

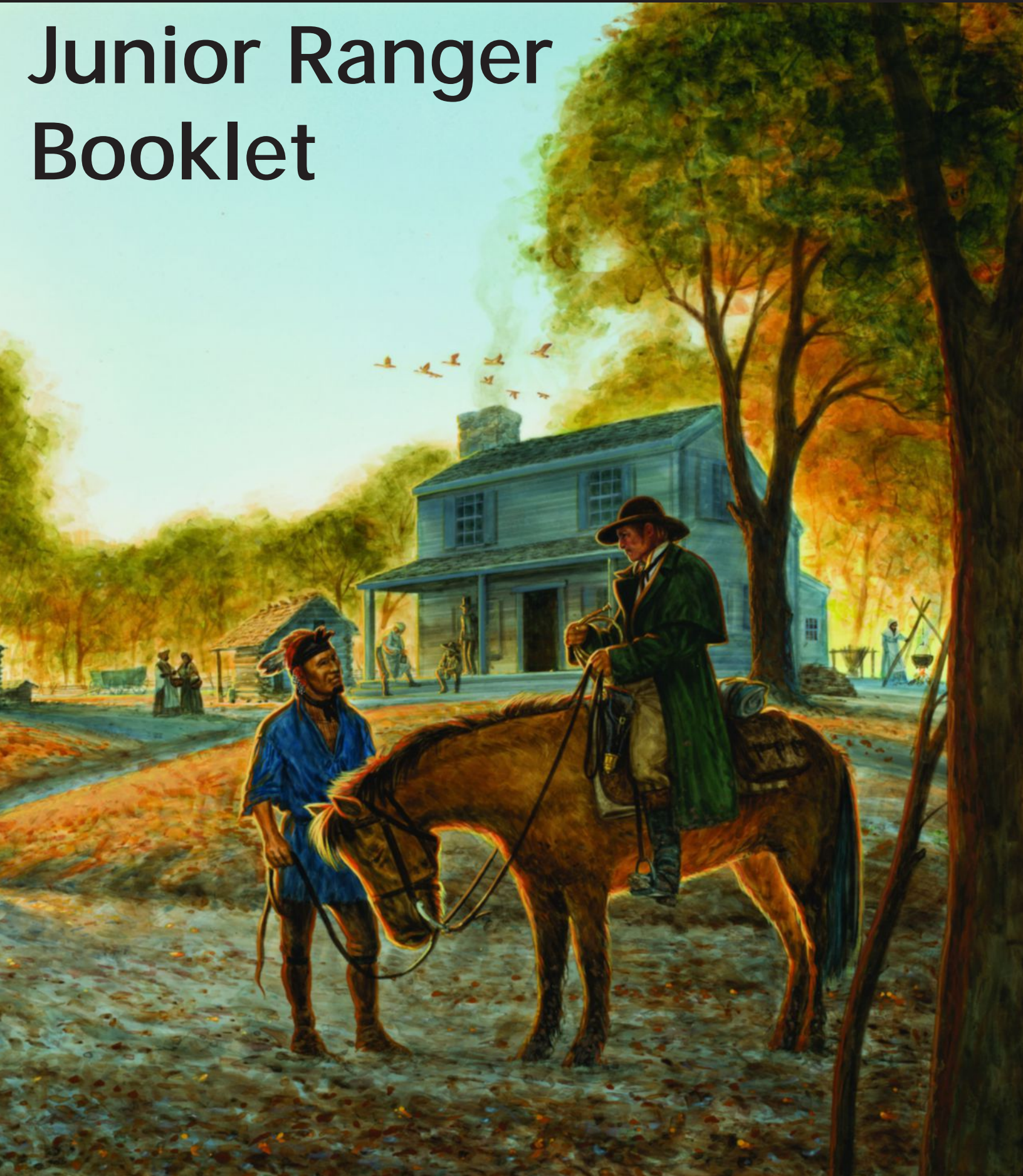
# Natchez Trace Parkway

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Natchez Trace Parkway  
Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee

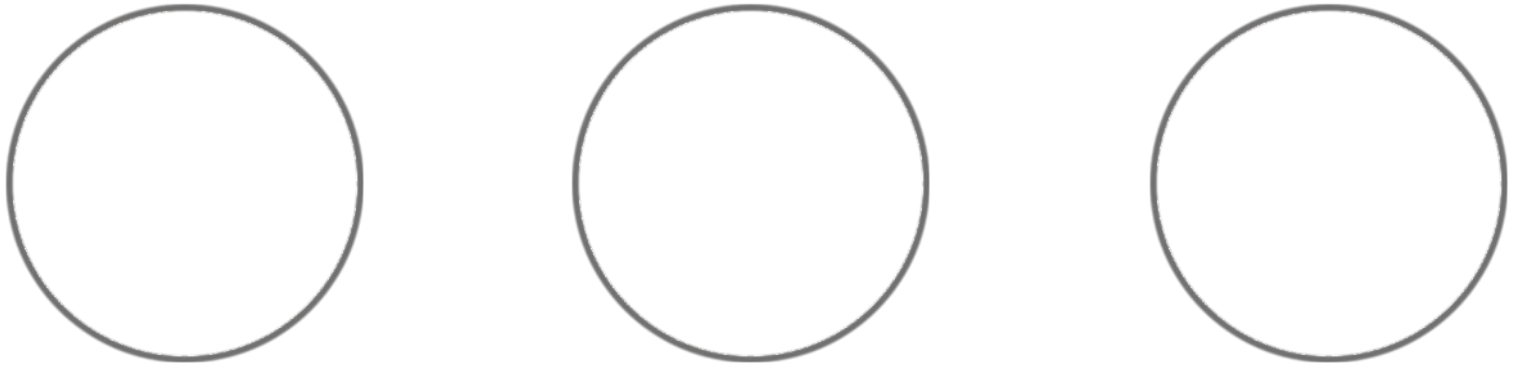


# Junior Ranger Booklet



# Trace Your Steps

Use the map below to trace your steps along the Natchez Trace Parkway! Write, draw, or stamp in the circles, then draw a line to the approximate location on the map you have visited. Use the Parkway map to help you find the milepost numbers shown on the map in red. For stamp locations, contact the Parkway Visitor Center at (800) 305-7417. Add additional stamps to the journal at the end of this booklet.



## Talk about it!

Look at the scene on the cover of your booklet. Colbert's Stand, or inn, at milepost 327.3 was busy with people traveling the Old Natchez Trace. What do you think the postrider (the man carrying the mail on the horse) and the Chickasaw man might be talking about?

# Welcome to the Natchez Trace Parkway

The Natchez Trace Parkway is a 444-mile long national park that travels through three states. It roughly follows the “Old Natchez Trace”, a historic travel corridor used by American Indians, “Kaintucks,” European settlers, enslaved people, soldiers, and future presidents. Today, people can enjoy not only a scenic drive but also hiking, biking, horseback riding, and camping along the Parkway.

