



The Springs Preserve Trails:

Crossroads Trail
Self-Guided Field
Trip **TEACHER COPY**



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

Point these signs out to students as you walk through the trail. They have a spot on their handout to record animals they spot in the area.

*Teacher tips and answers to the fill-in-the-blanks will be in bold/red



First Stop- Historic 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 **ground water** 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 drill a hole into the ground to get water out.**

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

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 **dirt** , mixed with **water**, and formed into **bricks**. It is the way many indigenous people in the area, such as the Southern Paiutes, built their homes.

Tip: You will pass a shaded area on the way to stop 4. This is a good group picture spot.

Fun fact: Point out any red bushes you see in the trees. These are actually mistletoe, and they are parasitic plants to the trees they're on!

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 **_concrete_** wall was built around it to protect it. However, that led to algae growth, which got into the water.

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

***there is a picture of the original flat roof on the panel when you enter the bridge**

Finally, they built a **pitched** 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.



