

Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park

National Park Service

U.S. Department of Interior



JUNIOR RANGER ACTIVITY BOOK



Explorer's Name



Welcome To Ocmulgee Mounds!

We are so glad that you're here and want to become a Junior Ranger! Being a Junior Ranger is an important responsibility and a fun way to learn more about Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park.

As a Junior Ranger you will:

EXPLORE the museum and outside in the park.

LEARN about how people have lived in this area for thousands of years.

PROTECT the park and the important cultural resources found here.

Here's What You Do:

- Complete activities based on your age group. Check for your age group symbol throughout the book, and do those activities.
- Explore the Earth Lodge (a short walk from the visitor center).
- When you finish, return your book to the park ranger at the visitor center to get your badge and patch!



Otter

Ages 8 and under

(Do at least 6 activities)



Anhinga

Ages 9 and up

(Do at least 8 activities)

Ready For An Adventure?

Junior Rangers come prepared for any and every situation. As you explore and complete your activity book, be sure to have these important supplies with you:

- **Water**—It gets hot here! Be sure to stay hydrated.
- **Sunscreen**—The park has many open areas where you are exposed to the sun. Put plenty of sunscreen on to protect yourself.
- **Bug Spray**—During the summer we get lots of bugs, including mosquitoes and ticks. Taking bug spray will help you enjoy your adventure much better than having to swat at bugs the whole time.
- **Park Map**—A map is an important tool to navigate the park and to avoid getting lost. It also helps you make sure you’re not missing out on exploring cool places!

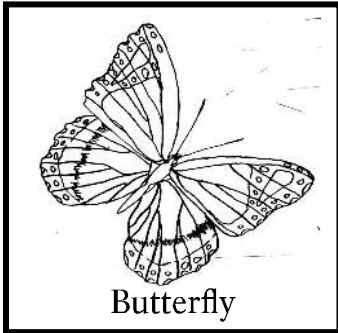
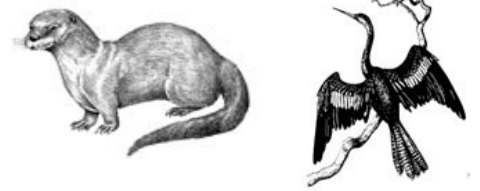
True Or False



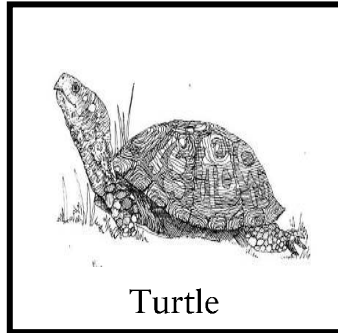
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|---|---|---|
| • Junior Rangers explore the park without any supplies, because carrying a backpack is silly. | T | F |
| • Junior Rangers do not climb the Earth Lodge or Funeral Mound because they want to respect the cultural history of the park. | T | F |
| • Junior Rangers pick flowers and other plants so that they can take home souvenirs. | T | F |
| • Junior Rangers do not litter in the parks because they want to keep the park clean for other visitors to enjoy. | T | F |
| • Junior Rangers stay a safe distance away from wildlife in the park so that they don't harm the animals and the animals don't feel threatened. | T | F |

Park Bingo

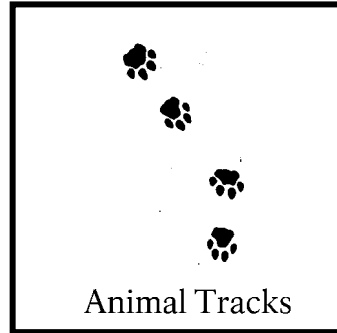
There is so much to see throughout Ocmulgee Mounds!
Keep your eyes peeled for these things below as you
explore, and mark with an X if you spot one. See how many
of them you can find in the Park!