**Earn your junior ranger badge and a signed certificate in three easy steps.**

## Step One

- I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old. Complete the same number of activities as your age.

## Step Two

- Take your completed booklet to a park ranger at one of our visitor centers. For visitor center locations and hours of operation, call (800) 305-7417.

Or

- Mail your completed book to: Natchez Trace Parkway  
Attn.: Junior Ranger Program  
2680 Natchez Trace Parkway  
Tupelo, MS 38804

## Step Three

- Share your experience with others!

For more information on the Natchez Trace Parkway, visit our website: [www.nps.gov/natr](http://www.nps.gov/natr) or our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/NatchezTraceParkwayNPS](http://www.facebook.com/NatchezTraceParkwayNPS)

If you have questions, ask a park ranger. We are here to help.



Special thanks to Frank Estrada for volunteering his time to create the illustrations throughout this booklet. The images on the cover and on the American Indian pages were painted by artist Michael Haynes and can be seen on waysides along the Parkway.

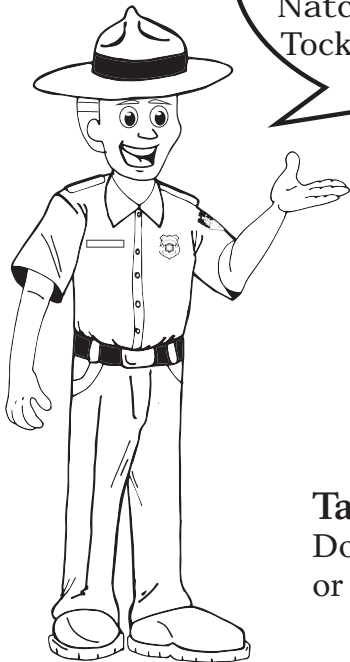
# Mail by Horseback

In 1801 the Old Natchez Trace was designated as a postal route between Nashville and Natchez. Postriders carried the mail by horseback. Now we use the postrider as a symbol of the Natchez Trace Parkway. Look for the postrider symbol as you travel in the park.



**Directions:** Gone are the days of delivering mail by horseback. Today we have a variety of ways to communicate. After walking a trail along the Parkway, use the space below to write a social media post, letter, or email about your experience.

One postrider headed south from Nashville while another headed north from Natchez. The two met at Tockshish and exchanged mail bags.



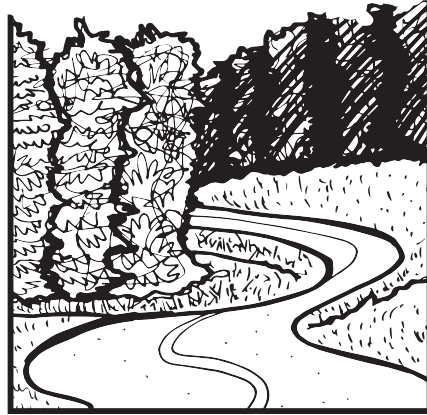
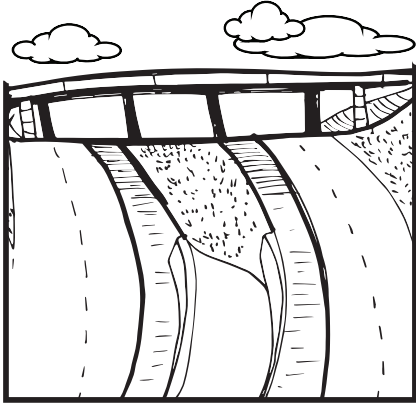
## Talk about it!

Do you think it is a good thing that communication is so much faster today? Why or why not?

# What's in a Name?

Do you know the difference between the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail, the Natchez Trace Parkway, and other highways? A scenic trail is a path used for walking and horseback riding. A parkway is a scenic road driven or biked that connects natural and historic points of interest. Billboards and commercial vehicles are not allowed on the Natchez Trace Parkway. Highways have multiple lanes, higher speeds, restaurants, semi-trucks, and cities.

**Directions:** Identify each picture as a scenic trail, highway or parkway.



**Directions:** Check the box if the activity can be done on a highway, parkway, or scenic trail. Some may have more than one answer.

- |                           |                                  |                                  |                                       |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| See gas stations          | <input type="checkbox"/> Highway | <input type="checkbox"/> Parkway | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Trail |
| Ride bicycles             | <input type="checkbox"/> Highway | <input type="checkbox"/> Parkway | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Trail |
| Hear birds                | <input type="checkbox"/> Highway | <input type="checkbox"/> Parkway | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Trail |
| Follow Kaintuck footsteps | <input type="checkbox"/> Highway | <input type="checkbox"/> Parkway | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Trail |
| See trees                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Highway | <input type="checkbox"/> Parkway | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Trail |
| Smell flowers             | <input type="checkbox"/> Highway | <input type="checkbox"/> Parkway | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Trail |
| Go hiking                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Highway | <input type="checkbox"/> Parkway | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenic Trail |

## Talk about it!

How would billboards impact your experience on the Natchez Trace Parkway?



# Leave No Trace on the Trace

Whether you are camping, hiking, biking, or horseback riding, make sure you keep the environment healthy by following Leave No Trace principles.

**Directions:** Finish the hike safely by making good choices. Circle either A or B for each question. The correct choice will lead you to the next decision. Use the Leave No Trace principles to help navigate the trail.

**You forgot your map, food, and water. Do you...**

- A.) Return to get the items before proceeding—it's important to have necessary supplies.
- B.) Keep going—you'll risk thirst and getting lost.

**You see a beautiful flower. Do you...**

- A.) Pick it—it's so pretty!
- B.) Leave what you find—plants are a food source for animals and insects.

**You have food left over from lunch. Do you...**

- A.) Pack it in your backpack—you don't want to litter.
- B.) Leave the food—maybe someone will pick it up later.

