

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Saratoga

National Historical Park

Nature Hike —ACTIVITY KEY

—A walk on the Wilkinson Trail—

Goals, Themes, Objectives

Goals:

For students to explore and learn about some of the natural resources preserved and protected by the park in a fun and enjoyable way.

Themes:

Saratoga National Historical Park preserves and protects not only cultural resources associated with the Battles of Saratoga but also natural resources related to this history-making event.

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to list some of the natural resources preserved at Saratoga National Historical Park.
2. Students will further be able to record, either by writing or drawing, some of these natural resources.
3. Students will begin to understand the role that Saratoga National Historical Park plays in preserving these resources.

Supplies

- photocopies
- pencils

Summary / Introduction

Nature hikes are a great way for students to learn about the flora and fauna of an area. They're fun and completely different from a traditional classroom setting. —the soil becomes the floor, the wind and the trees become the walls, and the sky becomes a boundless ceiling.

Saratoga National Historical Park exists to preserve and interpret the resources associated with the Battles of Saratoga. First and foremost, that means the land on which the battles were fought. The land, of course, is full of trees, field grasses, streams, rocks, plants, birds and animals. Our landscapes, too, are part of the picture.

A hike along our main foot trail, the Wilkinson Trail, is a wonderful way to explore the "wilder side" of the park.

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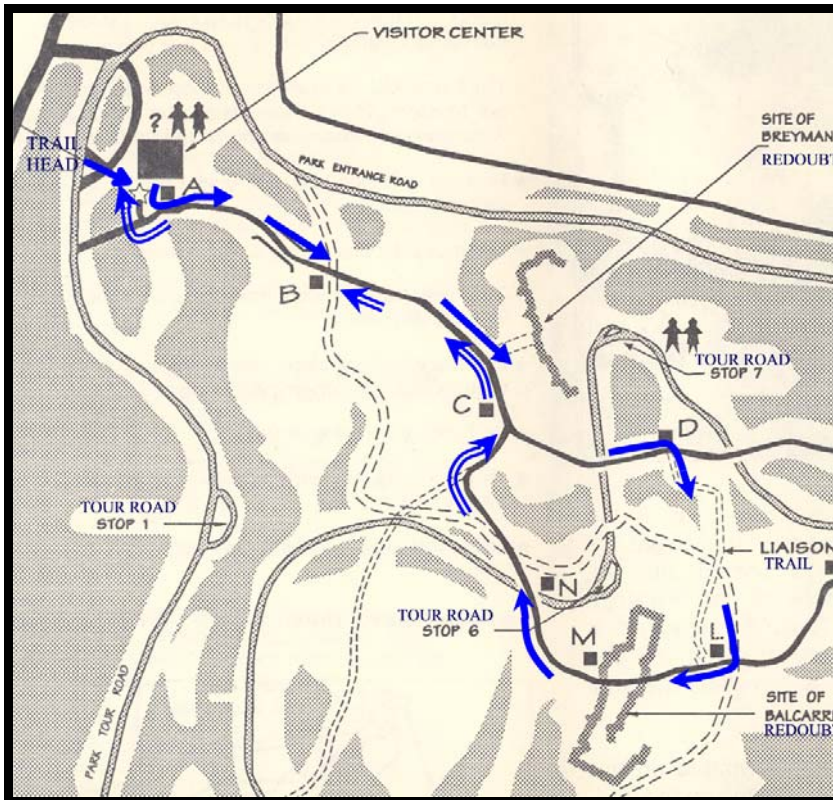
Nature Hike

—A walk on the Wilkinson Trail—

Nature hikes are fun. You can learn a lot from them, too. They can give you the opportunity to see and hear things you cannot see or hear elsewhere.

The Wilkinson Trail is the main hiking trail for Saratoga National Historical Park. It is named for a mapmaker, William Wilkinson, who was here with the British Army during the Battles of Saratoga.

As you walk on the trail, here is a checklist of things to watch for. Put an "X" next to each one that you find. Be sure to leave everything where you find it!



- ___ an acorn
- ___ a pinecone
- ___ a butterfly
- ___ deer
- ___ scat
- ___ a cloud shaped like an animal
- ___ something cold and smooth
- ___ a tree with two trunks
- ___ a bird
- ___ something red
- ___ a footprint
- ___ a green leaf
- ___ the National Park Service "arrowhead" symbol

NOTE TO GROWN-UPS:

- Between Stop "D" and Stop "L" is a clearing with a cannon, a tree, and a great view. Please stop here and wait for the rest of the class. The trail can be a little confusing, and we want to make sure everyone is headed in the right direction.
- Return path shown by a double-line arrow.

***Lunch at the Visitor Center, or as arranged in advance by the teacher!

Write a description of the item or items you liked best from the Nature Hike.

OR draw a picture of the item or items you liked best.

