

WYOMING EXPLORER'S CLUB

# FIELD GUIDE

WY  
quality  
counts  
.org

Awareness & training  
for quality Child Care



VISIT [WYQualityCounts.org/FieldGuide](http://WYQualityCounts.org/FieldGuide)



# Dear **PARENTS,**



Awareness & training  
for quality Child Care

Did you know that exploratory learning experiences are just as vital to your kids' healthy growth as adequate nutrition and a safe place to play? Quality, daily interactions with grown-ups ensure that kids develop healthy bodies, healthy minds, and healthy relationships that last their whole lives. Our goal at WY Quality Counts is to help make these opportunities easy and fun for everyone!

Because Wyoming is best explored with a kid by your side, we have developed a take-anywhere booklet of nature activities to work on together. Follow Chuck and Pepper, ambassadors of the Wyoming Explorer's Club, on a voyage of discovery to learn about our state's amazing lands, plants and animals.

Yours far and wide,

**WY QUALITY COUNTS**

WY Quality Counts is a program of the  
Wyoming Department of Workforce Services.




# how to use this **FIELD GUIDE**



Do you want fun things to do and new things to see?  
Like drawing an animal, then coloring a tree?


Thanks to this wee book, it's your lucky day—

The rest of this rhyme will show you the way.

At this little mark, find someone to read to you: 

And this one will show you a project to do: 

There's even stickers to stick, just look for a sign: 

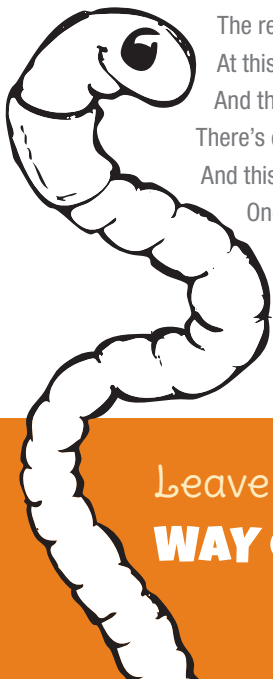
And this arrow will show you where to do more online: 

Once you've done every page, be happy, not sad—

You'll keep all you learned and the fun you had!

Find a new thing to try with your  
grown-up assistants—

Leave boredom behind you,  
**WAY OFF IN THE DISTANCE!**



# meet your **ADVENTURE GUIDES**



## **Chuck**

Born in the Bridger-Teton National Forest near Pinedale, Chuck the Beaver is an expert on rivers, wetlands and all things building-related. He is short, round and slow on the ground, but Chuck can carry heavy loads and swim as fast and gracefully as a fish.

## **Pepper**

An accomplished flier, Pepper the Meadowlark makes her home in the Thunder Basin National Grassland, but she prefers to take to the air and travel statewide whenever possible. Pepper makes her nest on the ground and likes to spend quality time with her family snacking on bugs, seeds and berries.



## Find the Field Guide Answers Online!

As you explore Wyoming with your Field Guide, you'll make guesses about some of the places and animals you meet. Ask a grown-up to help you find the real answers at [www.WYQualityCounts.org/FieldGuide](http://www.WYQualityCounts.org/FieldGuide).

### Learn more about your guides

#### Chuck

Favorite food: Aspen tree bark

Favorite color: Green

Favorite place in Wyoming:  
Yellowstone Lake

#### Pepper

Favorite food: Bugs of all kinds

Favorite color: Yellow

Favorite place in Wyoming:  
Devils Tower



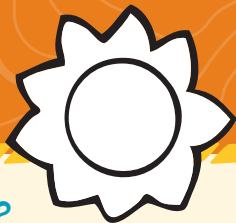
What are some of your favorite things? Write them here:

Favorite food: .....

Favorite color: .....

