

## **Under the Mesa: Treasure Hunt and Discussion Ideas**

1. How many prairie dogs are on the murals?
2. How many birds do you see (you can count the bird feet, too!)
3. Which kind of bird is underground?
4. Can you find the "secret" red heart? How about the heart-shaped rock?
5. Find the dead bug with his head on backwards.
6. What color is the salamander?
7. How many ants do you see? (look on plants, too!)
8. Where are the ladybugs? Can you find the ladybug larva?
9. How many yellowjacket wasps can you count? How many are emerging from their pupa cells?
10. Can you find the "COVID-19" tile? (Hint: it's in the turquoise cobble stones)
11. How many different animals live in the pond?
12. How many different kinds of mushrooms can you find?
13. How many different kinds of lichens can you find?
14. Which animals live in abandoned prairie dog holes?
15. Where is the bumblebee nest? Can you find the queen bumblebee? (she is the biggest bee)
16. Which panels do not show any sky?
17. Approximately how many tiles are in each panel?

### **Other Questions to think about and discuss:**

18. Which animals pictured are mammals?
19. Which animals are reptiles, amphibians, insects, arachnids, or crustaceans?
20. Which plants and animals have you seen living on Davidson Mesa?
21. How are mice the same as voles? How are they different?
22. Why do prairie plants have such deep roots?
23. Why do animals live underground?
24. What kinds of soil is found on Davidson Mesa?
25. How can you tell where there is water underground or nearby?
26. Why are plants important to bugs?
27. Why are bugs important to plants?
28. What does each animal eat? Can you find its lunch on another panel?

29. How much rain does Davidson mesa get each year?
30. How do animals and plants adapt to live with just a tiny bit of water?
31. How do plants and animals survive drought?
32. How can animals and plants adapt to climate change?
33. How do they survive winter? or extreme heat?
34. Should you pick the plants and try to catch the animals? Why or why not?
35. Why is it important to stay on Open Space trails and not take shortcuts?