2 minutes. What sounds do you hear? Record them here _____
4	.4 	Look in the trees at this stop. Do you see any nests? _____ describe the nests, where they are in the tree, what are they made out of? What do you think trees need to survive here? _____
5	.7  	Look up close in the cattails. What do you see? _____ Look across the water. What do you see? _____ Look far off in the distance at the horizon. A pass is a low place in the mountains where it is easier for people to pass through. How many passes can you see _____

6	.9	<p>Stop, turn off your vehicle. Roll down the windows and listen. Describe what you hear.</p> <p>_____</p>
7	<p>1mile</p> 	<p>You should be turning a corner on the road now. What direction will you be going when you complete the turn?_____ (north, south, east or west)</p> <p>Cranes can run faster than humans. How fast are you? _____</p>
8	1.3	<p>Listen here. Are the sounds any different? ____</p> <p>Cranes must eat for 2 days for everyday they fly. How many times have you eaten today?_____</p>
9	1.6	<p>Listen closely. Why do you think the cranes are gathered here?_____</p> <p>What do you think they are saying to each other?_____</p> <p>One loud call=be on guard</p> <p>Both cranes calling at the same time= we are together forever</p> <p>Can you spot any 2 cranes that appear to be a pair?</p> <p>Do you see any group of 3 or 4 that might be a family?</p> <p>_____</p>

10	1.7	<p>Check all the behaviors you see as you watch the cranes</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <table border="1" data-bbox="505 352 1386 1270"> <tr> <td>Neck forward</td> <td>I'm going to fly</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Standing tall with head high</td> <td>I'm scared</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jumping</td> <td>I like you! Courtship</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hold wings out</td> <td>I feel like dancing!</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Run and flap</td> <td>I think there is danger. Look out everybody.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toss object</td> <td>Am I impressing you?</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 jumps and a turn- Circle Dance</td> <td>I'm having fun!</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chase and flap wings</td> <td>I think there is something scary out there.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ground stab with beak</td> <td>Hey everybody, let's dance!</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Neck forward	I'm going to fly		Standing tall with head high	I'm scared		Jumping	I like you! Courtship		Hold wings out	I feel like dancing!		Run and flap	I think there is danger. Look out everybody.		Toss object	Am I impressing you?		3 jumps and a turn- Circle Dance	I'm having fun!		Chase and flap wings	I think there is something scary out there.		Ground stab with beak	Hey everybody, let's dance!	
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11	2 miles	Stop, look and listen. What direction are most of the cranes now?																											
12	2.4	Continue by taking a left and see more cranes. Also, you can turn east on road 8 S to see even more!																											
		<p>Enjoy your day!</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>																											

<p>More!</p>		<p>What other animals did you see today? Check the list</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 247 594 310"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td data-bbox="594 247 1432 310">rabbit</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 310 594 373"></td> <td data-bbox="594 310 1432 373">chipmunk</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 373 594 436"></td> <td data-bbox="594 373 1432 436">fox</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 436 594 499"></td> <td data-bbox="594 436 1432 499">moose</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 499 594 562"></td> <td data-bbox="594 499 1432 562">deer</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 562 594 625"></td> <td data-bbox="594 562 1432 625">porcupine</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 625 594 688"></td> <td data-bbox="594 625 1432 688">coyote</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="488 688 594 730"></td> <td data-bbox="594 688 1432 730">fish</td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	rabbit		chipmunk		fox		moose		deer		porcupine		coyote		fish
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		<p>Just like you, cranes must leave the refuge too. Why do you think they need to migrate south after staying here for about 3 weeks? _____</p>																
		<p>This Crane Fest Quest was sponsored by the Friends of the San Luis Valley Refuges</p> <p>www.slvrefuges.org</p> 																
		<p>Please leave a comment on our Facebook page post under our post about the activity with a photo of yourself at the refuge today.</p>																
		<p>Thank you for exploring the habitat at the Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge today.</p> 