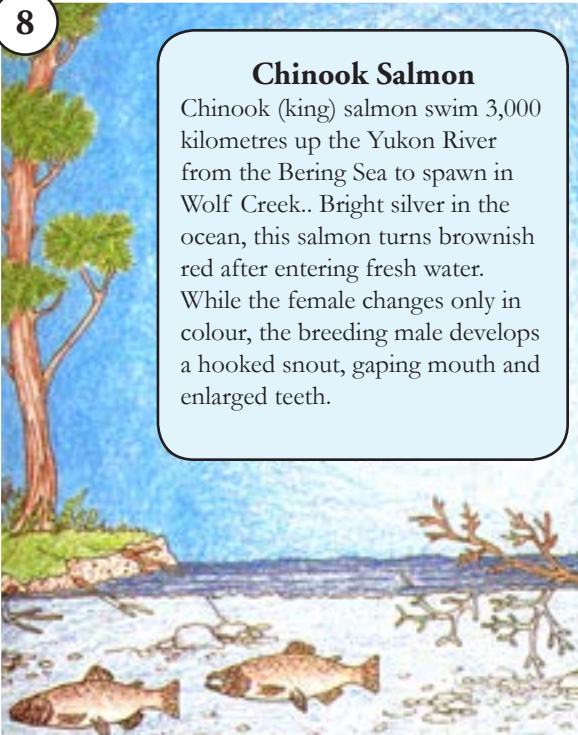


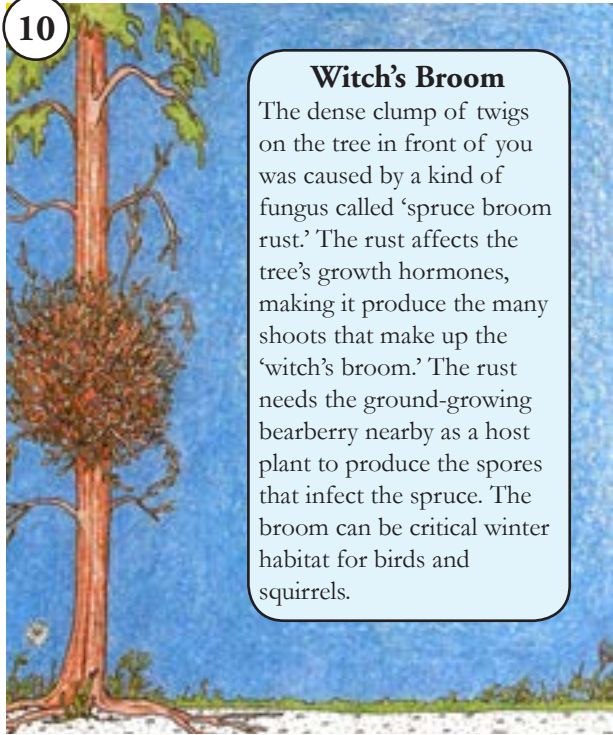
8



Chinook Salmon

Chinook (king) salmon swim 3,000 kilometres up the Yukon River from the Bering Sea to spawn in Wolf Creek. Bright silver in the ocean, this salmon turns brownish red after entering fresh water. While the female changes only in colour, the breeding male develops a hooked snout, gaping mouth and enlarged teeth.

