

Junior Ranger Program

National Capital Parks-East

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C.
Maryland

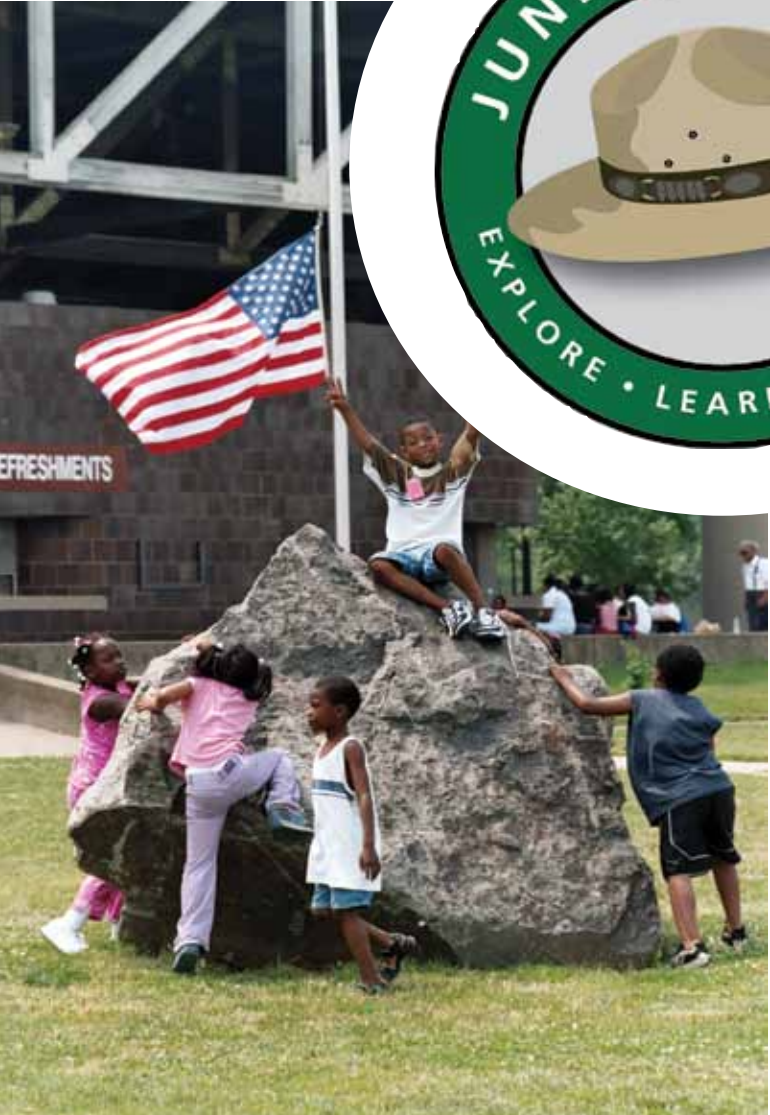


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Welcome Junior Ranger!

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the National Park Service, National Capital Parks-East Junior Ranger booklet. National Capital Parks-East, also known as NACE or NCP-East, is one of the many jewels of the National Park System. NACE is dedicated to conserving resources and providing safe and enjoyable experiences for this and future generations. NACE consists of historical, cultural, natural, and recreational parksites located in Washington, D.C. and Maryland.

Most of the sites highlighted in this booklet also have site specific Junior Ranger booklets and/or programs available. We encourage you to request them while visiting the sites. We're interested in your comments about this Junior Ranger booklet. Please send comments and questions to:

Ms. Lori M. Spillman
National Capital Parks-East
1900 Anacostia Drive, SE
Washington, DC 20020
202-692-6036
lori_m_spillman@nps.gov

We thank you for your interest in NACE and hope that this booklet sparks an interest in more of your national parks. We also hope that this booklet is a stepping stone to someday becoming an NPS employee!



Alex Romero
Superintendent
National Capital Parks-East



Are you ready to be a National Capital Parks-East Junior Ranger?

This book belongs to Junior Ranger _____.

ATTENTION JUNIOR RANGER, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

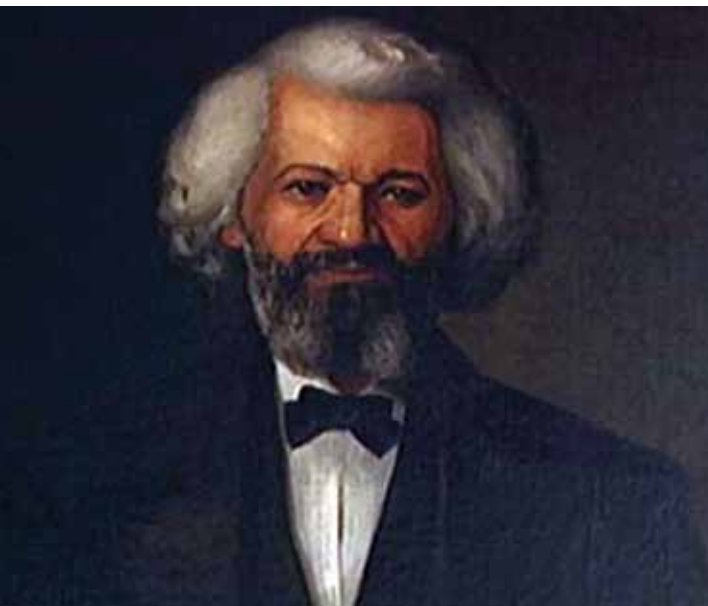
The goal of the National Park Service is to protect important places in America so that many years from now, people can still enjoy them. National Capital Parks-East is just one of about 400 national parks all over the United States. Protecting all those parks is a big job, and we can't do it alone!



