



The Springs Preserve Trails:

Crossroads Trail
Self-Guided Field
Trip

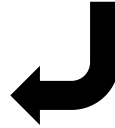
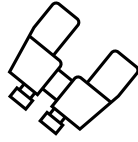


Make your way to the trailhead labeled with the arrow.
Follow the Crossroads Trail, marked in red. Begin by
going toward the right (South).



Crossroads Trail

Look and Listen! Can you spot any wildlife? Record your findings on the next page. Look for these signs for examples of what you might find living here at Spring Preserve!



First Stop- Spring Mound

From the trailhead entrance you will follow the trail marked with white metal poles to the upper right (southeast). Be cautious of the unstable path. Once you are at the top of the hill, you are standing on top of an ancient spring mound!



Springs are places where _____
_____ meets the land surface. This
attracted many plants, animals, and even people
to the area. Everything needs water to survive!
This spring mound also served as a great vantage
point for indigenous peoples to see around the
valley. What can you see from up here?

Second Stop- The Well Derrick

From The Spring Mound, turn around and head back the way you came. When you get back to the trailhead, turn right (south) and follow the paved trail, stopping to read the interpretive panels (signs) along the way.



Well derricks are used to _____.

This one is no longer in use because the water is
all gone. Las Vegas now gets its water from
_____.

Hint: find these answers on the signs
at each stop or from your teacher's
packet.

Third Stop- Adobe Ruins

Continue along the trail until you reach the adobe ruins. Notice the rocks that are a darker, red tint in an L-shaped mound. The photo on the sign from 1909 is what we think these remnants were originally.



Adobe is a material made from _____, mixed with _____, and formed into _____. It is the way many indigenous people in the area, such as the Southern Paiutes, built their homes.

Fourth Stop- Big Spring House

Keep following the trail. Stay on the concrete path. You will pass through a shade structure. After that, you will see a metal ramp. Turn right at the ramp onto the unpaved path. Then, turn left at the crossroads. Look for a bridge to take you over the Spring and to a shade structure.

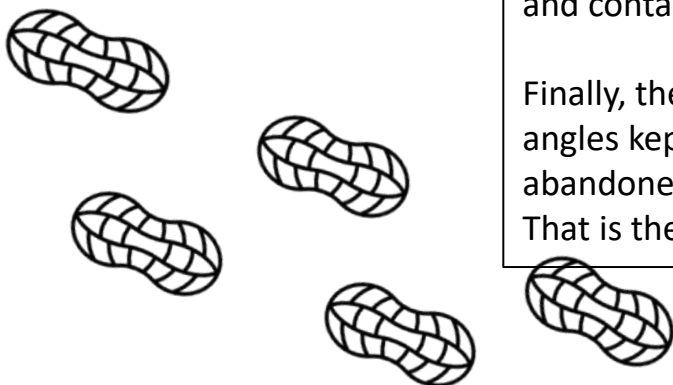


This is where Big Spring was located before it dried up. It served as a water source for many people and wildlife. But there was a problem. The water was getting contaminated from animal waste washing in when it rained.

So, first a _____ wall was built around it to protect it. However, that led to algae growth, which got into the water.

Next, they built a _____ roof over it. But then people and animals would walk across the roof and contaminate it with debris.

Finally, they built a _____ roof. The angles kept people and animals off. It was abandoned in the 1940s and eventually collapsed. That is the wooden planks you see before you.



Fifth Stop-Desert Tortoise Habitat

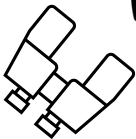
Pass through the other side of the shade structure and continue along the trail until you see the fenced habitat of the desert tortoise.



This is the home of some of our desert tortoise friends!
The size of this habitat is _____ acres. That is approximately 15 football fields!
Name one survival skill that desert tortoises do to survive in the Mojave desert?



What can you spot?



Animals

Plants