Favorite place in Wyoming: .....

we live in  
**WILD WYOMING!**



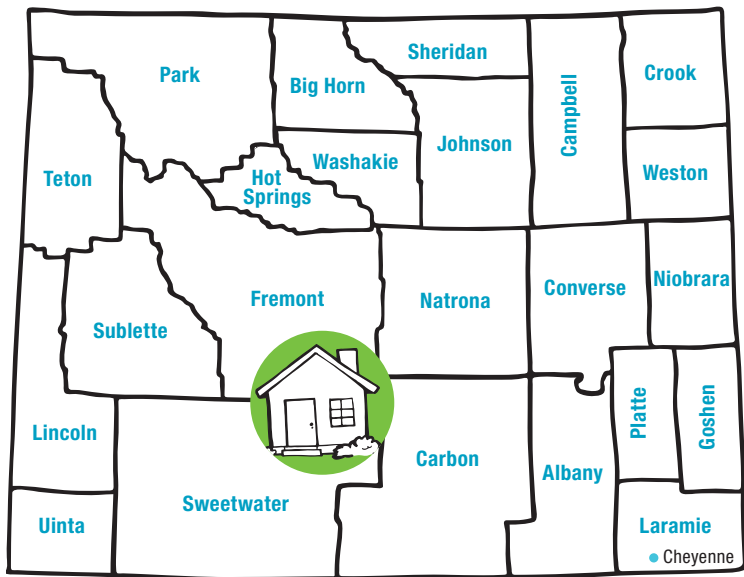
**!** Where in wild Wyoming do you live?

Just like there are different types of land in Wyoming, there are all sorts of homes that we can live in! Draw what your home looks like here.





Did you know that “Wyoming” means “on the big plains?” We have more than just plains, though—we enjoy our mountains, rivers and lakes, too! **CHUCK** and **PEPPER** will show you to the different types of land in Wyoming and introduce you to the plants and animals that live in them.



### ★ STICKY STUFF

Where do you live?  
Put the **house sticker** on  
the map where you live.



Write the name of your town here:

# my **BACKYARD**



## **Let's start exploring in your backyard.**

You'll be amazed at all the plants and animals you can find right on your doorstep. Go outside and draw everything you can see.



Ask a grown-up to take a picture of you exploring your backyard with your Field Guide. Post it on Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag #wyqcexplorersclub to show off how fun it is to explore the outdoors!





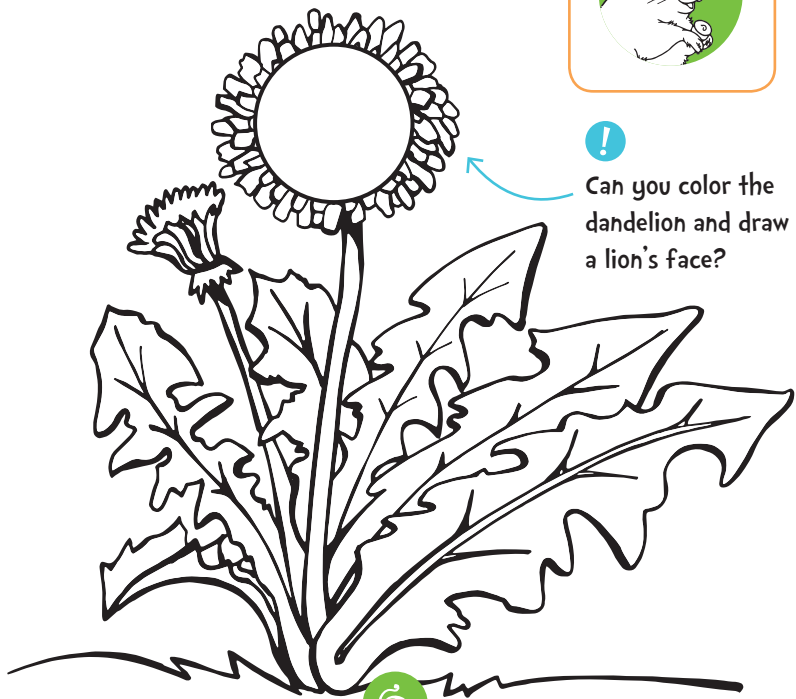
Wherever you are in Wyoming, there are likely to be squirrels. Look for them chattering in trees or racing across the ground. Did you know that we have 16 types of squirrels in Wyoming?

