

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

from home

Thriving with Fire Coloring Pages

AUDIENCE

Pre-Kindergarten—100 +

MATERIALS

Paper, art supplies of your choosing
(colored pencils, watercolors, pens, etc.)

DESCRIPTION

What thrives after a fire? Learn about three species from three different kingdoms (plant, animal and fungus) and appreciate their unique relationship to fire as you color.



Instructions

Download the “Thriving with Fire” pages. Choose your method:

1. Print the image and color it with art supplies of your choice or
2. Use a software program on a computer or tablet to draw or paint on the image

Fireweed

Chamerion angustifolium

Fireweed can change a blackened, burned landscape to a sea of pink in a single year. It is among the first plants to grow in a burned area, hence its name. It spreads quickly through seeds as well as spreading rhizomes (creeping underground stems) four to six inches below the soil surface. The rhizomes can survive underground during a fire and then sprout new plants. Fireweed provides food for animals returning to recently burned areas; deer and elk graze on the leaves and blossoms. Pollinators are drawn to the pollen and nectar in the bright pink flowers.



Lewis's woodpecker

Melanerpes lewis

Wildland fire, including prescribed burns, often creates stands of standing dead or partially dead trees (called snags) that provide habitat for the iridescent green and purple Lewis's woodpecker. These woodpeckers are cavity nesters, meaning they make their nests in carved out holes in snags. They use their beak to make a cavity larger, but they largely rely on other woodpecker species to get the job started. Abandoned cavity nests of woodpeckers create habitat for future residents: bluebirds, swallows, bats and more.



Morel mushroom

Morchella spp.

Morel season is in the spring and it doesn't last long. Morel mushrooms tend to emerge in forests one year after a burn but also grow in unburned areas in the same places year after year. Most of the fungus lives underground as a connected, threadlike structure called mycelium. The brown, spongy cap of the mushroom that emerges from the forest floor in spring is the fruiting body of the fungus.



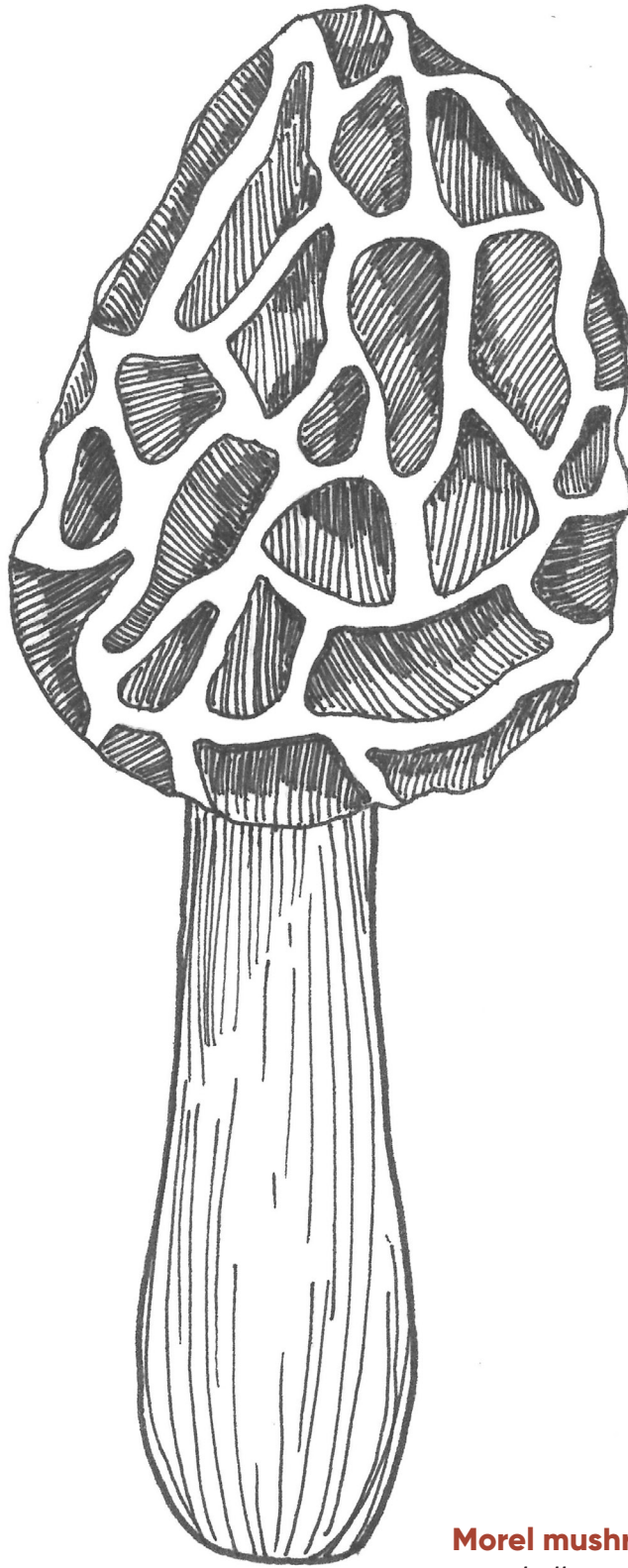


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