This map shows the United States with all the national parks colored green. The yellow dot shows you where National Capital Parks-East is. Have you been to any other national parks? Can you find them on the map? **Color in all the states in which you have visited a national park.**

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: EXPLORE, LEARN, PROTECT

First, you will need to know a little bit about us. National Capital Parks-East is made up of 14 very different park sites. Some of them, such as Greenbelt Park, give visitors a chance to experience nature right in the middle of an urban area. These natural parks are unique habitats for animals and plants such as beavers, bald eagles, and lotus flowers. You probably never knew those things lived in the Washington, D.C. area!



Other park sites, such as the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, are historic park sites. These are places where important people in history lived and worked. At historic parks, you can see objects that were part of these people's everyday lives and imagine what it would be like to live during a different time. Some of our park sites, such as Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and Fort Washington, are both natural and historic.

By **exploring** or researching all of the National Capital Parks-East, you can **learn** a ton of interesting stuff-- from the name of the world's biggest water lily to how many miles Frederick Douglass walked every day to work. The last step in being a Junior Ranger is to help us **protect** the parks. This means that while you are visiting them, you should treat them with respect and care. Another way you can help to protect the parks is by telling your friends and family how beautiful and important they are.



Find Out How to Become an Official Junior Ranger!



How many activities do I need to do before I can get my badge?

In order to earn your official Junior Ranger Badge, you will need to complete 16 of the 22 activities in this book.



Do I have to go to all the parks?

It's more fun if you can go to the park, but most of the activities can also be done at home or online.



Can I get help?

Don't be afraid to ask for help from your friends, family, or a park ranger!

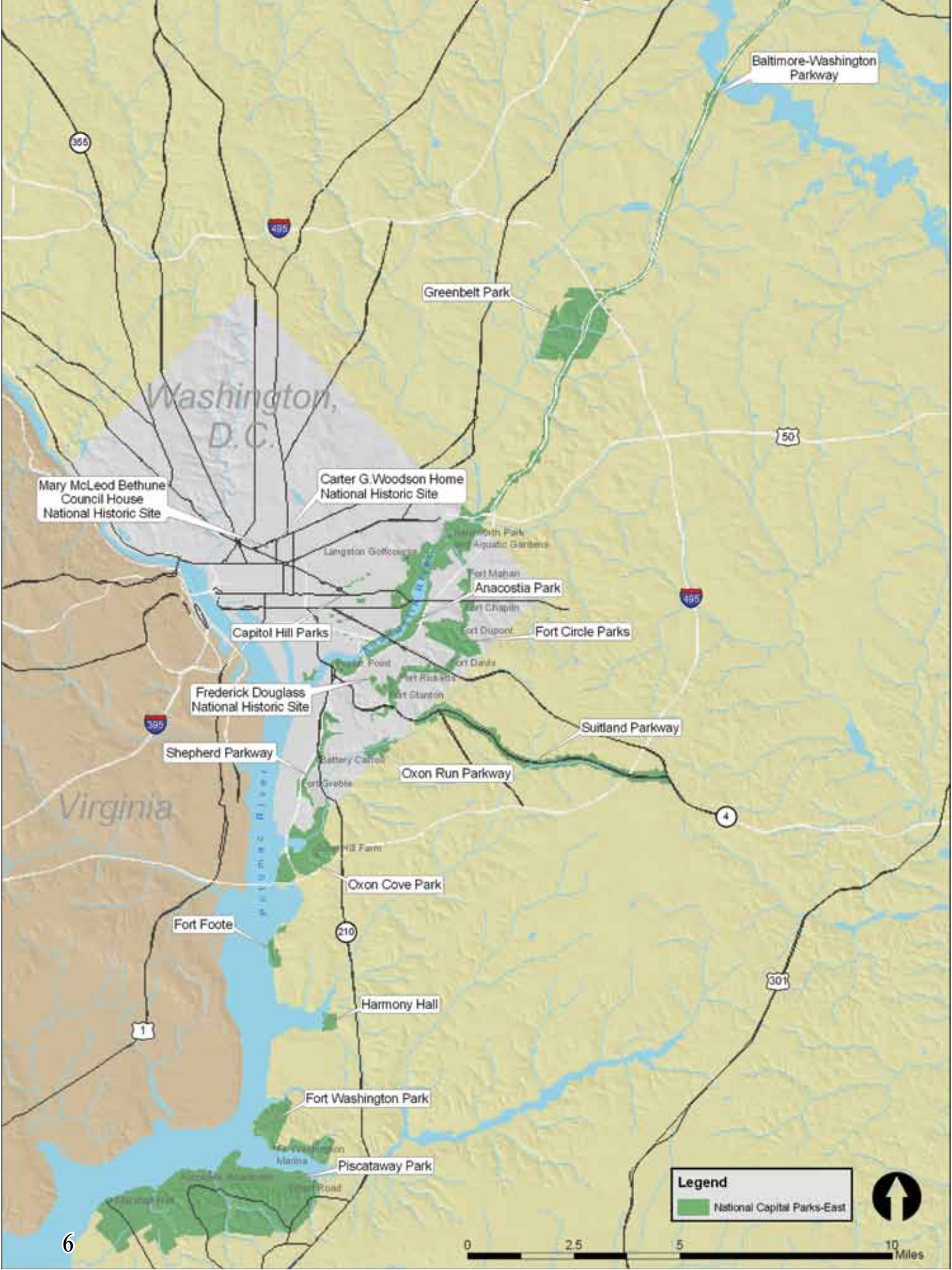


What do I do when I'm done?