### ★ STICKY STUFF

When you see a squirrel, put the squirrel sticker here.



Can you color the dandelion and draw a lion's face?



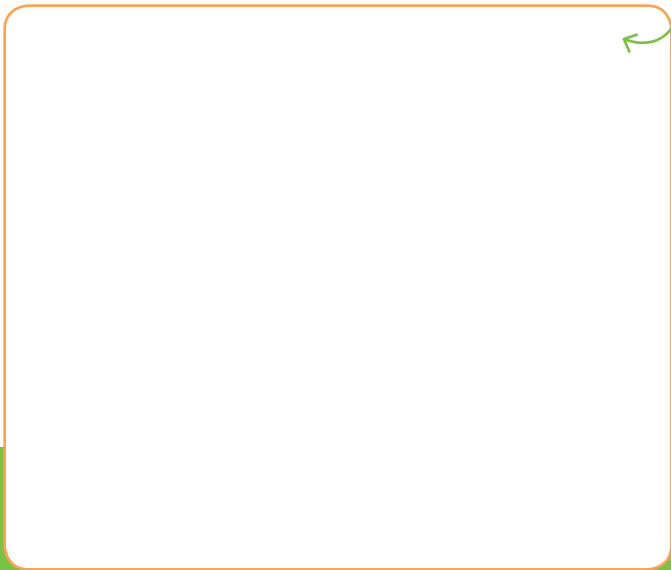
Dandelions are very common in our state. You can remember their name because they have a yellow flower that looks like a lion's mane.


# GANNETT PEAK

## Spot the mountain climbers!

Bighorn sheep are great climbers. If you're lucky, you might see a herd climbing a steep, rocky mountainside.

 Can you draw a picture of two rams charging at each other?



 Show your drawing to a grown-up and ask why the rams are fighting—is it the same or different than what you thought?



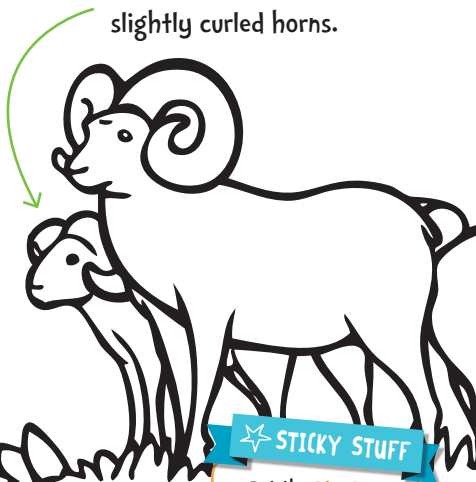
**CHUCK** can see Gannett Peak when he is with his family in western Wyoming. Gannett Peak is the highest mountain in the state. It is 13,809 feet tall—that's as tall as 400 school buses stacked end to end!



Female sheep—called “ewes”—have smaller, slightly curled horns.



It's easy to spot the male sheep—called “rams”—because they have large, curled horns they use to fight each other. They can charge at nearly 20 miles per hour—faster than you can ride on your bicycle!



★ **STICKY STUFF**

Put the **Big Horn Sheep** sticker here



Guess how many days it takes to climb to the top of Gannett Peak:

*4 to 6 days*

## SNOWY RANGE



## 🌀 What is Wyoming's State Flower?

When Pepper flies over the Snowy Range Mountains just west of Laramie, she often spots the bright red color of Wyoming's official state flower, the Indian Paintbrush. It has a skinny stem and bushy flower, so it looks like an upside down paintbrush.