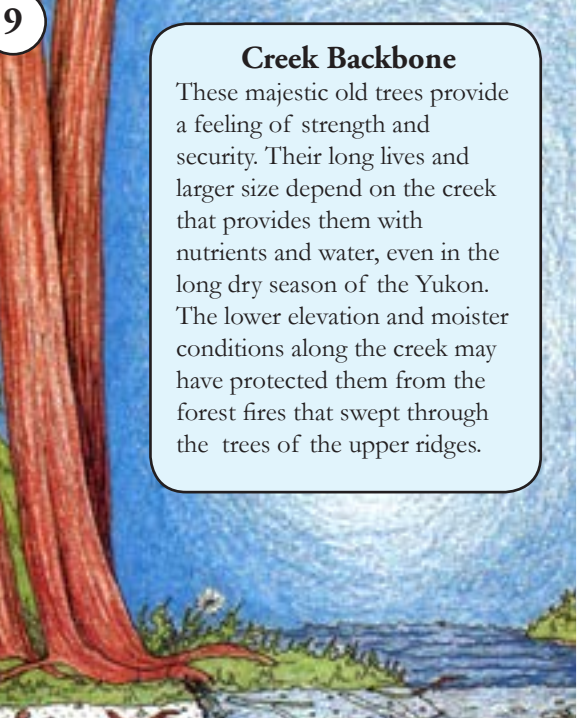
10



Witch's Broom

The dense clump of twigs on the tree in front of you was caused by a kind of fungus called 'spruce broom rust.' The rust affects the tree's growth hormones, making it produce the many shoots that make up the 'witch's broom.' The rust needs the ground-growing bearberry nearby as a host plant to produce the spores that infect the spruce. The broom can be critical winter habitat for birds and squirrels.

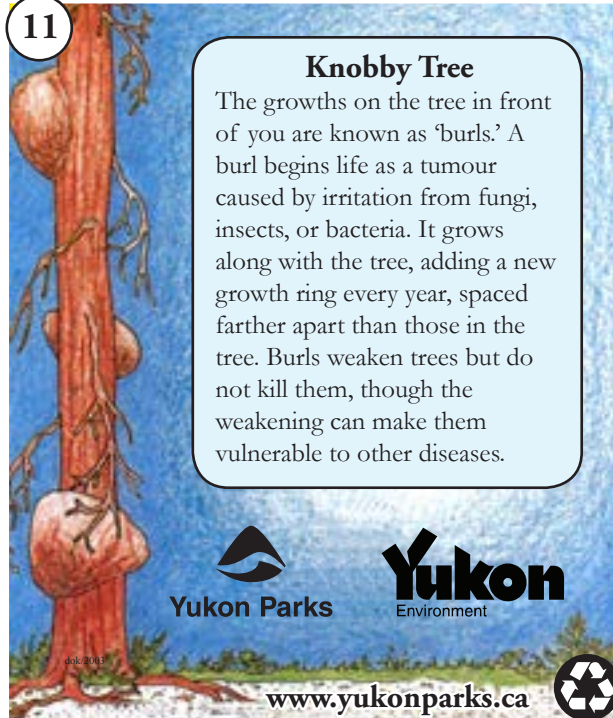
9



Creek Backbone

These majestic old trees provide a feeling of strength and security. Their long lives and larger size depend on the creek that provides them with nutrients and water, even in the long dry season of the Yukon. The lower elevation and moister conditions along the creek may have protected them from the forest fires that swept through the trees of the upper ridges.

11



Knobby Tree

The growths on the tree in front of you are known as 'burls.' A burl begins life as a tumour caused by irritation from fungi, insects, or bacteria. It grows along with the tree, adding a new growth ring every year, spaced farther apart than those in the tree. Burls weaken trees but do not kill them, though the weakening can make them vulnerable to other diseases.



www.yukonparks.ca



Wolf Creek Trail



Welcome to the Wolf Creek Trail, a walk through Yukon's boreal forest. The trail takes you to the banks of the Yukon River and then back along Wolf Creek in an hour's walk.

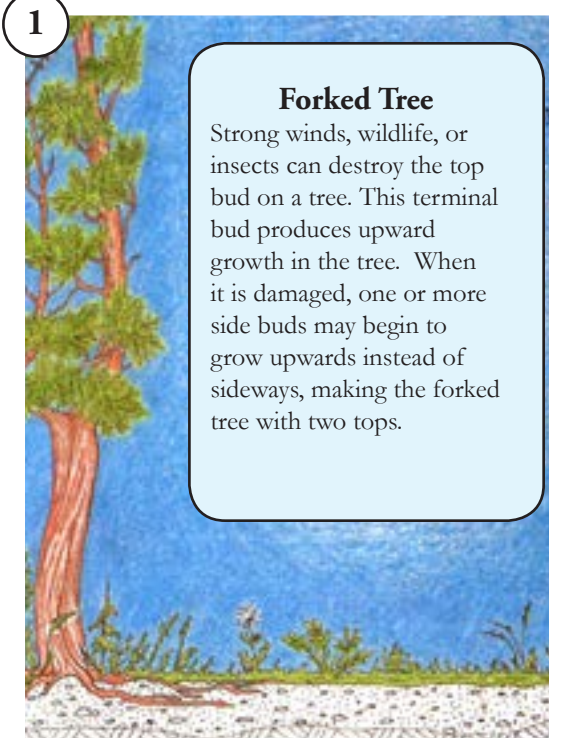
Numbered markers on posts along the trail relate to numbers in this guide. Watch for them as you walk along.