When you're done, show your booklet to a park ranger or mail it to:

Junior Ranger Program
1900 Anacostia Drive, SE
Washington, D.C. 20020

Have fun and good luck!



Baltimore-Washington Parkway

Greenbelt Park

Washington,
D.C.

50

Mary McLeod Bethune
Council House
National Historic Site

Carter G. Woodson Home
National Historic Site

Langston Golfcourse

Near North Park
and Aquatic Gardens

Fort Mahan
Anacostia Park

Earl Chaplin

Fort Dupont

Fort Circle Parks

Capitol Hill Parks

Fort Point

Fort Davis

Frederick Douglass
National Historic Site

Fort Ricketts

Fort Stanton

Suitland Parkway

Shepherd Parkway

Oxon Run Parkway

Battery Center

Fort Greble

Mill Farm

Oxon Cove Park

Fort Foote

210

Harmony Hall

Fort Washington Park

Washington
Marina

Piscataway Park

Legend
National Capital Parks-East



National Capital Parks-East



Which is Where?

Match the name of these park sites to what you could learn about, see, or do there.

1. Anacostia Park



2. Capitol Hill Parks

3. Fort Dupont Park

4. Fort Washington Park

5. Frederick Douglass National Historic Site



6. Greenbelt Park

7. Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens

8. Langston Golf Course



9. Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site

10. Oxon Cove Park and Oxon Hill Farm



11. Piscataway Park

12. Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site



ATTENTION JUNIOR RANGER, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Anacostia Park has so many fun activities to offer its visitors that sometimes it is hard to decide what to do here. At this beautiful park, there is something for everyone. You can have a picnic, go swimming, birdwatch, play sports, and do many other things.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: BE A VISITOR GUIDE

Help these visitors choose how to spend their day in the park. Read about their interests and then decide which activity is perfect for them.








<p>Maggie likes to be outside, but doesn't like running around. She enjoys learning and is interested in the environment.</p> <p>Activity ____</p>	<p>Anna likes to be outside in the sunshine. She loves soccer, football and frisbee.</p> <p>Activity ____</p>	<p>Amanda likes being outside and moving around, but she's not crazy about team sports. She also likes listening to music.</p> <p>Activity ____</p>	<p>Katie loves looking at the peaceful river. She likes to be outside, but hates running around.</p> <p>Activity ____</p>	<p>David loves sports. His favorite thing to do is shooting hoops with his friends.</p> <p>Activity ____</p>
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<p>Activity A: fishing at the river</p>	<p>Activity B: visiting the Urban Treehouse</p>	<p>Activity C: playing on the basketball courts</p>	<p>Activity D: rollerskating at the skating rink</p>	<p>Activity E: playing soccer on the athletic fields</p>
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Food Chain Mix-Up

The Anacostia River is home to a very special kind of ecosystem called a wetland. All of the species here depend on each other to survive. In this activity, you will see how nutrients are passed up the food chain in a wetland ecosystem. Write a number under each living thing's picture to show the order of the food chain.

	broad-winged hawk	green grasshopper	cattail	brown trout
 A yellow circle with the word "sunlight" written inside in red text.	 A photograph of a broad-winged hawk, a bird of prey with brown and white mottled feathers.	 A photograph of a bright green grasshopper with long hind legs for jumping.	 A photograph of a cattail plant, showing a green stem and a brown, cylindrical seed head.	 A photograph of a brown trout, a fish with a yellowish-brown body and dark spots.

What will happen if humans destroy one link of this food chain? _____

Why is it important to protect the wetland ecosystem? _____



Mary McLeod Bethune Council House

National Capital Parks-East

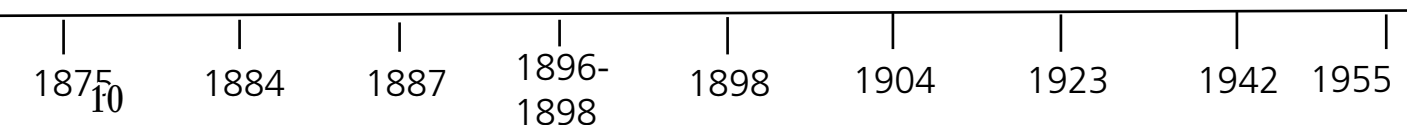


Create a Timeline

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune was one of the greatest American leaders. She believed in racial equality and the right of everyone to get an education. Make a timeline of her life by reading the events below and putting them in order on the line at the bottom of the page.