## ! How do you measure up to this plant?

Guess how tall it can grow:

**3 feet 3 inches tall**

Write how tall you are:

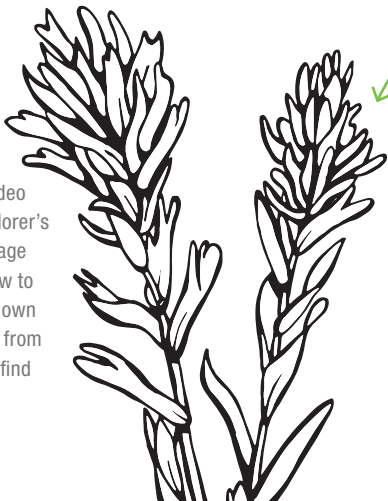
\_\_\_\_\_ ft. \_\_\_\_\_ in.



Can you color the Indian Paintbrush?



Watch a video on the Explorer's Club webpage to learn how to make your own paintbrush from things you find in nature.



☆ **STICKY STUFF**

Official State Flower:





PEPPER's favorite tree is the Aspen because she loves watching the leaves turn from green to gold and red in the fall. Many families in Wyoming make special trips to Snowy Range in September to see the beautiful aspen trees.



### STICKY STUFF

Put the **aspen tree** sticker here when you finish this page:

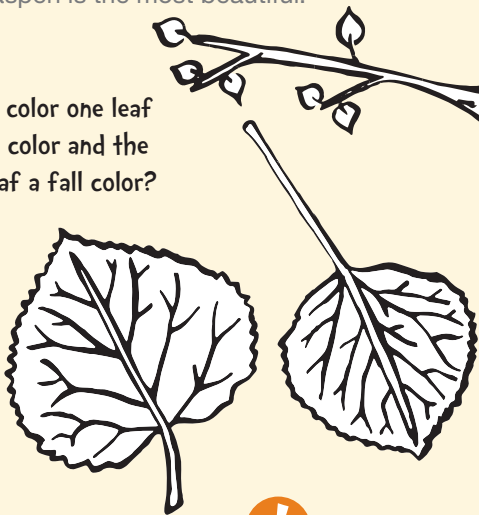


## Not all leaves are green!

In the fall, many trees have leaves that turn to bright reds, oranges, and yellows—and the aspen is the most beautiful.



Can you color one leaf a spring color and the other leaf a fall color?



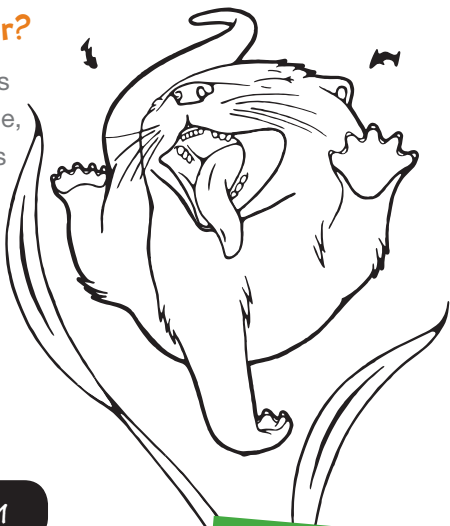
Aspen trees like to grow together. Guess what a group of aspen trees is called:

*A colony*

# GREEN RIVER

## 🌀 What animal lives on land and underwater?

Many plants and animals make the river their home, like the river otter. Otters have special waterproof fur to keep them warm underwater. They also have whiskers like cats that they use to explore dark places in the river.



! Guess which states Green River also flows through?

*Colorado and Utah*

★ STICKY STUFF

Next time you go swimming, pretend you're a river otter and swim as fast as you can.



Put the otter sticker here to show you can swim like an **otter**:





The Green River starts in western Wyoming, not far from Gannett Peak. It is 730 miles long, which is more than long enough to share with two neighboring states.