**You want to build a campfire, but there is a burn ban posted. Do you...**

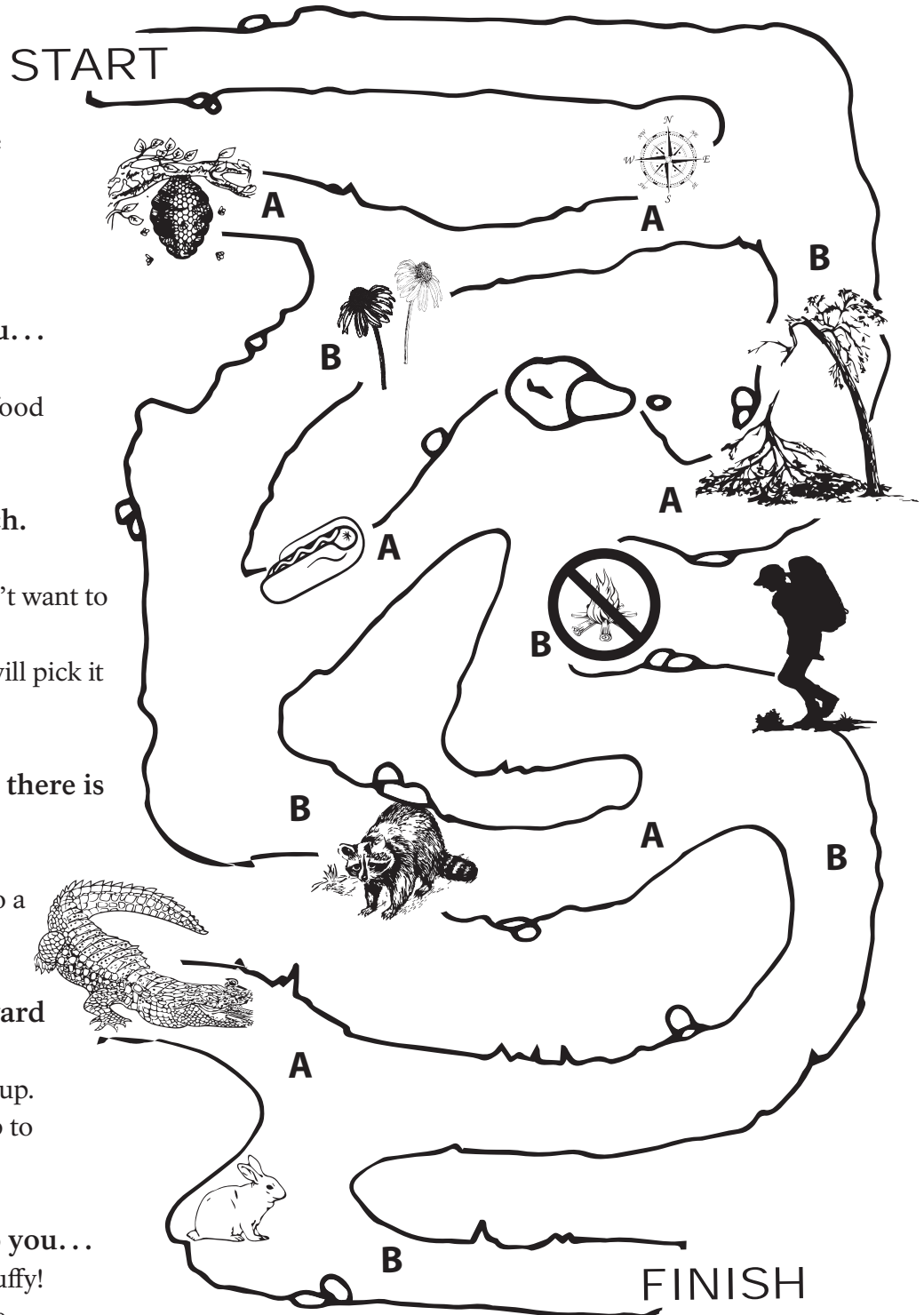
- A.) Build a fire anyway.
- B.) Do not make a fire—it could lead to a wildfire.

**A group of hikers are coming toward you on a narrow trail. Do you...**

- A.) Keep walking and break up the group.
- B.) Respect your fellow hikers and step to the side.

**You see a rabbit in the woods. Do you...**

- A.) Leave the trail to catch it—it's so fluffy!
- B.) Stay on the trail and respect wildlife.



# Five Degrees of Latitude

An ecosystem is the place where living organisms, like plants and animals, depend on each other for survival. Along the Parkway there are many different ecosystems like forests, prairies, and swamps. Habitats within these ecosystems provide shelter, food, and water for wildlife. The Natchez Trace Parkway crosses five degrees of latitude which increases the biodiversity of the Natchez Trace Parkway.

**Directions:** Draw a circle around each animal found in their habitat. Then, add one animal and one plant to each ecosystem. If time permits, stop at each location to learn more about the biodiversity of the Parkway.

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**Forest:** Upper Choctaw Boundary, milepost 128.4; Sweetwater Branch, milepost 363.0

A forest ecosystem is an area of land covered in trees. Each tree provides food and shelter for many animals. While visiting the forest, notice how many birds, insects, and mammals depend on just one tree!



## Talk about it!

Climate change can have an impact on biodiversity. What are some of the ways climate change might impact you and your family?



## Blackland Prairie: Black Belt Overlook, milepost 251.9; Chickasaw Village Site, milepost 261.8

Prairies are wide open grass areas where animals can graze and hawks can search for food. The rich prairie soil provides nutrients for wildflowers. Wildflowers provide food for rabbits and butterflies.



## Tupelo/Cypress Swamp: Cypress Swamp, milepost 122.0

Swamps are like sponges. They soak up water during heavy rains. Wildlife can use the excess water during droughts.

Fish, tupelo trees, bald cypress trees, alligators, birds, dragonflies, and beaver rely on the water that swamps provide in order to survive.



# People of the Past

**Directions:** Read the descriptions below, then place the number in the box next to the historic figure on the map.

**1** Federal Soldier: During the Vicksburg Campaign, Federal soldiers under the command of General Ulysses S. Grant used the Old Natchez Trace from Port Gibson north to Raymond, Mississippi. The march was hot and dusty and food was scarce along the route.


**2** Enslaved Person: From the 1820s through the Civil War, enslaved people from Maryland and Virginia were forcefully marched down the Old Natchez Trace to be sold at a large slave market in Natchez, Mississippi. The journey from Virginia to Natchez often separated children from their parents and took three months of walking every day in the hot and humid weather of the South. Enslaved people were freed after the Civil War.

**3** Tennessee Militia: These citizen soldiers from Tennessee traveled on the Old Natchez Trace from their homes to defend the United States of America against a possible invasion of the British during the War of 1812.

**4** Choctaw Warriors: In the fall of 1813 some Choctaw warriors joined US forces during the Creek War and fought alongside Andrew Jackson's troops. In December 1815, Mississippi's territorial government gave special recognition to Choctaw leaders for their efforts in protecting settlements in the Creek War.

**5** Conquistadors: In March of 1541, conquistadors, led by Hernando De Soto, explored the area for treasure to take back to Spain. Their arrogance doomed the expedition. They demanded 200 Chickasaw men to carry their supplies. Soon after, Chickasaws launched a surprise attack.

**6** Stand Owners: Inns or stands provided occasional shelter for travelers along the Old Natchez Trace. These stands offered food and protection. Many stands were operated by American Indians. Levi Colbert, a Chickasaw, and his wife, Minti-Hoyo, operated a stand at Buzzard Roost Spring.



The Natchez Trace Parkway preserves 10,000 years of human history.