- A. Dr. Bethune retired from her position as president of the Institute.
- B. She married Albertus Bethune. They had a son a year later.
- C. She began attending school at age 11. She walked 5 miles each way every day. At night, she taught everything she had learned to her family members.
- D. She rented a house in Daytona Beach, Florida and started the Daytona Literary and Industrial School for Training Negro Girls. At first there were only 6 students, including her son. The school had no money, so Dr. Bethune and her students searched garbage dumps for furniture, had bake sales, and used berry juice for ink.
- E. Mary McLeod was born in South Carolina. She was the 15th of 17 children of former slaves.
- F. She went to college to become a missionary in Africa, but was told that African Americans were not allowed to have that job.
- G. The School merged with the Cookman Institute for boys, and was renamed Bethune-Cookman College.
- H. Dr. Bethune died. At the time of her death, the College had over 1,000 students.
- I. After graduating from college, she taught at 3 different schools and met her future husband, Albertus Bethune.



Cinquain Poems

Poetry is a great way to express your feelings about something. Cinquain poems are fun and easy because they are only 5 lines and don't have to rhyme. Try writing your own about Mary McLeod Bethune!

Here's how:	Here's an example:
1st line: name of the poem's subject	Michael Jordan
2nd line: 2 words that describe the poem's subject	tall, strong
3rd line: 3 action words about the poem's subject	running, scoring, winning
4th line: a phrase about the poem's subject	the best basketball player ever
5th line: 1 word that sums up your feelings about the poem's subject	legend

Now you try it:

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune



Fort Dupont Park

National Capital Parks-East



ATTENTION JUNIOR RANGER, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Fort Dupont Park is one of the largest parks in Washington, D.C. It has 376 acres of woods. At this park, visitors can enjoy picnics, nature walks, Civil War programs, gardening, concerts, skating, sports, and more. **Imagine that the park is in danger!** There are plans to build a highway right through the middle of the park, destroying a beautiful forest that is home to many animals.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: BE AN ENVIRONMENTALIST

As an environmentalist, it is your job to convince people that the park should be saved. We're counting on you! Is there anyone you would ask for help? Why do you think Fort Dupont Park should not be turned into a highway? **Write your ideas below.**



ATTENTION JUNIOR RANGER, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Fort Dupont Park is home to hundreds of trees of many different species, especially oak, beech, and maple. The rangers there have been able to identify all of the trees except these three.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: BE A BIOLOGIST

Help us find out what species of trees these are. Look closely at the three leaves. Then use the chart to find out which characteristics describe each leaf. Last, decide which leaf is from which kind of tree.











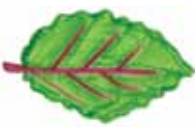
#1



#2



#3

VENATION	SHAPE	EDGES
pinnate- veins coming from both sides of the stem 	obovate- oval shaped, bigger at the tip 	pinnately lobed- lobes outline the veins on both sides of the stem 
palmate- veins going in all directions from the stem 	ovate- oval shaped, bigger at the base 	palmately lobed- lobes outline the veins going in all directions 
parallel- veins going parallel to the stem 	lobed- "fingers" reaching out from the stem 	dentate- no lobes, wavy edges 

Oak pinnate lobed pinnately lobed	#___	Beech pinnate ovate dentate	#___	Maple palmate lobed palmately lobed	#___
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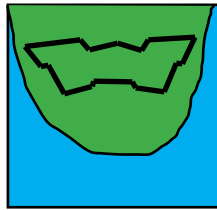
ATTENTION JUNIOR RANGER, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

It is the year 1815, and your country needs you. The War of 1812 proved that the United States needs a new defensive strategy to defend its capital. You are the assistant to Lt. Col. Walter K. Armistead.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: BE AN ARCHITECT

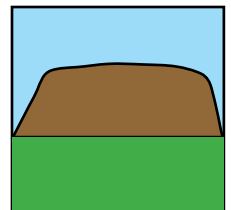
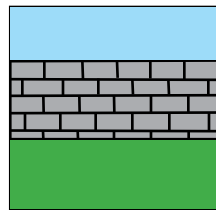
We need you to suggest ideas for the design of the new Fort Washington. Circle your suggestions below. Should it be built:

In an inlet **OR** on a point?



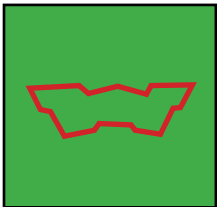
Why? _____

Out of brick **OR** out of dirt?



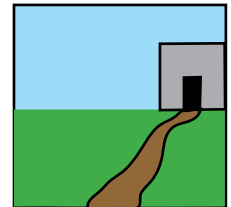
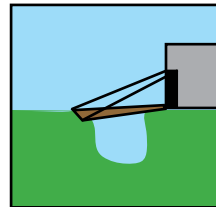
Why? _____

Painted red **OR** not painted?



Why? _____

With a drawbridge **OR** a walkway?



Why? _____

Write a summary of your suggestions to Lt. Col. Armistead.

The Battle of Fort Washington

The soldiers that lived at Fort Washington during the Civil War were lucky— they were never attacked. But what if they had been? Would they have been ready? Use your imagination to write the story of the Battle of Fort Washington. You can use these questions to help get you thinking.

- At what time of day did the battle start? What was the weather like?
- How did the battle start? How long did it last?
- What did each side (Union and Confederates) use to defend themselves?
- Did anything good happen as a result of the battle?
- Who won the battle?

Your story can be realistic, but it doesn't have to be! Be creative.