Stay alert and you may see some of the birds and other animals that live here, and the plants that grow and flower in the boreal forest. Please don't pick them, so others can enjoy them too.

When you are done, you can keep this brochure as a souvenir or return it to the dispenser. Thanks for not littering.

Enjoy your walk!

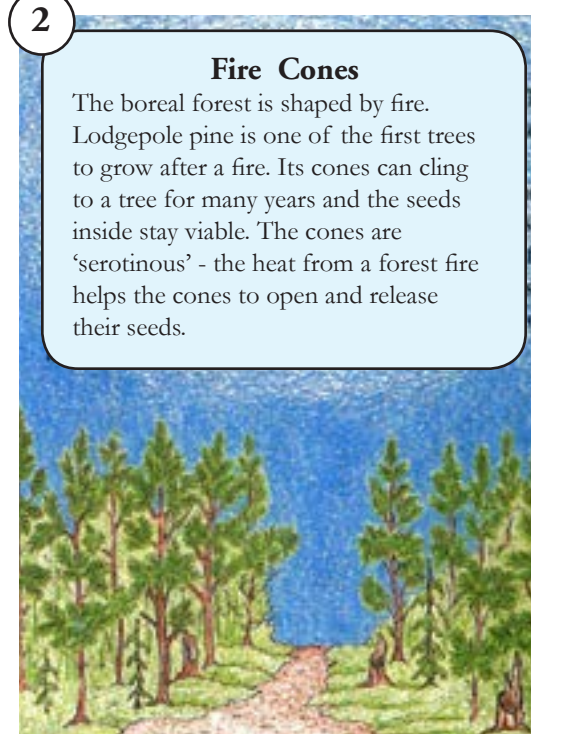
1



Forked Tree

Strong winds, wildlife, or insects can destroy the top bud on a tree. This terminal bud produces upward growth in the tree. When it is damaged, one or more side buds may begin to grow upwards instead of sideways, making the forked tree with two tops.

2



Fire Cones

The boreal forest is shaped by fire. Lodgepole pine is one of the first trees to grow after a fire. Its cones can cling to a tree for many years and the seeds inside stay viable. The cones are 'serotinous' - the heat from a forest fire helps the cones to open and release their seeds.