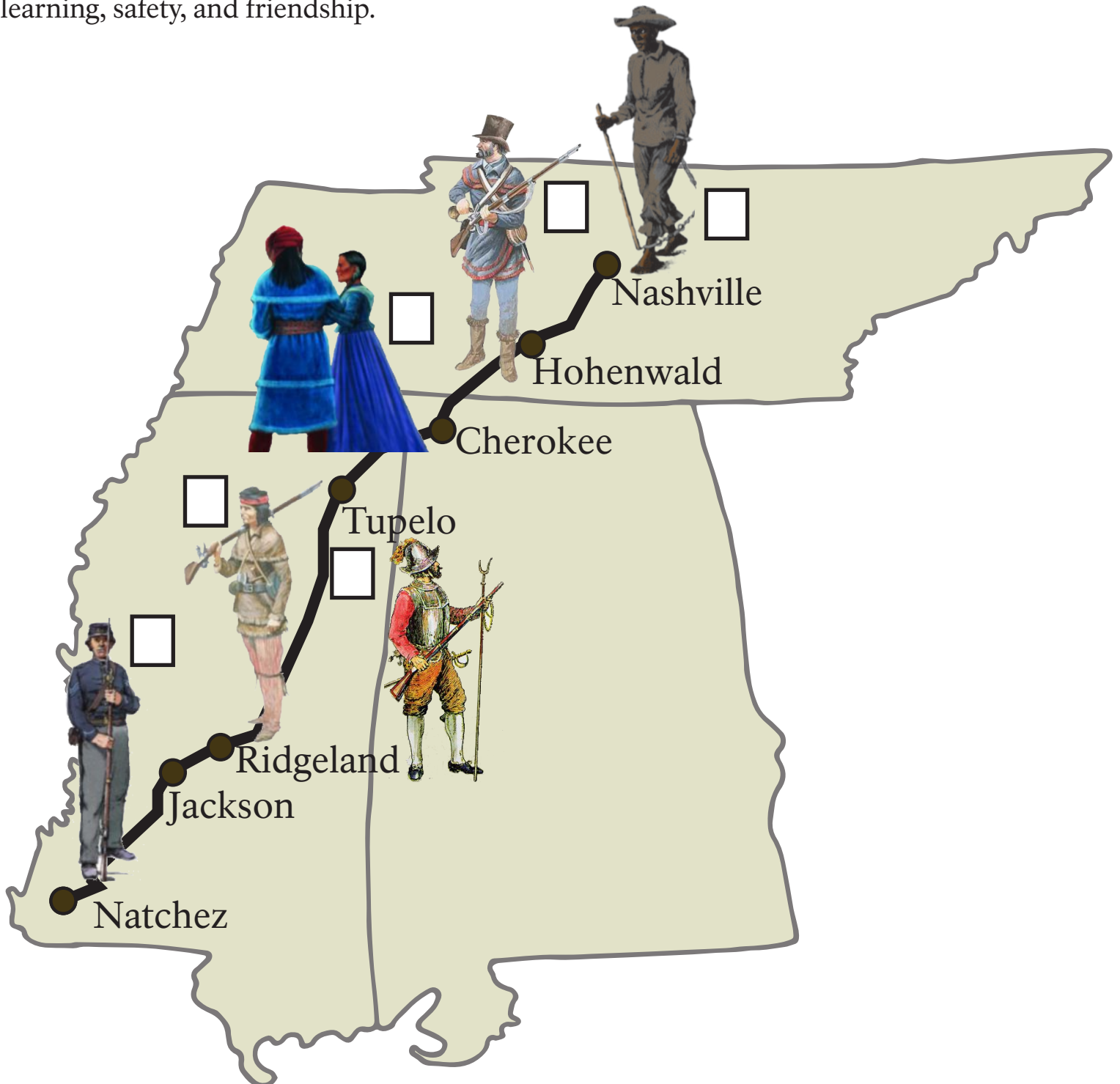
## Talk about it!

War was often used along the Old Natchez Trace to resolve conflict. How do you resolve conflict?

# Used by Many

The Old Natchez Trace is one of the oldest transportation routes in the United States. As groups of people traveled the route, they encountered people different from themselves.

This often led to confusion, conflict, and war because of people's different ways of life. As the different groups of people came to know and understand each other, it sometimes led to learning, safety, and friendship.



## Talk about it!

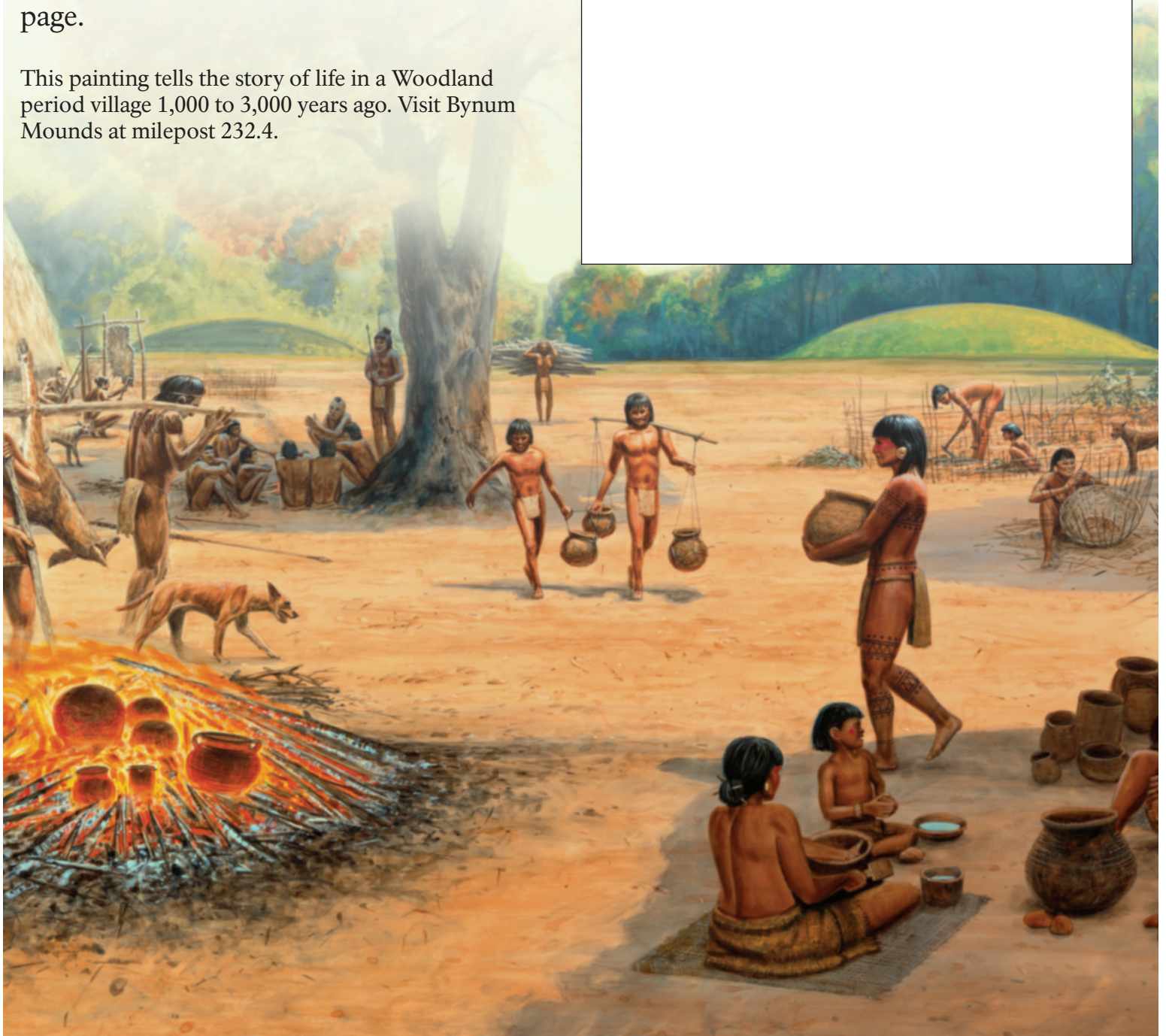
The diversity of cultures makes the Natchez Trace Parkway's history complex. How do you celebrate different cultures?