The Story of
The Battle of Fort Washington



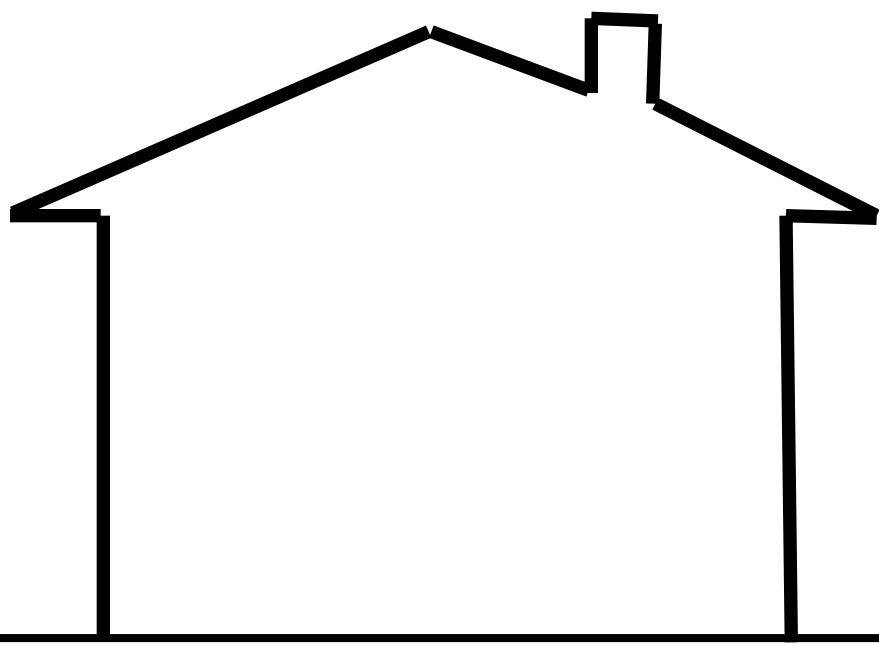
Create Your Dream House

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery. He escaped when he was 20 years old. When he was 59 he bought his dream house and named it Cedar Hill. It was a symbol of his success and the progress of African American people.

What kind of house do you want to have when you grow up? What things do you want to have in it? _____

What can you do to achieve this dream like Frederick Douglass did? _____

Draw your dream house below. Try to use the whole box!



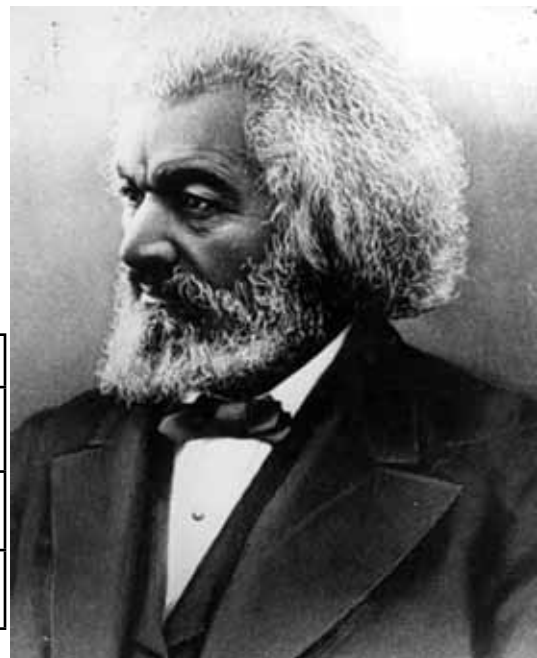
My dream house is named _____.

Scavenger Hunt Bingo

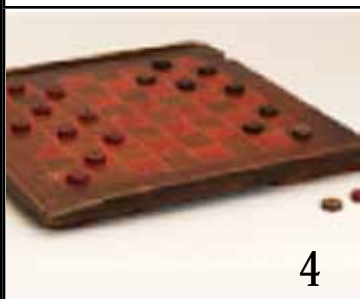
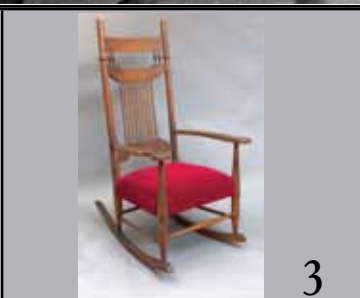
There is a lot to see at the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site. Do this scavenger hunt to make sure you don't miss anything.

When you see an object or find the answer in a box, put an X through the box. Once you find four in a row, you win!

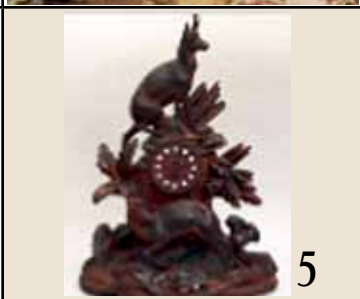
1. violin	2. chamber pot	3. rocking chair
4. checkers game	5. clock	6. Lincoln's portrait
7. Douglass' portrait	8. suspenders	9. typewriter
10. weights	11. view of the Capitol	12. portraits of Douglass' 2 wives



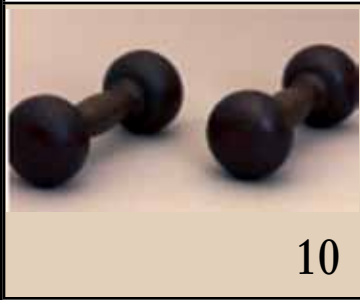
Ask a ranger!
What issue was most important to Douglass?



How many steps are there from the bottom of the hill to the front door of the house?



Ask a ranger! How many rooms were there originally in the house?



