



Have you ever fixed something that was broken and felt really good about it? Lucy Reed Hibberd did just that with her 64-acre Charro Ranch in Dripping Springs. She created trails for enjoying and learning about nature. Along the trails there are signs about the trees and plants, bird viewing stations, a meditation area, and a Solstice Circle and compass. When you visit Charro Ranch, you will experience a place that someone loved enough to restore so others could love it too.

KN@W

Hooray for Native Grasses!

As you explore the trails, think about these ways that native grasses help people and animals.

- Native grasses provide food and shelter for wild animals, birds, and insects.
- Native grasses are good for our environment. They help keep the air healthy. They hold water and keep soil from eroding (washing away).
- Native grasses <u>adapt</u> to our <u>ecosystem</u>.
 The grasses at Charro Ranch survive
 winter freezes and summer heat. They
 can go for long periods without water.
 Can you?
- Some native grasses grow in bunches.
 Some may grow taller than you!
- Muhly grass is a native plant that grows at Charro Ranch. It grows about 2 to 5 feet tall. Muhly grass is light greenish-gray. It is bunched at the bottom, then grows upward and out, like a fountain. Can you spot the Muhly grass?

GR@W



Find Where You're Goina

Can you find the 4 compass points, or cardina	1
directions, on the Solstice Circle at the park?	

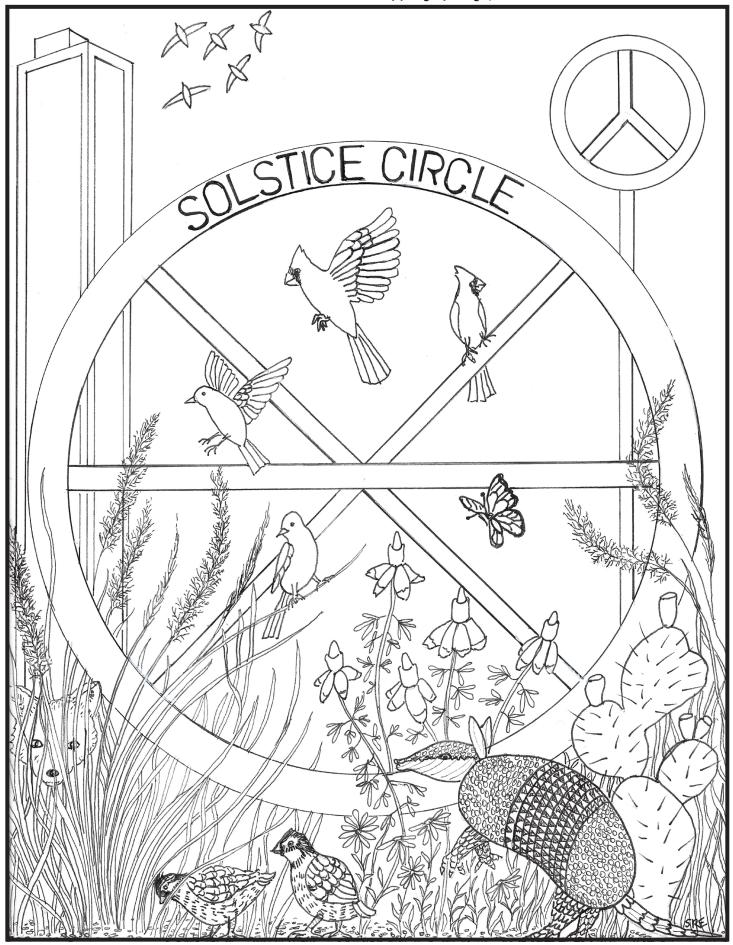
N stands for
S stands for
E stands for
W stands for
On the back cover of this book, find Charro Ranch Park on the map. Use the <u>compass</u> rose on the map:
What creek is just south of Charro Ranch Park?
2. What's the closest town south of Charro Ranch Park?
3. Which park is located farthest west in Hays County?
4 What river runs west to east near Wimberley?

Answers: 1. Onion Creek 2. Driffwood 3. Jacob's Well 4. Blanco

The Long and Short of Solstice

The Solstice Circle at Charro Ranch lines up with the rising sun on special days. **Summer solstice** seems like the longest day of the year because it has the most hours of sunlight. **Winter solstice** seems like the shortest day of the year because it has the fewest hours of sunlight. **Equinox** happens 2 times a year, when the length of day and night are about the same.





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