STICKY STUFF

Official State Reptile:



## When is a toad not a toad?

Even though they're called "toads," horned toads are actually lizards. When they're scared, these little reptiles will stop moving to try to not attract attention. When they do this, it's hard to see them because they are the same colors as the rocks and ground around them.

 Can you draw a picture of a horned toad hiding? Show your drawing to your family and see if they can spot the toad.



# YELLOWSTONE LAKE

## 🌀 A gentle fish with a scary name.

Yellowstone Lake in Yellowstone National Park is home to several species of fish, including the cutthroat trout. These fish were named for the red color on their throats. Fly fishermen are proud when they catch one of these beautiful fish. The biggest cutthroat caught in Wyoming weighed 15 pounds!



## ! Imagine a new species of fish that could live in Yellowstone Lake. What name would you give this new fish?

Write your fishy name here



Draw a picture of your new fish. Ask a grown-up to take a picture of your fish. Post it on Instagram or Twitter with the hashtag #wyqcexplorersclub to show off your imagination!







When **CHUCK** visits Yellowstone Lake, he's careful to not step on the tiny Sand Verbena growing on the shores!



## 🌀 Wyoming flowers have to be tough.

Sand Verbena is a rare plant that usually only grows in warm deserts or tropical areas—not mountains with cold, long winters! Like most plants and animals in Wyoming, this flower has adapted to the harsh weather.

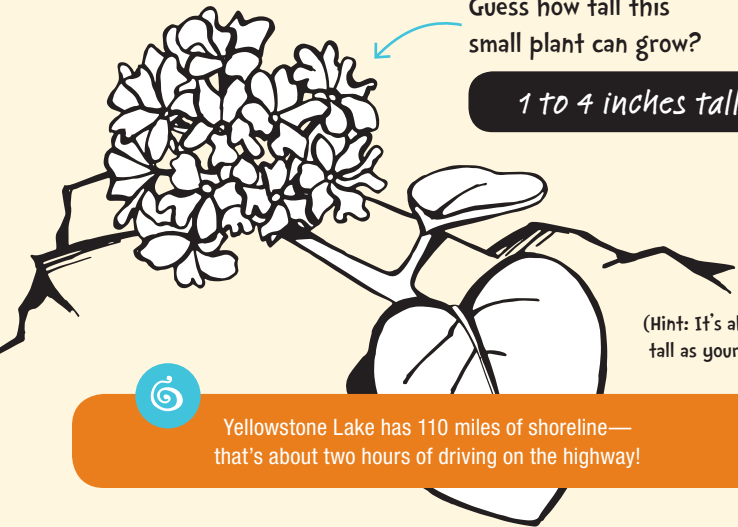
### ★ STICKY STUFF

After you color the Wyoming Sand Verbena, put its sticker here:



Guess how tall this small plant can grow?

*1 to 4 inches tall*



(Hint: It's about as tall as your palm.)



Yellowstone Lake has 110 miles of shoreline—that's about two hours of driving on the highway!

# YELLOWSTONE LAKE

## Who are Wyoming's high fliers?

Golden eagles are a common sight in Wyoming. Keep looking at the sky and you might see them flying in circles, searching for something to eat. When they are in the mood for a snack, they dive and grab small animals with their razor-sharp talons. When diving, golden eagles can reach speeds up to 150 miles per hour—more than twice as fast as a car on the highway!



- ! A bird's wingspan is measured from wingtip to wingtip. Guess how wide the golden eagle's wingspan is?

### ★ STICKY STUFF

When you finish this page, put the golden eagle sticker here:



*Up to 7 feet 8 inches wide*

- ! Ask a grown-up to help you measure the length of your arms from fingertip to fingertip. How wide is your "wingspan"?

\_\_\_\_\_ ft. \_\_\_\_\_ in.

# Thunder Basin NATIONAL GRASSLAND

## The grass is greener on our side of the fence!

Grasslands are areas where the land is dominated by grass. Pepper's home in northeast Wyoming is covered with western wheatgrass, a tall plant that feeds many animals in Thunder Basin, like bison, prairie dogs, and grazing cattle.