Douglass was born in 1818 and died in 1895. How old was he when he died?

17

Greenbelt Park



National Capital Parks-East

Recycle or Throw Away?

You already know that visiting national parks like Greenbelt Park can teach you a lot about nature. But did you know that you can also have a big effect on the national parks you go to? Different visitor habits can either help or hurt the park. **Recycle the habits you should keep using, and throw away the ones you should stop.**

Habit	Recycle or Throw Away? (circle one)
When I finish eating my lunch, I give my leftovers to the deer and raccoons.	 
I let the park wildlife find its own food.	 
I try to always stay on the trail when hiking.	 
When I'm hiking, sometimes I go off the trail if it's muddy.	 
If I see a frog, I try to catch it to show to my friends or family.	 
If I see a turtle, I watch it for a minute or two and then keep walking.	 
I take pictures of cool stuff I see at the park to make a photo album.	 
I collect cool rocks and sweetgum balls I find at the park and bring them home.	 
If I see someone spray-painting a building, I tell a ranger right away.	 
I carve my initials into a tree if a lot of other people have already done it.	 



ATTENTION JUNIOR RANGER, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Hundreds of years ago, the land that is now Greenbelt Park was home to a Native American tribe called the Algonquins. Greenbelt park rangers want to learn more about this interesting tribe.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: BE A DETECTIVE

We took some Algonquin artifacts and found things that have the same purpose today, but someone mixed them all up! Help us sort out this mess. Match the objects that have the same function, and then label the Algonquin artifacts with an "A" and the modern objects with an "M."



Mystery Word

One small, furry, masked animal found in Greenbelt Park was called "**arathkone**" by the Algonquins. What do you think this animal is called today? Hint: it sounds almost the same! _____



Think About It! How is Algonquin technology different from ours today?

Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens



National Capital Parks-East

What am I?

There are tons of species of plants and animals found at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens. Plants are also called flora, and animals are also called fauna. This activity will help you learn more about some of these interesting species.

First, read the clue and use the word bank to fill in the name of the plant or animal. Then, match the description to the picture.

Flora:

1. There are 2 varieties of me found at the park. Hardy have smooth leaves. Tropical have waxy leaves and brighter colors. What am I? _____
2. I have waxy leaves that rise above the water and shed rain. My seed pods look like showerheads. What am I? _____
3. A popular saying about me goes, "Leaves of three, let them be." What am I? _____
4. I am a grass that is found in many wetlands. My fluffy seeds can be carried by the wind. What am I? _____

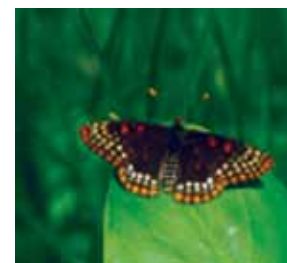
Fauna:

1. I build my home out of trees that I cut down with my strong teeth. What am I? _____
2. I have a home on my back that I carry with me wherever I go. It is made out of bone. What am I? _____
3. I live both in the water and on land. I breathe through pores on my skin. What am I? _____
4. Adults of my species look very different than their young. My change from young to adult is called a metamorphosis. What am I? _____



WORD BANK

butterfly cattail
beaver water lily
lotus poison ivy
frog turtle



ATTENTION JUNIOR RANGER, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

You already know that Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens is home to many interesting species of wildlife. But what happens when some of those species don't get along? Help Kenilworth rangers figure out a solution to this real-life problem.

One of Kenilworth's beavers has decided to move into a lotus pond. While building his dam, he destroyed a section of the edge of the historic habitat.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: BE A CONSULTANT

Rangers are afraid that if the beaver keeps living there, he will damage the pond even more. They don't want to hurt the beaver by forcing him to move out, but they also have to protect the other natural and historic resources of the Gardens. **What do you think we should do? Write a summary of your suggestions. Be sure to report the pros and cons of your idea.**



Langston Golf Course

National Capital Parks-East



Writing History

Langston Golf Course is a place to play golf and have fun, but it is also very important to history. This activity will help you learn why. **Read the paragraph below and use the word bank to fill in the missing words.**



WORD BANK
holes
Places
parking
African
Golf
equality
Mercer
1975
history
elected
range

Langston _____ Course was built in 1939. It was one of the first _____ American golf courses. It was named after John _____ Langston, who was the first African American _____ to public office. At first, it only had nine _____. The golf course closed in _____ because not enough people used it. In 1983, nine more holes and a driving _____ were added. In 1988, Langston Golf Course was almost destroyed to make a bigger _____ lot for RFK stadium. It was saved by loyal golfers who knew how important it was to _____. The Golf Course was put on the National Register of Historic _____ in 1991. It is a symbol of racial _____ in American sports.

