



CAMP INDIANA SPRING 2021

INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL PARK

If it weren't for the weather, you would think Chesterton, Indiana was located along the ocean, not Lake Michigan. The Indiana Dunes run for about 20 miles along Lake Michigan, and the park contains sand dune, wetland, prairie, river and forest ecosystems in over 15,000 acres. The park was named by Congress in 1966 as the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and then was named the 61st National Park in 2019.

The Dunes were formed thousands of years ago during the Wisconsin Glacial Period.

When the glacier started to melt and move

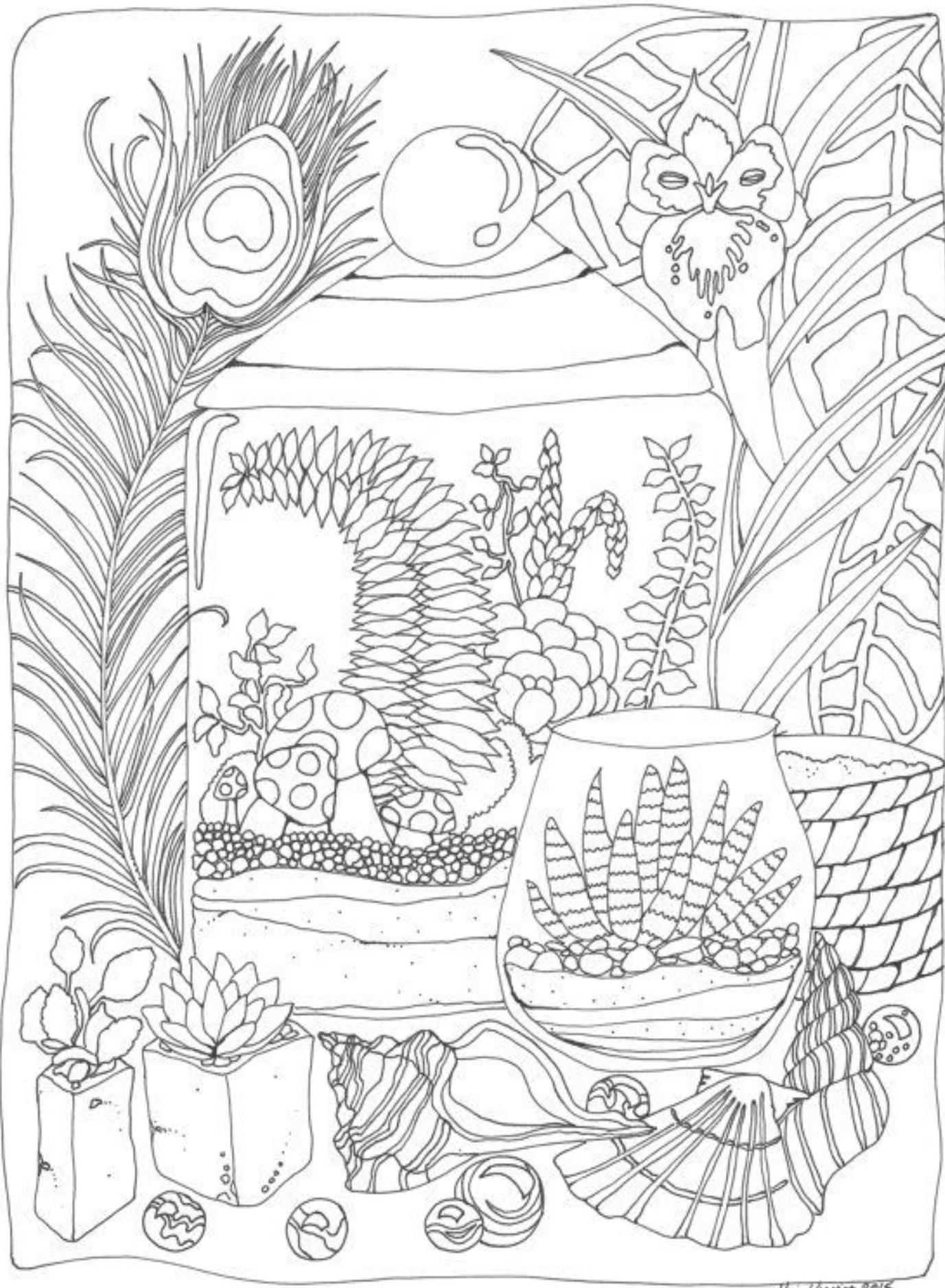
further north, what is left behind is called a moraine. The Valparaiso Moraine is the main geological feature that created the Indiana Dunes and Lake Michigan.

There are many things that make the Indiana Dunes special. Every year, there are more than 350 species of birds that have been observed in the park. Those birds just add to the rest of the flora and fauna of the dunes. There are 1418 different kinds of plants that have been recorded. One of the things that makes the Dunes unique is that it is home to both Arctic plants, such as the bearberry, and desert plants such as the prickly pear cactus.

Mount Baldy is the tallest of the dunes at 123 ft. tall. The dune moves an average of 4 ft. per year in the wind, making it a living dune. On a clear day, you can hike to the top and get a view of Lake Michigan, Chicago, and south shore.



Another unique thing about the Dunes is the sand. The sand at the Dunes is made up of quartz and silica that was left behind from the glaciers, which creates an interesting sound when you walk across it. This is a phenomenon known as "singing sands." Singing Sands are rare, and the Indiana Dunes is one of the few places on earth where they can be found.



Kim Klassen 2015

At home in a stream

Can you find these things in the big picture?



golf club



bird



needle
and thread



heart



candle



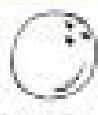
shovel



baseball
cap



crown



bowling
ball



slice of pizza



bagel



bow tie



saucepans



American
football