

TrailForge – Joke Book

A Spark & Anvil joke book. Groan-worthy puns, tricky riddles, silly nonsense, and real fun facts from the world of TrailForge – read them out loud and make someone laugh.

Why did the hiker bring a ladder on the trail?

Because they heard the trail had a high point!

How to use this book

Read a joke, pause at the question, and try to guess the answer before you read on. Best of all: read them out loud to a friend, a grown-up, or your class. A good laugh makes the tricky stuff easier – that's real science.

Spark & Anvil is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Every app, story, and book is free, forever – no ads, no in-app purchases, no tracking. Released under Creative Commons BY-NC-SA 4.0 for educational reuse.

TrailForge – Joke Book

[How to use this book](#)

[Puns](#)

[Riddles](#)

[Silly Stuff](#)

[Fun Facts](#)

[Keep laughing](#)

Keep exploring online

Puns

Why did the hiker bring a ladder on the trail?

💡 Because they heard the trail had a high point!

What do you call a bear with no teeth?

💡 A gummy bear!

Why do trees make terrible friends?

💡 Because they always leave in the fall!

What did the compass say to the lost hiker?

💡 "Don't worry, I'll point you in the right direction!"

Why did the camping trip go so well?

💡 Because it was in-tents!

What's a mountain's favorite type of candy?

💡 Snow caps!

Why are rivers always rich?

💡 Because they have two banks!

What did one campfire say to the other?

💡 "Shall we go out tonight?"

Why did the backpacker break up with the trail mix?

💡 There were too many nuts in the relationship!

What do you call a lazy person in a kayak?

💡 A row-mantic drifter!

Why was the map so good at parties?

💡 Because it always knew how to break the ice-sheet!

What did the north side of the mountain say to the south side?

💡 "You think you're so hot, but I have more snow to show for it!"

Why did the orienteer refuse to use GPS?

💡 Because they didn't want to lose their bearings!

What's a geologist's favorite trail snack?

💡 Rock candy -- they love the sediment-al value!

Why did the mushroom always get invited on hikes?

💡 Because there wasn't mushroom at home!

Why don't mountains ever get cold?

💡 Because they wear snowcaps and have volcanic vents for heating!

What do you call an animal that's great at finding its way home?

💡 A compass-ionate creature -- also known as a homing pigeon!

Why did the ecosystem bring a suitcase?

💡 Because it was going through a succession!

What do you call a forest that keeps perfect records?

💡 A log cabin!

Why was the contour line so stressed?

💡 Because it was under a lot of elevation pressure and couldn't get a break!

Riddles

I'm red in the morning and a warning to hikers. I'm orange at night and a beautiful sight. What am I?

💡 The sky! "Red sky in morning, sailors take warning. Red sky at night, sailors' delight" is a real weather forecasting rule.

I have a face but no eyes. I have hands but can't clap. Hikers carry me but I never walk. What am I?

💡 A watch or clock! Knowing the time helps you plan how much daylight you have left on the trail.

I'm always running but I never get tired. I have a bed but I never sleep. What am I?

💡 A river! Rivers "run" downhill, have a "bed" (the bottom), and a "mouth" where they meet the ocean.

I'm tall when I'm young and short when I'm old. Campers use me at night but I disappear by morning. What am I?

💡 A candle! As it burns, the wax melts and the candle gets shorter.

I have a spine but no bones, leaves but no branches, and I help you identify every plant on the trail. What am I?

💡 A field guide! Its "spine" is the book binding and its "leaves" are pages.

I always point the same direction no matter which way you turn me. I don't use batteries. What am I?

💡 A magnetic compass! Its needle aligns with Earth's magnetic field, always pointing to magnetic north.

I'm a path worn into the ground by feet and hooves. I can be blazed with paint but I'm not on fire. What am I?

💡 A trail! "Blazes" are painted markers on trees or rocks that show hikers the route.

Animals leave me behind but I'm not garbage. I tell a story about what passed by and when. What am I?

💡 An animal track! You can identify species, direction of travel, and how recently they passed by examining tracks.

I can be deciduous or coniferous. I provide shade, oxygen, and shelter. What am I?

💡 A tree! Deciduous trees lose their leaves seasonally; coniferous trees keep their needles year-round.

I form when warm, moist air rises over a mountain and cools on the other side. One side of me is green, the other is dry. What am I?

💡 A rain shadow! The windward side gets rain while the leeward side stays dry -- that's why deserts sometimes form behind mountains.

I'm the invisible line on a map where water decides which ocean to flow to. What am I?

💡 A continental divide! In North America, water east of the divide flows to the Atlantic and water west flows to the Pacific.

I'm made by spiders, covered in dew at dawn, and I can tell you which direction is south. How?

💡 A spiderweb! In the Northern Hemisphere, spiders often build webs on the south side of trees to catch more sunlight-attracted insects.