ATTENTION JUNIOR RANGER, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

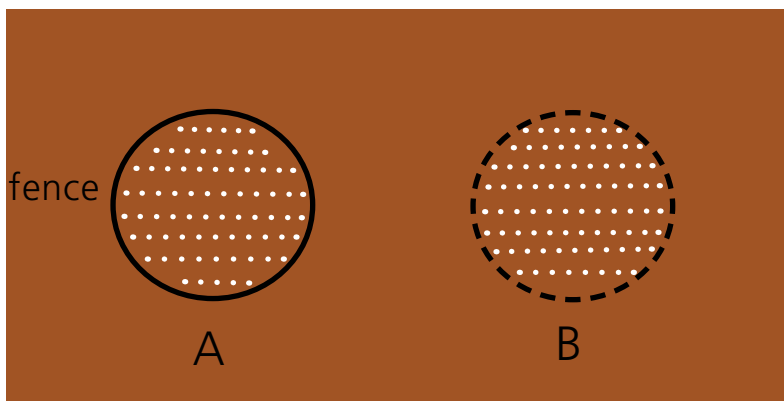
Many people do not notice that there is a beautiful wetland ecosystem right in the middle of Langston Golf Course. But as rangers, we think it is one of the most important parts of the park! Years ago, these wetlands were covered with wild rice plants. Now there are hardly any left. We think this is because the invasive (non-native) Canada geese are eating it, so we did an experiment to find out.



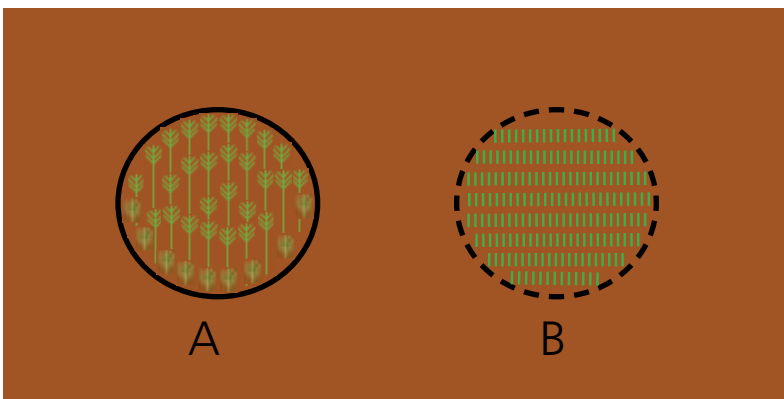
YOUR ASSIGNMENT: BE A SCIENTIST

We got interesting results, but we can't figure out what they mean. Read the experiment below. Then look at the results and tell us what you think we should do.

Experiment: We made 2 plots in an area where wild rice used to grow. We planted wild rice seeds in both plots. We put up a fence around Plot A to keep geese out.



Results: We saw wild rice growing in Plot A. In Plot B we saw young plants that had died from being cut off close to the ground.



Do you think the geese are eating the wild rice? How do you know? What do you think we should do? Write up a brief report below.



ATTENTION JUNIOR RANGER, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In the early 19th century, Oxon Hill Farm was used to grow crops such as corn and wheat. Thirteen slaves were forced to work in the fields without pay. These men, women, boys, and girls were legally owned by the DeButts (the family that owned the farm). They were not allowed to quit and could be sold at any time.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: BE A HISTORIAN

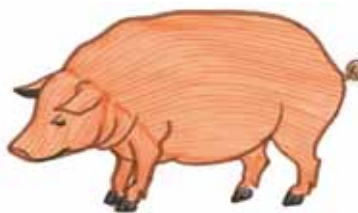
Most of the information we have about the farm is from the DeButts' wills, letters, and diaries. This means that we only know their *point of view*. To really know what life was like, we would have to know the point of view of everyone that lived on the farm. **Help the rangers learn more about life on the farm by filling in the missing points of view.**



Slave Owners	Slaves
<p>Samuel DeButts: Today I oversaw harvesting of the wheat crop and received visitors in the parlor.</p>	<p>George: Today I... _____ _____ _____</p>
<p>Mary Anne DeButts: I wish there were more girls and boys my age here that I could play with.</p>	<p>Minta: I wish... _____ _____ _____</p>
<p>Mary DeButts: I hope that my family and our farm are kept safe until the War of 1812 is over.</p>	<p>Julia: I hope... _____ _____ _____</p>
<p>John DeButts: In my spare time I read books and write letters to my family in England.</p>	<p>Rachel: In my spare time... _____ _____ _____</p>

Where Does Your Food Come From?

Most things we eat used to look a lot different than they do on our plates. When we are eating, we don't usually think about what our food used to be. See if you can match each plate of food to ALL the things that help make it.



Think About It! What kinds of foods that we eat do you think are better for the environment? Why? _____

