



Origen Museum

The name "Origen" was derived from two words: original and generations. The Origen Museum features more than 75 permanent exhibits, an indoor theater and traveling exhibit space.

Time to Explore!



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:

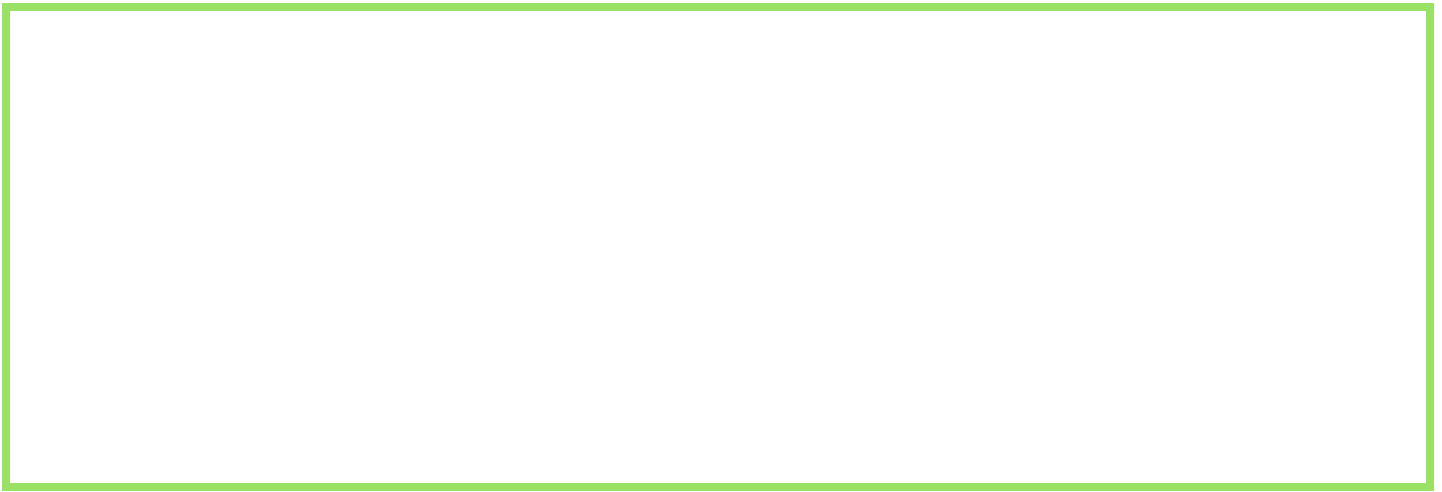
- **Listening ears!** A good explorer must be on alert. That means listening to teachers, guides, the sounds of nature, and all that surrounds them.
- **A proper journal!** A good explorer takes notes of the things they see, hear and learn so they will be able to take that information back home to share with others. Use this paper as your explorer's journal.
- **A pen or pencil!** 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!

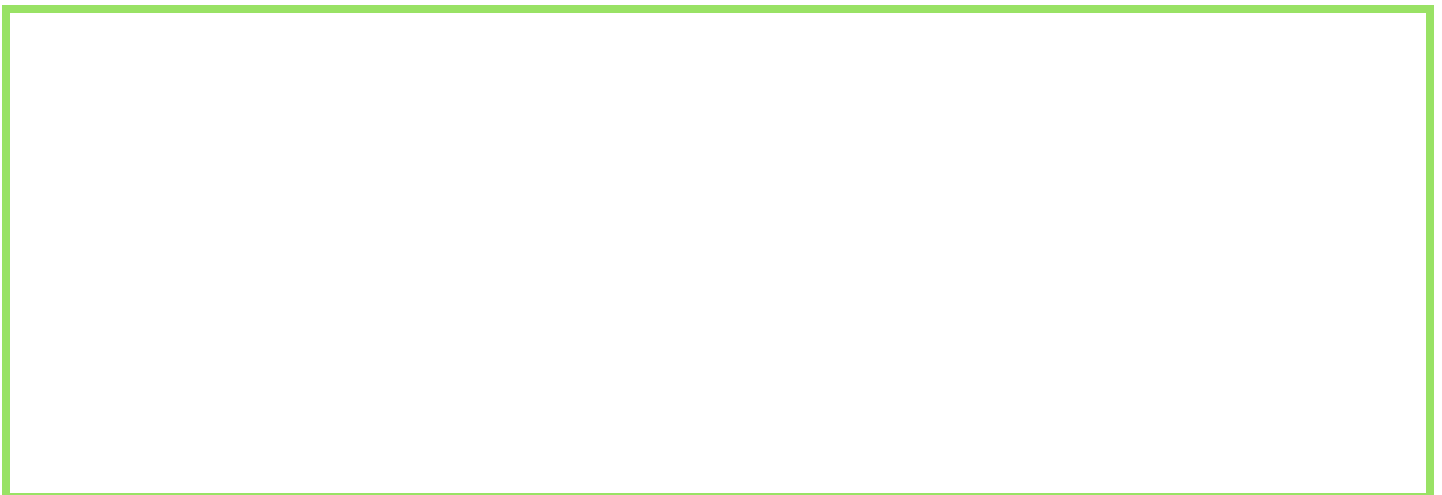
Spring Mound

Think the desert is a barren wasteland? Think again. Even in the arid Mojave there are islands of life supported by the springs. Until recently, many of these lush oases were right here in Las Vegas. Plants and animals thrived on the abundant water from natural springs like the one you're standing on.