I'm measured in degrees and minutes, and two of me together can pinpoint any spot on Earth. What am I?

💡 Latitude and longitude! Latitude measures north-south position and longitude measures east-west position.

I'm the area where two ecosystems meet. I'm richer in species than either one alone. What am I?

💡 An ecotone! The transition zone between ecosystems, like where a forest meets a meadow, supports species from both habitats.

I leave seven principles behind wherever I go, and every one of them tells you to leave things as you found them. What am I?

💡 Leave No Trace! The seven principles include plan ahead, travel on durable surfaces, dispose of waste properly, leave what you find, minimize campfire impacts, respect wildlife, and be considerate of others.

I travel faster downhill, I carve valleys over centuries, and I can be a trickle or a torrent depending on the season. What am I?

💡 Stream flow! Erosion from flowing water is the primary force shaping most valleys on Earth.

I'm the layer of dead leaves and organic matter on a forest floor. I'm slowly turning into soil. What am I?

💡 Humus (the decomposed layer of organic matter)! Leaf litter decomposes with the help of fungi and bacteria to create nutrient-rich soil.

I'm the angle between magnetic north and true north. I'm different depending on where you are on Earth. What am I?

💡 Magnetic declination! Navigators must account for this difference when using a compass with a map.

After a forest fire destroys everything, I'm the first thing to grow back. I'm small, tough, and I prepare the ground for bigger plants. What am I?

💡 Pioneer species! Mosses, lichens, and small grasses are the first to colonize after a disturbance, beginning ecological succession.

I'm a type of rock that tells you about the ancient environment -- sometimes I even contain fossils. Hikers find me in layers. What am I?

💡 Sedimentary rock! Formed from compressed layers of sediment over millions of years, often containing fossils of ancient life.

Silly Stuff

Imagine if squirrels were in charge of Leave No Trace. – They'd bury acorns everywhere, forget where they put them, and then act shocked when oak trees grew all over the campsite. Technically, squirrels accidentally plant millions of trees a year by forgetting where they hid their food. Nature's chaos gardeners.

What if your tent had feelings? – It would complain about being stuffed in a bag all week, get excited every Friday, and then spend the whole weekend getting rained on while you sleep inside it. "I'm not waterproof, I'm water-TIRED."

A kid tried to follow animal tracks but accidentally followed their own footprints in a circle for an hour. – They came back to camp and reported they'd been tracking "a very confused animal that walks in circles and wears size 5 sneakers." The counselor did not have the heart to tell them.

What if birds had to file flight plans like airplanes? – The Arctic tern would need paperwork for a 71,000 km round trip every year. The hummingbird would be filling out forms for a 3-second hover. Air traffic control would quit by Tuesday.

Imagine if you had to explain camping to a fish. – "So you voluntarily leave your comfortable home, sleep on the ground near MY home, try to catch ME for dinner, and call it a vacation? Humans are strange."

A Scout tried to start a fire by rubbing two sticks together. After 45 minutes, the only thing that got hot was their temper. – Meanwhile, the Scout's little sister used a magnifying glass and had a fire in 30 seconds. Friction fire-starting is a real survival skill -- it's just one that tests your patience as much as your technique.

What if every trail had a Yelp review? – "Appalachian Trail: 1 star. Way too long. Took six months. No Wi-Fi. The views were nice but there were BEARS. Would not recommend if you enjoy beds." -- Actual thru-hikers would rate it 5 stars AND agree with every complaint.

Imagine if moss had to give directions. – "You'll find me on the north side of the tree. Unless I'm on all sides because it's really humid. Or unless you're in the Southern Hemisphere, where I prefer south. Actually, just use a compass." Moss is a useful but unreliable navigator.

What if you could hear what trees say through the mycorrhizal network? – "Douglas fir to birch: Sending carbon, ETA 3 days." "Birch to fir: Thanks, I'll send nitrogen back." "Pine to everyone: WHO KEEPS SENDING BEETLE WARNINGS AT 2 AM." The underground internet is real -- and apparently noisy.

A hiker brought a GPS, a compass, a paper map, AND a sun dial on the same trail. – They still got lost because they were so busy comparing all four that they missed the giant trail sign that said "THIS WAY." Technology is only useful if you look up from it occasionally.

What if bears had to follow Leave No Trace principles? – "Store your salmon in a bear-proof container. Pack out all fur you shed. Do not scratch your back on trees -- it damages the bark." Bears would hold exactly zero meetings about this.

Imagine if ecological succession had a group chat. – Lichens: "We broke down the rock, you're welcome." Grasses: "We made soil, you're welcome." Shrubs: "We added shade, you're welcome." Oak tree: "I'll be here in 200 years. Save my spot." Succession takes decades, but the attitude starts immediately.

What if you could speed up erosion and watch a canyon form in real time? – You'd see a tiny stream cut a valley, the valley widen into a gorge, and the gorge deepen into a canyon -- all in fast-forward over about 5 million years. The Grand Canyon's current depth of 1,800 meters was carved by the Colorado River, one grain of sand at a time.