# Prehistoric American Indians

A thousand years ago American Indians lived along the area now called the Natchez Trace Parkway. Villages busy with trade and everyday chores like planting and making tools, pottery, and clothing were common. For entertainment, people shared news, told stories and played games.

**Directions:** Imagine yourself in this village. Use the images to describe what you see, hear, smell and feel in the box on this page.

This painting tells the story of life in a Woodland period village 1,000 to 3,000 years ago. Visit Bynum Mounds at milepost 232.4.



# Historic American Indians

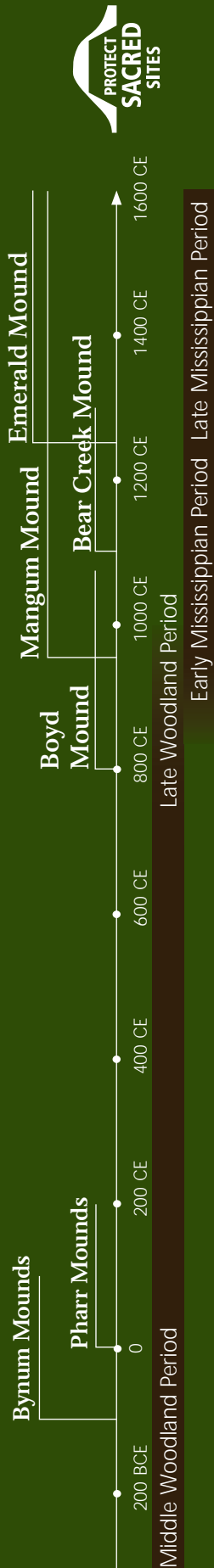
After people from Europe moved into this area, many American Indians like the Chickasaw and Choctaw adopted European tools and customs. Many of the stands along the Old Trace were operated by Chickasaw and Choctaw people. In the 1830s most of this area's American Indians were forced to move west. They did not want to leave their homeland.

**Directions:** Now, imagine yourself in this painting, and compare and contrast the lifestyles of the prehistoric and historic American Indians.

Busy with activity, Buzzard Roost Spring at milepost 320.3 was an inn, or stand, operated by the Chickasaw people. It was a prosperous plantation, and it also provided food and shelter for travelers on the Old Natchez Trace.



## Mounds Along the Natchez Trace Parkway | BCE: Before Common Era CE: Common Era



# Sacred Places

The mounds along the Natchez Trace Parkway were built many years ago by American Indians; some took hundreds of years to build. The mounds served multiple purposes and no two mounds are the same. They were burial grounds, homes for leaders, religious and ceremonial centers, and community-gathering spaces. American Indians make pilgrimages to these sacred places.

**Directions:** Visit and explore one of the six mound sites along the Parkway. Remember to be respectful! The mounds are very old and are sacred structures! Sketch the mound(s) you see and then circle the time period when the mound was built to see how long it has been standing.

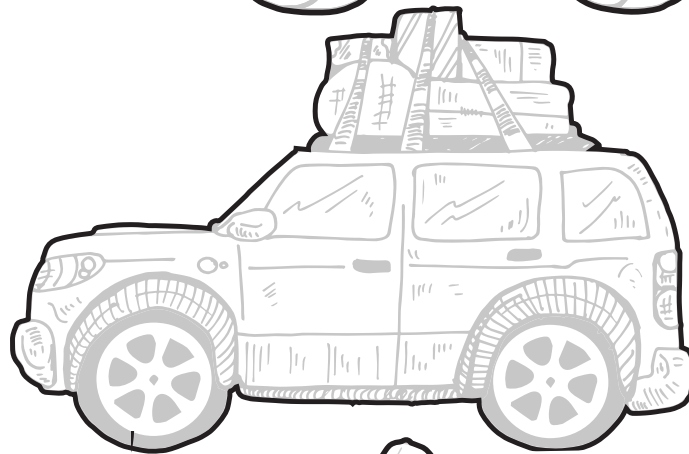
## Talk about it!

What places are sacred to you, and why?

# Kaintuck Camping

Between the mid-1700s and mid-1800s, boatmen, also known as Kaintucks, from the Ohio River Valley walked home on the Old Natchez Trace after selling their goods in Natchez, Mississippi. The walk from Natchez to Nashville took the average boatman 30 days. They had to make sure to pack everything they needed to survive along the trail. If they didn't pack smart, they might not make it home.

**Directions:** Fill in the different types of transportation with the items you would pack for a 30-day camping trip. As space for your gear becomes smaller, consider what you need to survive. What will you give up to make sure that you have room for the items you need?



## Talk about it!

Which of the items you had to give up is the hardest to live without and why?