1. The spring mound provided essential habitat for many plants and animals in the hot Mojave Desert. 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.



2. The spring mound provided essential habitat for many plants and animals in the hot Mojave Desert. How many animals can you spot on the Spring mound? _____. Use the space below to draw a picture of your favorite Spring mound creature.



Flash Flood

Deserts are dry, right? Most of the time, they are. The Las Vegas Valley averages only four inches of precipitation a year, but in some years it comes all at once. Living here means being able to survive when the water doesn't come and when it suddenly does.

"There are two easy ways to die in the desert: thirst or drowning." - Craig Childs, The Secret Knowledge of Water, 2000



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.

2. Flash floods do important work in helping the desert environment. Name one good thing that happens because of flash floods?

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 _____ is all about

To live to be 100 years old, it's better to hide and not to be bold
I'm a _____ 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 _____

Pick your favorite animal and draw a picture in the space below. Describe some of the adaptation of the animal.

History

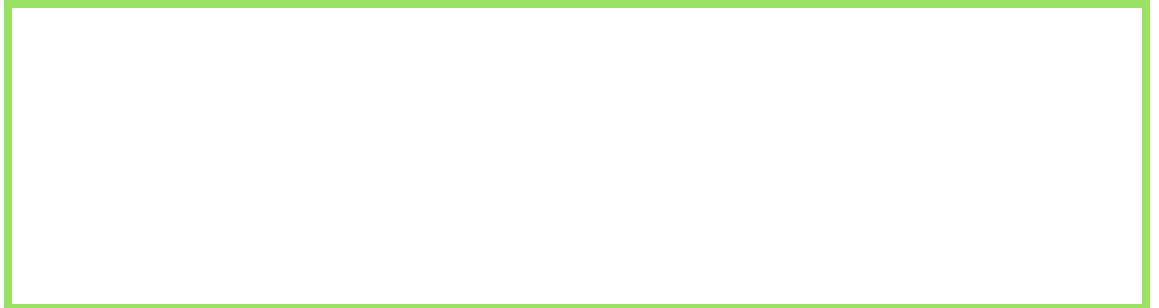
Over thousands of years, people have left their marks on the Las Vegas Valley. What they have all had in common, throughout history, is their reliance on the Springs for water. Trace their footsteps and learn their stories.



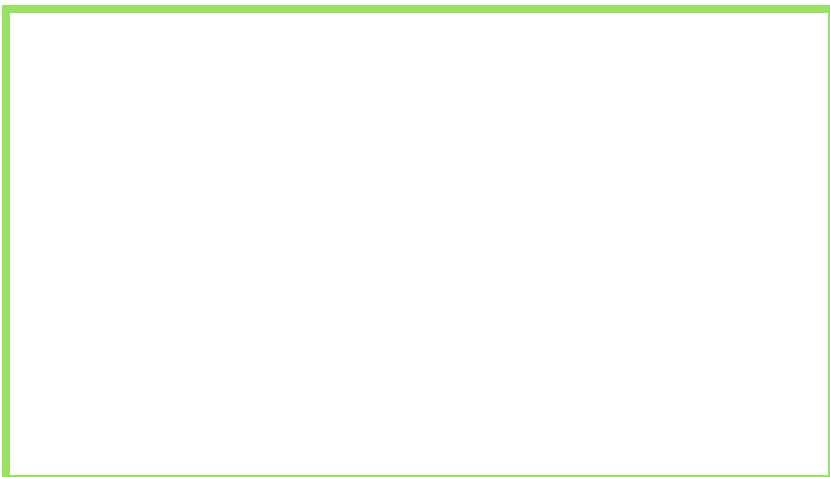
Food Preparation

The Ancestral Puebloan people used grinding stones like these to break down tough plant material, making it easier to cook and eat. The metate, the larger stone piece, has a slightly curved grinding surface. The smaller mano was held in the hand and used against the metate to break up the food.

Try it out! Describe what it would have been like to prepare your food with a mano and metate.



Look around, what are some ways we can learn about the people of the Springs?



Railroad



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



1. The railroad connected which two cities?

2. Why was Las Vegas an ideal stopping point between the two cities?

3. The train made it a lot easier to transport goods to Las Vegas from other places. What are three things you would have brought with you if you had been taking the train to Las Vegas in 1905?