How many grass-eating animals do you know? Ask a grown-up how many grass-eating animals they know. Draw grass-eating animals here, chewing on western wheatgrass.

### ★ STICKY STUFF

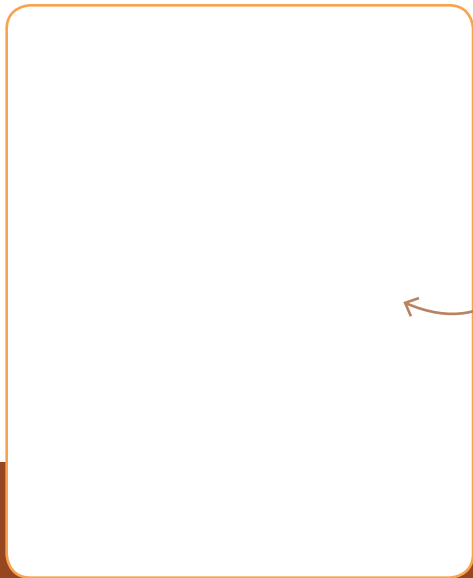
Official State Grass:



# Thunder Basin NATIONAL GRASSLAND

## 🌀 The Fastest Growing Tree in Wyoming.

The cottonwood is one of the most common trees in Wyoming. Cottonwoods get their name from their fluffy, cotton-like seed pods that drift on the wind every spring.



Can you draw a picture of a cottonwood?



**STICKY STUFF**

Official State Tree:



Learn to identify the cottonwood and other Wyoming trees on the Explorer's Club webpage: [www.WYQualityCounts.org](http://www.WYQualityCounts.org).

Official State  
Mammal:



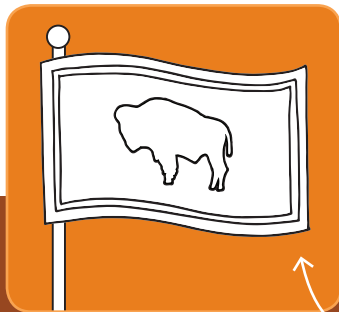
When PEPPER is at home in the Thunder Basin National Grassland, she says hello to the biggest mammal in America, the bison.

## 🌀 Lunchtime is anytime!

Like their cousins, the cows, bison like to eat grass all day long. Sometimes bison take a break to have a little fun and roll around in the dirt, leaving behind a shallow bowl in the ground called a wallow.

## ! Guess how much a bison can weigh?

*A grown male bison usually weighs 2,000 pounds. A female bison weighs about 1,100 pounds! (A baby can weigh up to 50 pounds when it's born!)*



The **BISON** is so important to Wyoming, we put one on our flag!

# Thunder Basin NATIONAL GRASSLAND

## 🌀 Try to top the Triceratops!

Bison are the big shots on the plains today, but 68 million years ago, they would have been small fries standing next to the Triceratops. You can identify this dinosaur by its huge skull with three horns—one above the nose and two above the eyes.

Like the bison, Triceratops ate grasses and small bushes. Plant-eaters usually have flat teeth for grinding, like the ones in the back of your mouth.

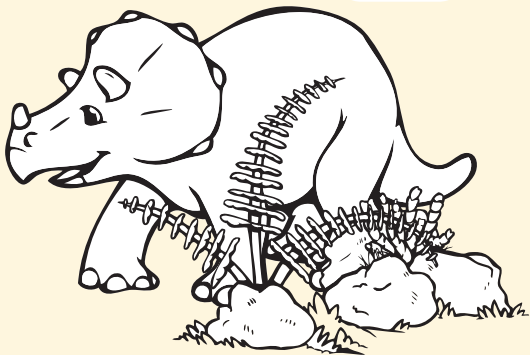
! Guess how many teeth a Triceratops could have?