# Meriwether Lewis Site (Milepost 385.9)

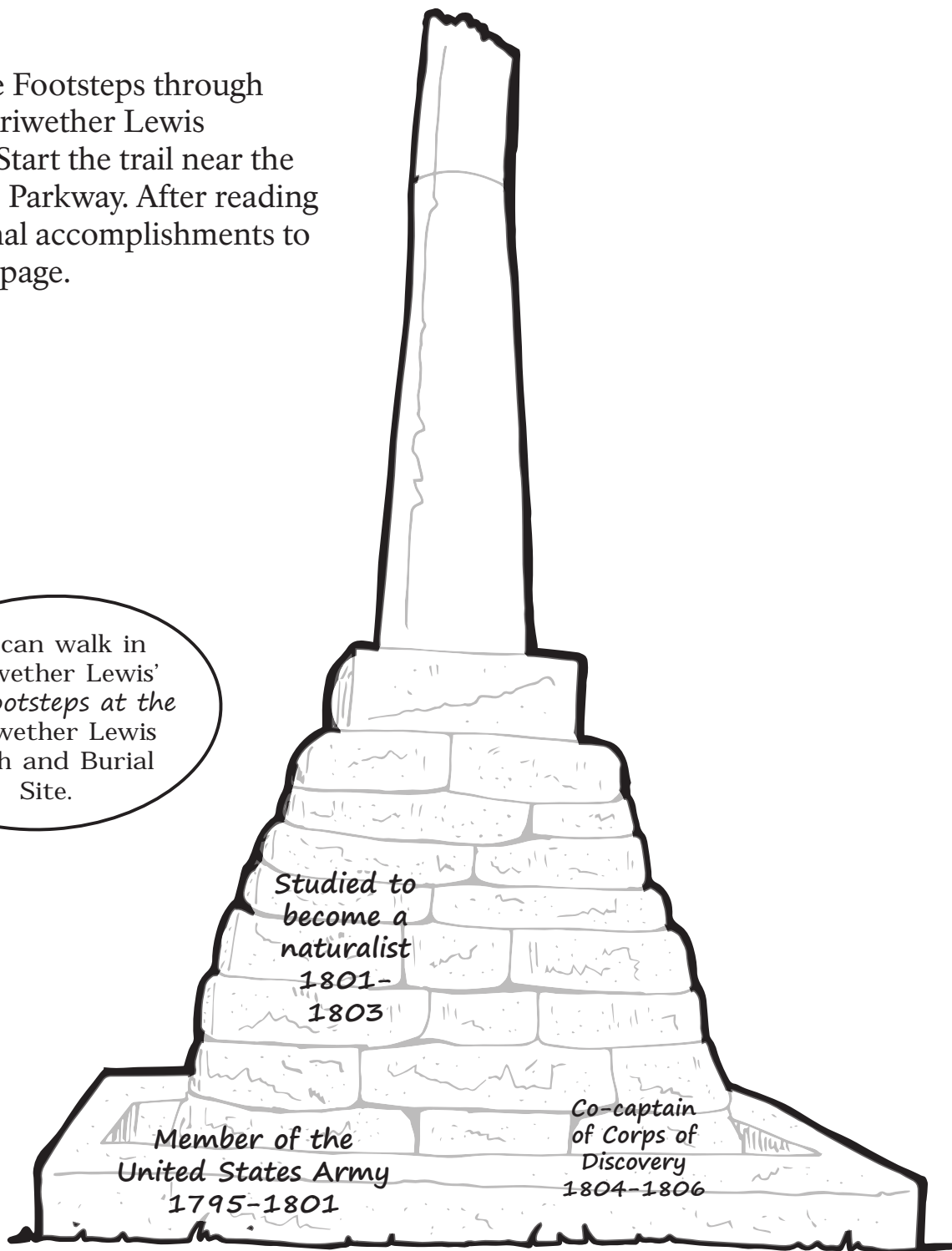
Meriwether Lewis was an American hero who died on the Old Natchez Trace on October 11, 1809 at the age of 35. Although he was still relatively young, Lewis had many accomplishments in his lifetime.

He is best known for serving with William Clark as co-captain of the Corps of Discovery. He was away from home for over three years exploring the western part of North America. Exploration of the West was extremely dangerous and required great courage, discipline and a mastery of survival skills.

**Directions:** Walk the Footsteps through History Trail at the Meriwether Lewis Death and Burial Site. Start the trail near the restroom closest to the Parkway. After reading each sign, add additional accomplishments to the monument on this page.



You can walk in Meriwether Lewis' final footsteps at the Meriwether Lewis Death and Burial Site.



Studied to  
become a  
naturalist  
1801-  
1803

Member of the  
United States Army  
1795-1801

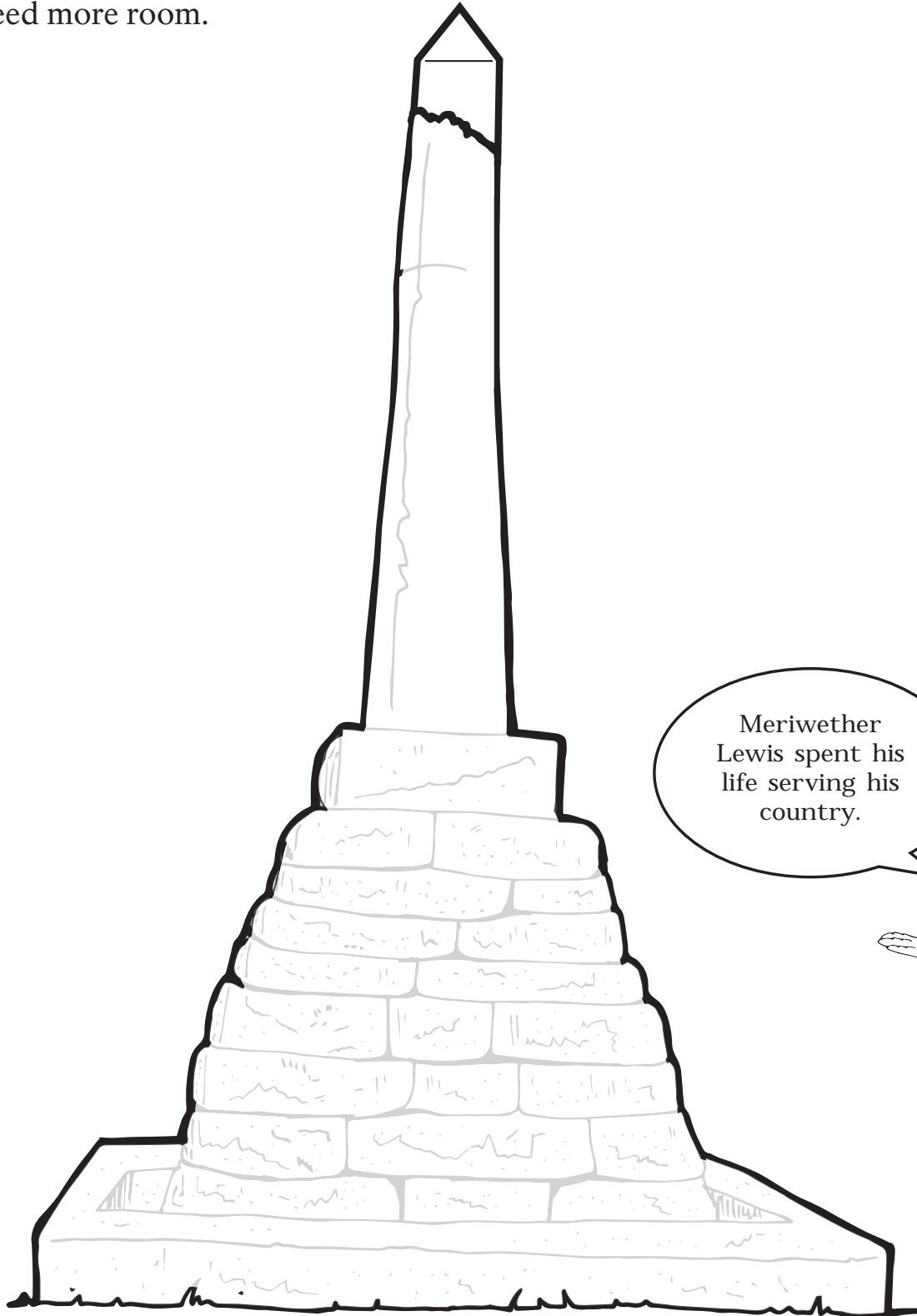
Co-captain  
of Corps of  
Discovery  
1804-1806



# A Full Life

In 1848, the State of Tennessee placed a monument above the grave of Meriwether Lewis as a tribute to his life. The monument is a broken column which symbolizes an amazing life cut short.