3

River Highway

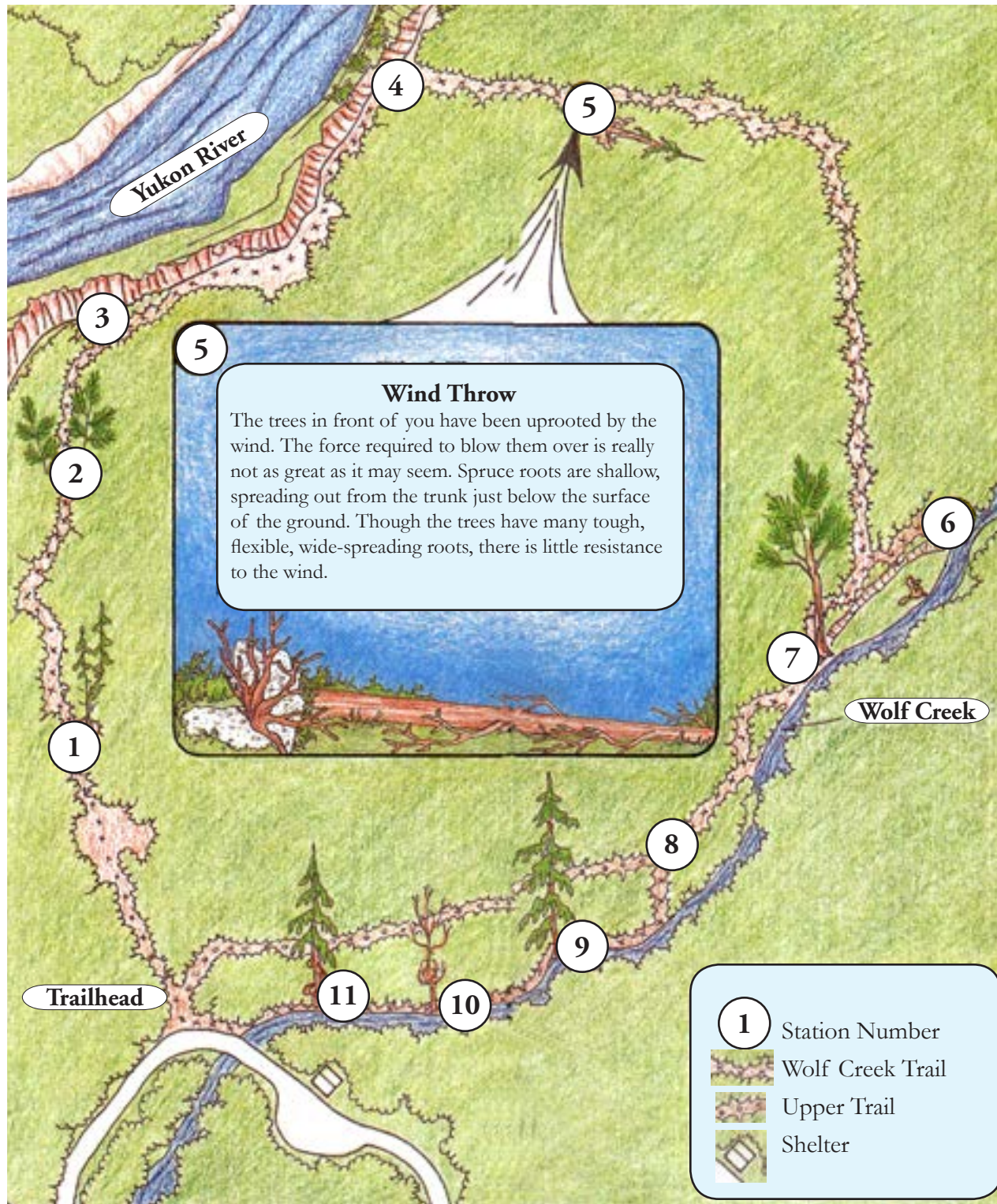
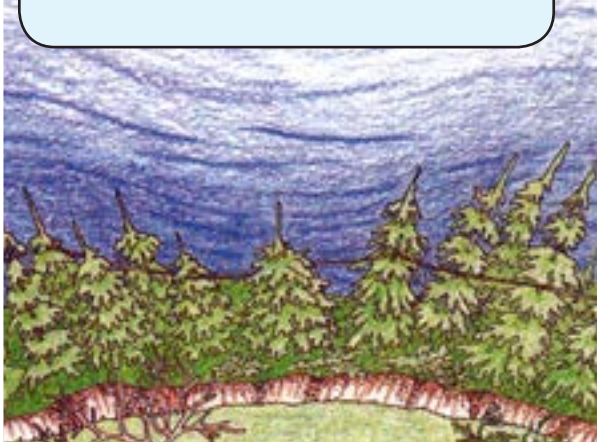
The Yukon River has been used as a travel corridor for centuries. A hundred years ago, thousands of gold-seekers boated by here on their way to the Klondike. Looming above the river, Canyon (Gray) Mountain warned boaters of the approach to the turbulent waters of Miles Canyon, now stilled by the Whitehorse dam.



4

Telegraph Line

Look over the edge of the escarpment to see the remains of a telegraph line, strung high in the spruce trees below. The line connected Dawson to the outside world in September of 1899. It was in use until 1953, when the all-weather road between Whitehorse and Dawson was finished.



5

Wind Throw

The trees in front of you have been uprooted by the wind. The force required to blow them over is really not as great as it may seem. Spruce roots are shallow, spreading out from the trunk just below the surface of the ground. Though the trees have many tough, flexible, wide-spreading roots, there is little resistance to the wind.



6

Fish and Beavers

When beavers moved into this area some time ago, they built a dam downstream from where you are standing, flooding the area in front of you. The beaver dam may have prevented salmon from returning upstream to spawn. The deeper pools created by the dam would have provided overwintering and spawning habitat for grayling.



7

Cathedral Doors

During a forest fire, many trees are killed, but often some survive. They display their experience with the fire in the form of fire scars. The arch-like appearance of the fire scars on these trees suggests the descriptive name of 'cathedral doors.'