432 to  
800 teeth

How many teeth do you have?

### ★ STICKY STUFF

Official State  
Dinosaur:



# my neighborhood **PARK**


## STICKY STUFF

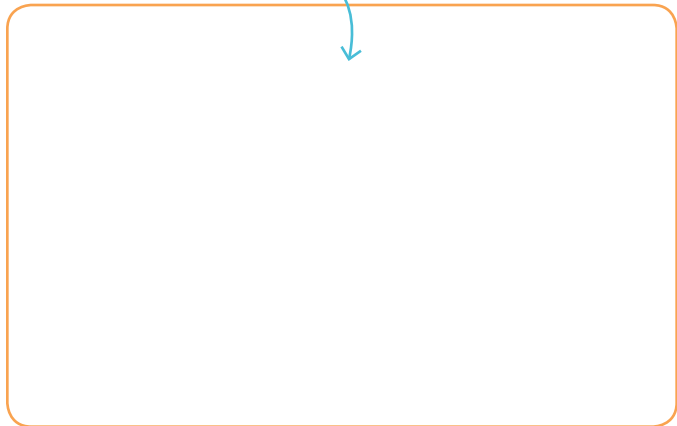
Put the park sticker here when you finish your drawing to show you explored your neighborhood park!



## Explore the world around you.

You've gone all over Wyoming with Chuck and Pepper, but every long journey ends back at home. There's plenty to keep exploring here! You don't have to go far from home to see Wyoming wildlife—you just have to have sharp eyes! Your neighborhood park is the perfect place to practice being an Explorer!

-  Next time you visit the park, draw one plant and one animal you see there. Did you see any of the plants or animals you learned about in this field guide? What new plants or animals did you discover?





Cut out this badge and wear it proudly!

You're now an official member of the Explorer's Club!

! Here's an Explorer's badge for you to color and show off to your friends and family! You've earned it!



★ STICKY STUFF

I completed my Wyoming Field Guide today!



Write your name here.

Chuck and Pepper know an Explorer never stops discovering Wyoming!

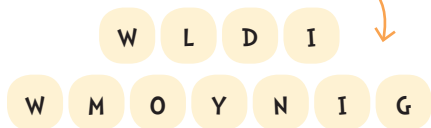




➔ **Find the Field Guide  
Answers Online!**

Ask a grown-up to visit the Explorer's Club website with you to check your answers in this Field Guide, find more things to do, and access your special membership certificate! [www.WYQualityCounts.org/FieldGuide](http://www.WYQualityCounts.org/FieldGuide)

! **Unscramble the password  
to enter the website:**



**Happy trails!**

# Quality **INTERACTIONS MATTER!**



Your child's ability to grow and learn depends on quality interactions with nurturing adults and enriching activities that promote one or more of the domains listed below.

## **Domains of Development**

**COMMUNICATION**

**SENSE OF SELF +  
RELATIONSHIPS**

**CURIOUS MINDS**

**STRONG +  
HEALTHY BODIES**

The activities provided in the WY Quality Counts Field Guide support the domains of development.

**For additional information on the domains of development, visit [www.WYQualityCounts.org](http://www.WYQualityCounts.org).**



Awareness & training  
for quality Child Care



## ➔ **CONNECT** with us!

Parents and providers—connect with WY Quality Counts and others in your community to share child care resources, fun ideas, helpful hints and activities on the go.

If you want to know more about WY Quality Counts and our programs, **visit [www.WYQualityCounts.org](http://www.WYQualityCounts.org)**.

Download a QR code scanner app on your smartphone for instant access to our website and Facebook page.



## POST IT ON FACEBOOK

Ask a grown up to take a picture of you with your finished Field Guide, and post it on Facebook!

Find us at [Facebook.com/WYQualityCounts](https://www.facebook.com/WYQualityCounts)



The WY Quality Counts program is housed in the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services.



Draw Your Picture Below