**Directions:** Fill in the column with all the things you hope to accomplish in your lifetime. Then circle the items that provide a service to others. Use the space outside of the monument if you need more room.



Meriwether Lewis spent his life serving his country.



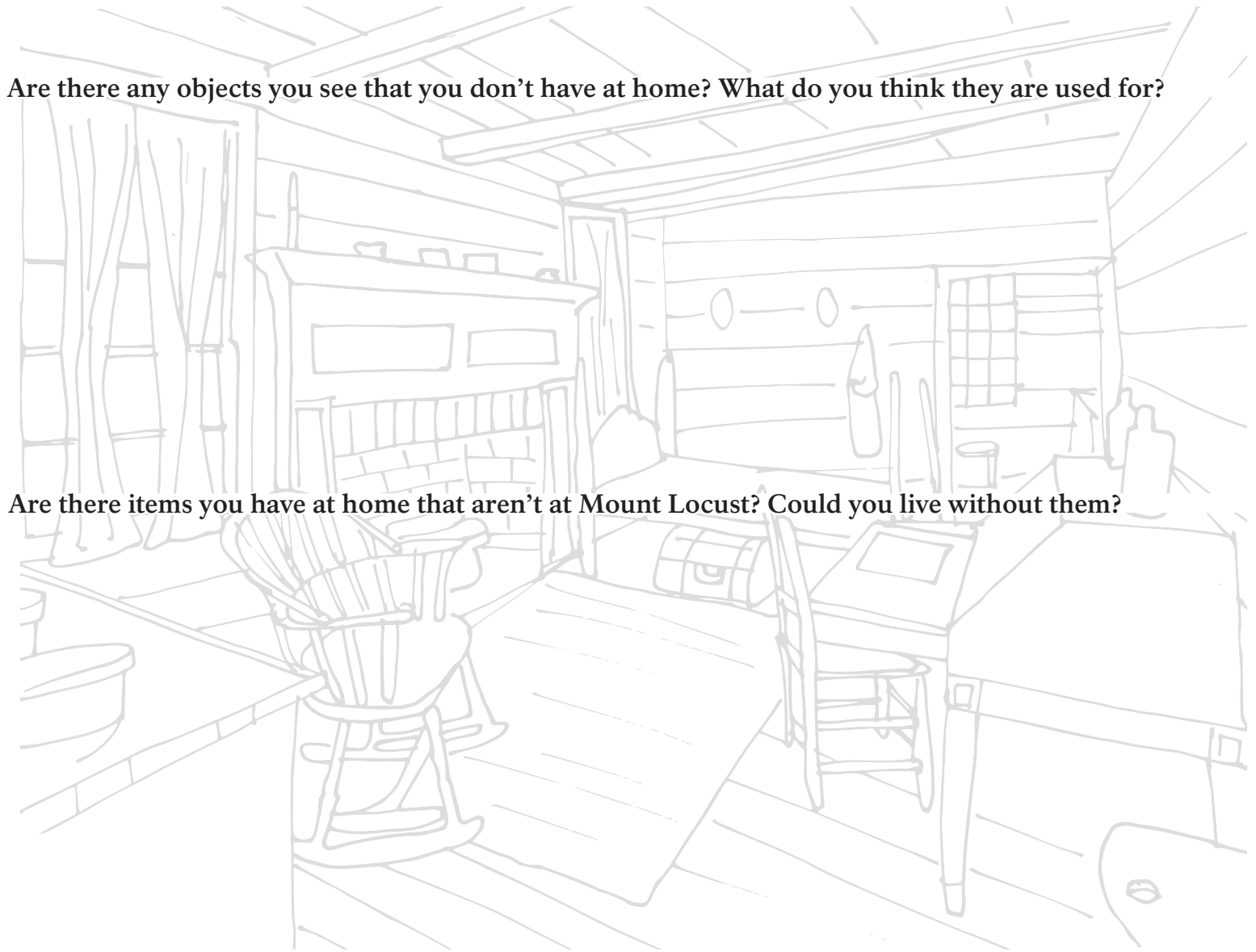
# The Inn at Mount Locust (Milepost 15.5)

Travelers of the Old Natchez Trace stopped at stands, or inns, to purchase sleeping arrangements on the home's porches or grounds and a meal of corn mush. Mount Locust is the oldest remaining stand along the Parkway and is one of the oldest buildings in Mississippi.

**Directions:** Tour Mount Locust, then answer the questions below.

Are there any objects you see that you don't have at home? What do you think they are used for?

Are there items you have at home that aren't at Mount Locust? Could you live without them?