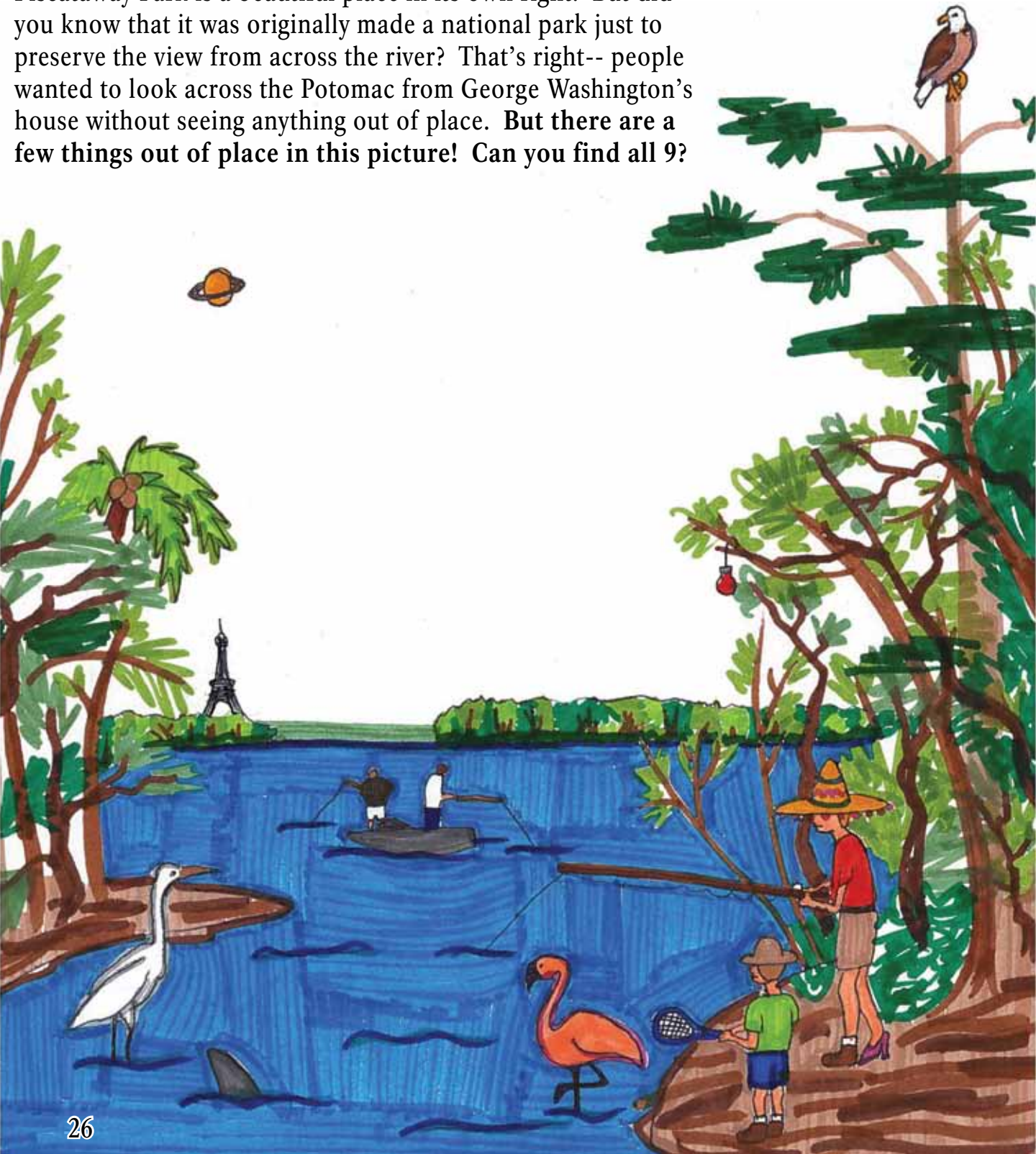
Piscataway Park

National Capital Parks-East



What's Wrong With This Picture?

Piscataway Park is a beautiful place in its own right. But did you know that it was originally made a national park just to preserve the view from across the river? That's right-- people wanted to look across the Potomac from George Washington's house without seeing anything out of place. **But there are a few things out of place in this picture! Can you find all 9?**



ATTENTION JUNIOR RANGER, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Piscataway was made a National Park in 1961. Imagine that you are one of the first rangers to work here. You need to get to know the park so that you can protect it and teach other people about it.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: BE AN EXPLORER

The best way to teach yourself about the park is to get out and explore it! As you are exploring, keep your eyes, ears, and even your nose open. See if you can find all the things on this list:

a seed

a natural sound

something in the sky

something yellow

animal scat

something older than you

something you could eat

something that smells bad



a footprint

an unnatural sound

something in the ground

something red

something beautiful

something younger than

something you couldn't eat

something that smells good



What is the biggest thing you saw?

What is the smallest thing you saw?

What was your favorite thing to see?

What would you tell visitors to see?

What would you tell them to be careful of?





Learn About the Monuments

Lincoln Park has two monuments that honor two of America's greatest leaders, Abraham Lincoln and Mary McLeod Bethune. The monuments symbolize the work done by Lincoln and Bethune that has helped shaped our great nation into what it is today. **Learn more about the monuments by looking closely at them and answering the questions below.**



This statue shows Lincoln handing down the ____.

- a. Constitution
- b. grocery list
- c. Emancipation Proclamation

There is a black man ____ in front of Lincoln.

- a. kneeling
- b. doing the Chicken Dance
- c. laying down

The black man's arms are extended, showing that ____.

- a. he just got a new tattoo
- b. his shackles are broken
- c. he needs a hug

This statue shows Bethune holding a ____ that was given to her by President Roosevelt.

- a. cane
- b. hat
- c. slice of pizza

She is handing down her legacy to ____ children.

- a. 5
- b. 60
- c. 2

The inscription reads, ____.

- a. "Let freedom reign"
- b. "Let her works praise her"
- c. "Why did the chicken cross the road?"



CONGRATULATIONS!

This certifies that

_____ is now an official
National Capital Parks-East

Junior Ranger.

Signed,

_____/_____/____

Park Ranger's Signature and Date



This booklet is designed for children of ages 9-13.

This booklet was made possible by the Junior Ranger Ambassador Program. This program is a collaboration between the Student Conservation Association and the National Park Service, with the goal of expanding and improving the Junior Ranger Program in the national parks.

Design and illustration of this booklet were done by SCA Junior Ranger Ambassador Intern Emily Shaw in 2009.

For more Junior Ranger fun online, check out www.nps.gov/webrangers!

