Pokécology Challenge:
Create a Texas Hill Country Pokémon

Greetings, Trainers!

My name is Professor Cypress. I am a Pokecologist at the Riverside Nature Center in the Texas Hill Country. I need your help to research and describe new Pokémon species!

Pokécologists are scientists who study how Pokémon find the food, water, and shelter in the habitat in which they live.

Your challenge is to create a Pokédex entry of your own Pokémon discovery!

Pokecologist Tip
Pokémon have special features, abilities, or behaviors called **adaptations** that help them survive. Think like a scientist!

- How does it get food or water?
- What protects it from danger like storms, drought, extreme heat, or predators?
- Does it live alone or in groups?
- What special adaptations help it survive in this environment?

Return this page with your Pokédex Entry

Trainer Name:

Age:

Phone:

Email:

Contest entries due by **5pm on Nov 27th**
Win prizes from **Level Up Games** and have your Pokémon featured in the Dec. 5 Scavenger Hunt event!

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Research Challenge Rules

1. **Choose a Texas Hill Country inspiration** such as a plant, animal, habitat, rock formation, weather event, or a combination of several. (Ex. Bluebunneet is inspired by bluebonnets and cottontail rabbits.
2. **Describe your Pokémon** by giving it a:
    a. Name (Ex: Bluebunneet)
    b. Descriptor (Ex: The Bunny Pokémon)
    c. Type (Ex: Grass)
    d. Ability (Adaptation)
    An ability should help your Pokémon survive in its habitat. (Ex: Nitrogen Surge – Bluebunneet absorbs nutrients from the soil to restore its energy and speed)
    e. Skill (Move)
    A skill is something your Pokémon can do in battle.
    (Ex: Seed Splat – Bluebunneet launches a burst of seeds at its opponent.)
3. **Create a finished artwork** of your Pokémon by drawing, coloring, painting, or sculpting it. Remember, Trainers: all discoveries must be original! No AI-generated images and no copying existing Pokémon.
4. **Submit your research** by completing the attached Pokédex entry page and returning it to the Riverside Nature Center or emailing it to programs@riversidenaturecenter.org with the subject line: "Pokédex Entry."

Research submissions will be accepted until 5:00 PM on November 27.

Each pokédex entry has a chance to win a grand prize sponsored by Level Up Games. Prizes will be announced at the **December 12 Holiday Open House!**

Your Pokémon may even be selected to appear along the **Pokémon SNAP Scavenger Hunt routes on December 5.**

Professor's Tip: Make your artwork bold, colorful, and easy to spot from at least **5 feet away** for the best chance of being featured in the field!

Optional: Turn your Pokémon into a card for free at https://pokecardmaker.org/.