## Talk about it!

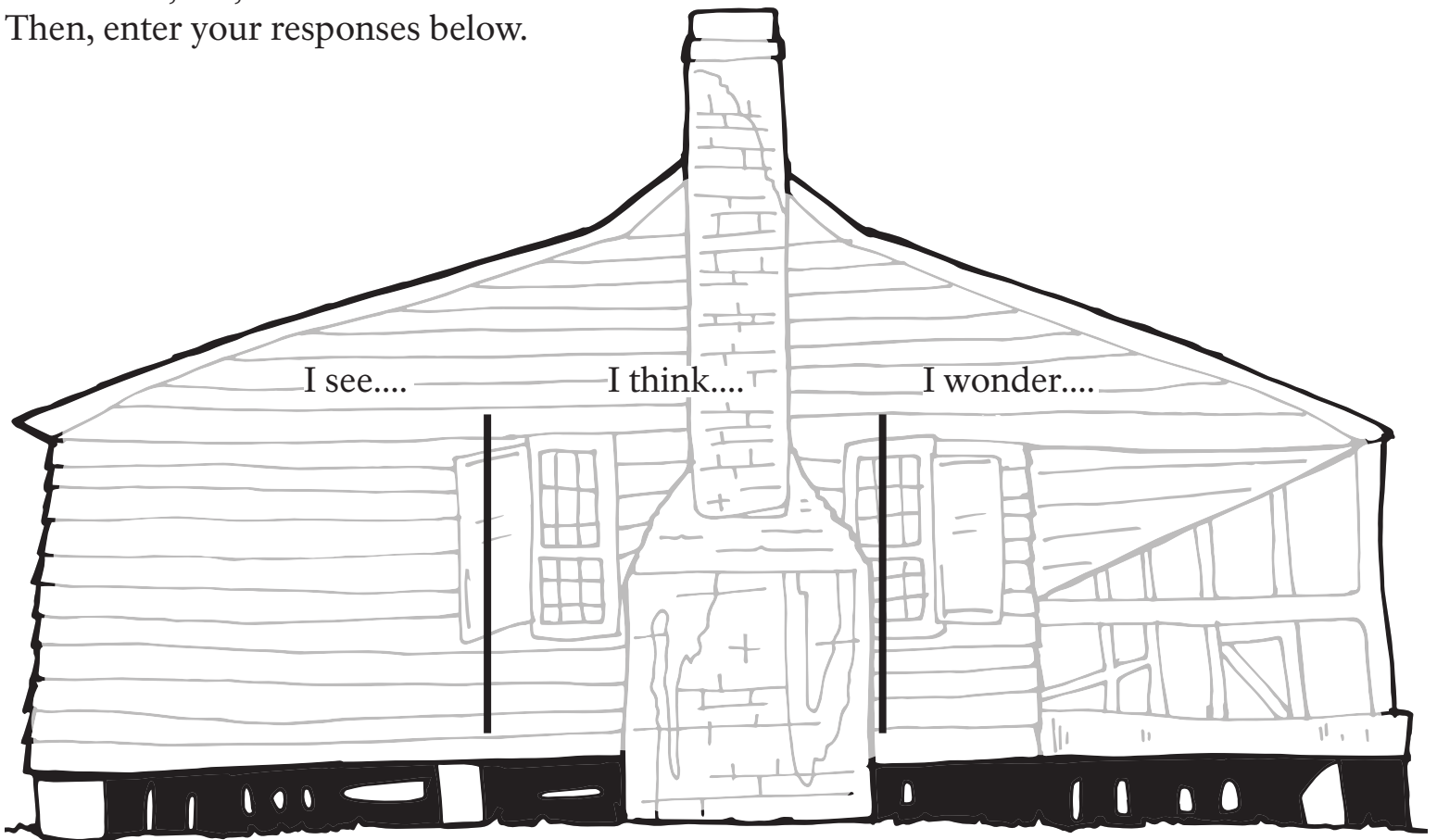
Name an object that you travel with that reminds you of home. Why is this object important to you?

# The Plantation at Mount Locust

For much of the 1800s, Mount Locust was a working plantation. At Mount Locust, enslaved African Americans were forced to work in the fields growing cotton. The enslaved people who lived at Mount Locust maintained family bonds and relationships when they could.

Except for a poorly-marked cemetery, little remains visible of the enslaved families who lived here. Visit both the Ferguson-Chamberlain cemetery and the enslaved person cemetery while you are at Mount Locust.

**Directions:** While visiting the cemeteries, see, think and wonder. Then, enter your responses below.



## Talk about it!

Does it surprise you that there are two cemeteries? Why or why not?

# Which Park Ranger are You?

Many people think a park ranger's job is to be outside and work with nature, but there are many different kinds of park rangers. Below is a fun quiz to help you determine which park ranger you might want to be when you grow up!

**Directions:** Answer the questions on the following page. Add up your total score. An A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, D = 4, E = 5 points each. Then, find the park ranger that matches your score. Circle your answer.



**10-17: Administrative Park Ranger.** They are organized and detail-oriented. Jobs in administration can be anything from working on the park budget, managing property, or leading the park as a superintendent.



**18-25: Interpretive Park Ranger.** They are creative and like to be around people. Whether they give guided tours, education programs, or create park brochures and websites, they are the voice of the park. They also run the junior ranger program!



**26-33: Resource Management Park Ranger.** They try to see the best way to solve a problem long-term. These jobs range from being out in the field, finding plant and animal species, to managing fire, preserving cultural resources, and designing parks.



**34-41: Law Enforcement Park Ranger.** Taking charge and being safe is important to them. Rescuing lost visitors, helping people who are hurt and protecting park resources are just a few of the jobs that are needed on backcountry trails and along park roads.



**42-50: Maintenance Park Ranger.** They like to work with their hands and build things. Their job can change depending on what is needed that day, but can include removing hazards, repairing buildings, mowing, and operating heavy equipment.

This activity is just for fun. Explore all the careers that sound interesting to you to find the right fit.



## Talk About it!

Do you agree with your results? What do you want to be when you grow up?

**What is your favorite color?**

- a. White
- b. Yellow
- c. Green
- d. Red
- e. Blue

**What is your favorite class in school?**

- a. Math
- b. Art
- c. History
- d. Gym
- e. Science

**I like to:**

- a. put a puzzle together.
- b. play pretend.
- c. play tag outside.
- d. play video games.
- e. build with blocks.

**When I play pretend, I play:**

- a. an inventor.
- b. a teacher.
- c. a treasure hunter.
- d. an emergency rescuer.
- e. a construction worker.

**When watching TV, I watch:**

- a. sports.
- b. comedies.
- c. nature shows.
- d. action movies.
- e. competitions.

**I would describe myself as:**

- a. a planner.
- b. an artist.
- c. a problem solver.
- d. a thrill seeker.
- e. a hands-on person.

**If my toy breaks into several pieces, I:**

- a. see if I have enough money to buy another one.
- b. find a new way to use it; invent a new toy.
- c. take a look inside; how does it work?
- d. find out who broke it; make them replace it.
- e. try to fix it myself.

**If I have a project, I:**

- a. make a step-by-step plan.
- b. make a plan but keep room for flexibility.
- c. consider options; then pick the best one.
- d. quickly think about the best way to get to work
- e. get my hands dirty.

**If I see two people having an argument, I:**

- a. offer my opinion.
- b. tell a joke.
- c. help them understand one another.
- d. step in immediately and take charge.
- e. fix the problem and go on about the day.

**The best way to help take care of national parks is to:**

- a. make sure park rangers have everything they need to do their job.
- b. spread the word, parks are cool!
- c. preserve the history of the park.
- d. make sure people are following the rules.
- e. pick up trash, I have to keep my park clean.

# My Parkway Journal

Use the space below to write about or draw your experience on the Natchez Trace Parkway. Consider using the questions throughout the booklet to complete your journal entry.



# Natchez Trace Parkway

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Natchez Trace Parkway  
Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee



This is to certify that

\_\_\_\_\_ has been awarded the title of

# Junior Ranger

Natchez Trace Parkway

Mississippi - Alabama - Tennessee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Park Ranger

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Junior Ranger Pledge

As a junior ranger,  
I watch for danger.  
I protect the Natchez Trace,  
every wing, leaf, and space.  
At national parks,  
I know how to have fun,  
and share what I've learned  
with everyone!