A student calculated that their backpack weighed 35% of their body weight on a field trip. – They said, "This is heavier than what the army recommends." The teacher said, "The army also doesn't pack a full-size pillow and three bags of gummy bears." Ideal pack weight is 10-20% of body weight for young hikers.

What if tectonic plates had road rage? – "The Pacific Plate just cut off the North American Plate AGAIN." "The Indian Plate has been rear-ending Asia for 50 million years and still won't stop." Plate boundaries are basically the world's slowest, most destructive fender-benders.

Fun Facts

Did you know? A group of flamingos is called a "flamboyance." – Other wild collective nouns: a "parliament" of owls, a "murder" of crows, and a "crash" of rhinos. Nature's naming committee had a creative day.

Did you know? The Appalachian Trail stretches about 3,500 km from Georgia to Maine. – Only about 1 in 4 people who attempt a thru-hike finish it. The fastest known time is about 41 days -- that's an average of 85 km per day!

Did you know? Some mushrooms glow in the dark. – Over 80 species of bioluminescent fungi have been discovered. They glow green using a chemical called luciferin -- the same type of molecule that makes fireflies light up.

Did you know? A compass needle doesn't actually point to the geographic North Pole. – It points to the magnetic North Pole, which has been drifting quickly across the Arctic Ocean from Canada toward Siberia, and now sits hundreds of kilometres from the geographic pole. The angle between the two is called magnetic declination, and it keeps changing over time.

Did you know? The Leave No Trace principles were developed in the 1960s because outdoor recreation was booming and trails were being damaged. – Before LNT, hikers often carved initials into trees, built permanent fire rings, and trenched around tents. Today's minimal-impact camping practices took decades to develop and teach.

Did you know? Wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone in 1995, and it changed the rivers. – Wolves reduced elk overgrazing, which let vegetation regrow along riverbanks. Stronger roots stabilized the banks, and some rivers actually changed course. This is called a "trophic cascade."

Did you know? The oldest known trail in the world is the Ridgeway in England, used for at least 5,000 years. – Bronze Age traders, Roman soldiers, and medieval drovers all walked the same path. Parts of it are still open for hiking today -- making it older than the Egyptian pyramids.

Did you know? You can estimate the remaining hours of daylight using your hand. – Hold your hand at arm's length between the sun and the horizon. Each finger width equals roughly 15 minutes. Four fingers is about one hour of daylight left.

Did you know? The world's tallest tree is a coast redwood named Hyperion, standing at 116 meters. – That's taller than the Statue of Liberty (including its base). Its exact location in California's Redwood National Park is kept secret to protect it from visitors damaging its roots.

Did you know? Ants navigate using an internal "pedometer" that counts their steps. – Scientists confirmed this by putting tiny stilts on ants' legs -- the stilted ants overshot their nest because they were counting the same number of steps but covering more ground.

Did you know? A single mature oak tree can support over 2,300 species of insects, birds, and other organisms. – That makes oak trees one of the most biodiverse habitats in temperate forests. They also produce about 70,000 acorns per year -- most of which feed wildlife.

Did you know? Topographic map contour lines that form a "V" shape pointing upstream indicate a valley, and lines that form a "V" pointing downhill indicate a ridge. – This "rule of Vs" is one of the most important skills in orienteering. Reading contour patterns lets you visualize 3D terrain from a flat map.

Did you know? The soil beneath your feet in a healthy forest contains more living organisms than there are humans on Earth. – A single tablespoon of soil can contain billions of bacteria, millions of fungi, and thousands of protozoa and nematodes. Soil is Earth's most biodiverse ecosystem.

Did you know? Migratory birds navigate using Earth's magnetic field, star patterns, and even the position of the Sun. – Bar-tailed godwits fly nonstop from Alaska to New Zealand -- about 11,000 km -- without eating or sleeping. They lose about half their body weight during the journey.

Did you know? Wildfires, while destructive, are essential for many ecosystems. – Some pine cones, like those of the lodgepole pine, only open and release their seeds in extreme heat. Sequoia seedlings need fire-cleared ground to get enough sunlight to grow. Many ecosystems evolved WITH fire.

Keep laughing

That's **70 jokes** from TrailForge. Made someone laugh? Try making up your own – the best jokes are the ones you tell.

Spark & Anvil is a 501(c)(3) public charity. Every app, story, and book is free, forever – no ads, no in-app purchases, no tracking. Released under Creative Commons BY-NC-SA 4.0 for educational reuse.

Keep exploring online

Play it now	Meet the cast	More free books
		
https://spark-and-anvil.org/play/trailforge	https://spark-and-anvil.org/cast/trailforge	https://spark-and-anvil.org/books

Scan a code with any phone camera, or type the address. Every app, story, and book is free, forever – no account, no tracking.