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PokéDex

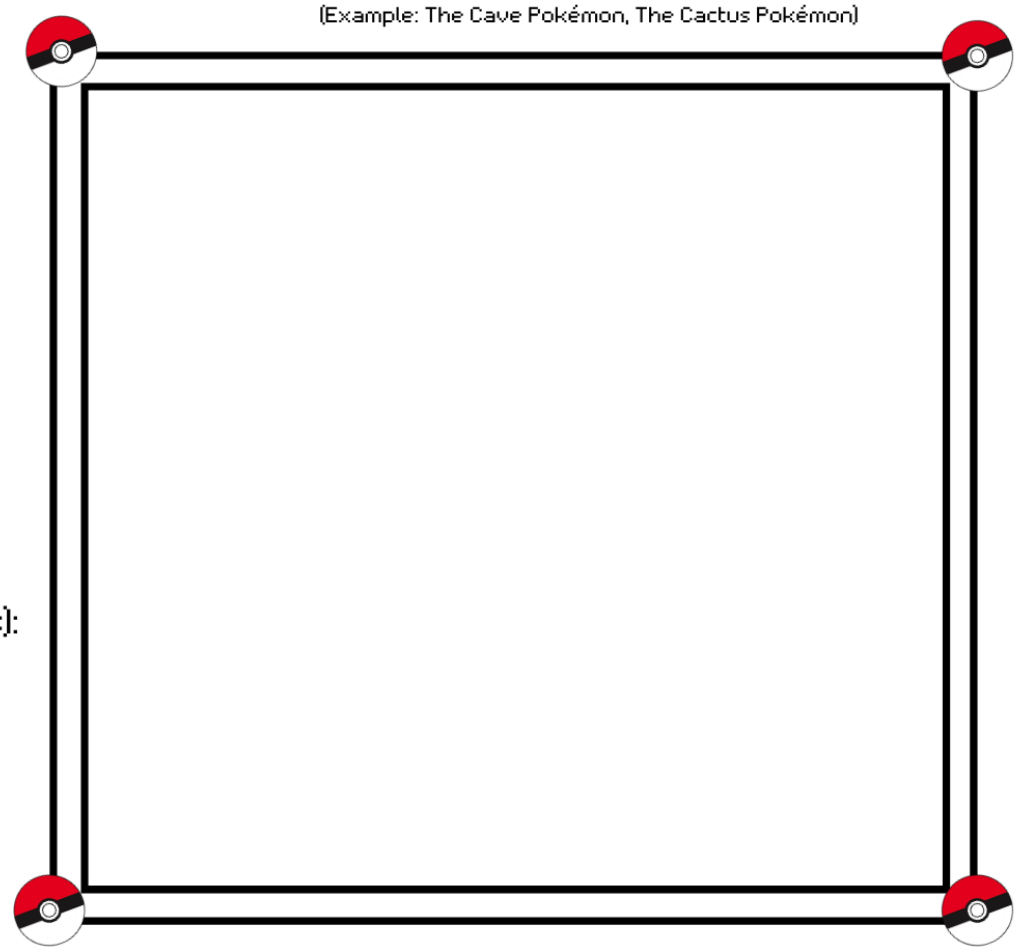
Pokémon Name:

Classification:
(Example: The Cave Pokémon, The Cactus Pokémon)

Type(s):

Habitat:

Hill Country Inspiration(s):



Adaptations:
What ability and skill help it find food, water, shelter and stay safe from danger?

Ecological Role:
How does it help its habitat?

Fun Pokédex Fact:
(Optional)

Discovered by Trainer:

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Professor Cypress Research Notes

My notes may come in handy as you conduct your research.

Found in the Texas Hill Country:
Animals: rattlesnakes, armadillos, free-tailed bats, coyotes, golden-cheeked warbler
Plants: prickly pear cactus, bluebonnets, Antelope Horn Milkweed, oak trees, juniper
Nature: rivers, cliffs, caves, limestone bedrock of fossilized sea creatures
Weather: sunny, hail, wildfires, drought, floods
Think about how these things interact with one another in the Hill Country!

Pokémon types: Normal, Fire, Water, Electric, Grass, Ice, Fighting, Poison, Ground, Flying, Psychic, Bug, Rock, Ghost, Dragon, Dark, Steel, and Fairy
Pokémon may be one or several types.

An **ability** a Pokémon has to survive in its habitat. **Adaptations** are the physical features or behaviors used by Hill Country organisms:

- **Spines** (protection)
- **Feathers** (flight or insulation)
- **Chlorophyll** (make food from sunlight)
- **Mimicry** (pretending to look like something else)
- **Migration** (moving to survive weather changes)
- **Playing dead** (avoiding predators)

Example ability: **Collect Water** - Cacti have a special adaptation to store water in their stem. This ability allows you to search your deck for two water types and put them in your hand.

Skills
Moves show what your Pokémon can do in battle or to protect itself.
Types of moves:

- **Attack** (Water Jet, Thunderbolt)
- **Heal** (Heal Pulse, Curse)
- **Support** (Protect, Heal Bell)
- **Status** (Thunderwave causes paralysis)
- **Weather/Field Change** (Rain Dance, Solar Beam)

Attack example: **Prickle Slam** - Your opponent's Pokémon is now paralyzed, and your HP is healed by 25.

The **ecological role** of a Pokémon is how it helps keep a balance in it's habitat. For example, Bluebunneet can send tiny bacteria covered roots into the soil to turn nitrogen into ammonia that other plants and grass type Pokémon can use for energy. Cactuff's water storing cells can be a source of moisture for thirsty animals during times of drought if they can get past the spines.

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