Butterfly



Turtle



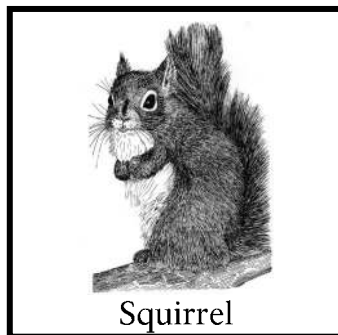
Animal Tracks



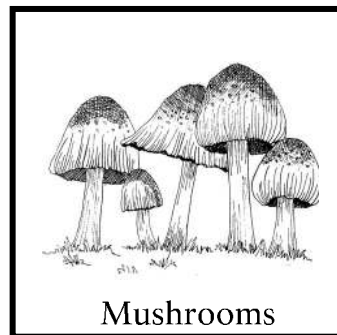
Wildflowers



NPS Arrowhead



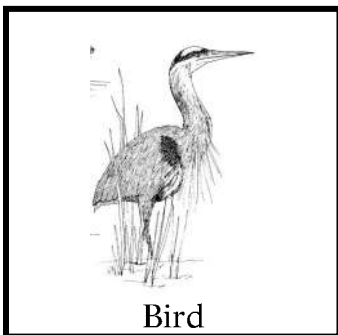
Squirrel



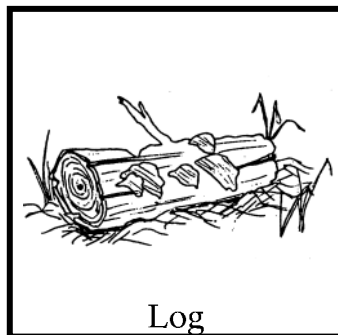
Mushrooms



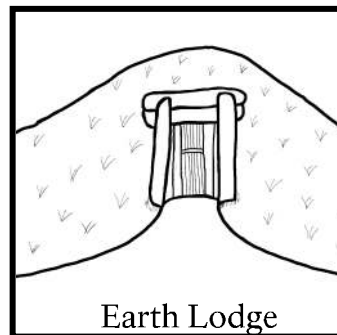
Deer



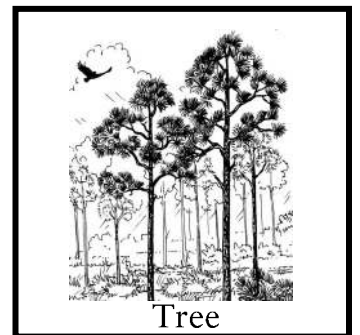
Bird



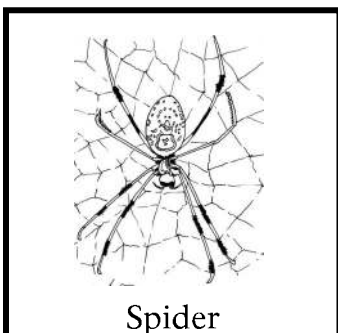
Log



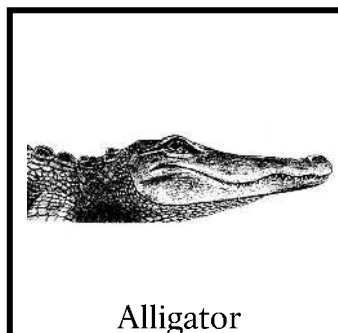
Earth Lodge



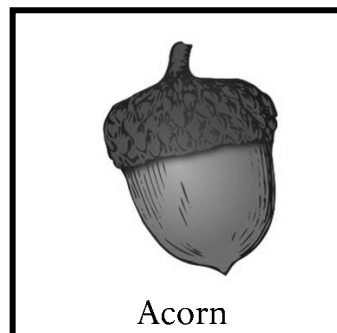
Tree



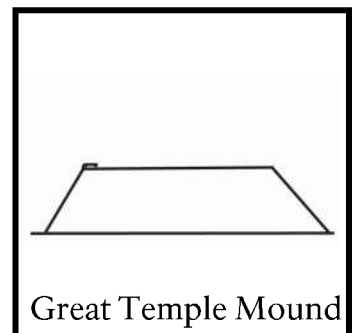
Spider



Alligator



Acorn



Great Temple Mound

Matching Through The Ages

Explore the rotunda of the visitor center and match the different descriptions to the right time period.



Paleo Indian Time Period

This time period was when American Indians created mounds to worship in, live on, and bury their elite (high-ranking) dead in.

Archaic Time Period

This time period is when people in this area began using bows and arrows as hunting tools.

Woodland Time Period

This time period introduced boiling stones. American Indians placed boiling stones in a fire to heat it before putting it in a deerskin-lined hole to cook food.

Mississippian Time Period

This time period was marked by the Ice Age and the presence of Columbian mammoths, giant ground sloths, and Sabertooth tigers.

Life Then And Now



Take a look at the Mississippian time period display in the visitor center rotunda and the museum exhibits to answer the following questions.

Mississippian Indian

You

Where they lived: _____

Where you live: _____

How they got their food: _____

How you get food: _____

What games they played: _____

What games you play: _____

Where they put someone important
who had died: _____

Where you put someone important who
has died: _____

What chores did the boys and girls have: _____

What chores do you have: _____

What part of the Mississippian way of life are similar to yours? _____

What ones are different? _____

Fill In The Blank



Explore the exhibits in the visitor center museum to fill in the blanks in the following statements. After filling in the blanks, write the circled letters from each answer at the bottom of the page to find out the answer to the secret question!

The Mississippian diet centered on _____, , and _____.

An group of Mississippians enjoyed preferential access and control over social decision-making and resources.

Artisans at Ocmulgee carved freshwater and marine into various jewelry items.

The most common type found in the Macon Plateau is “Bibb Plain.”

A Spanish explorer that passed through Georgia in 1540 was _____.

Secret Question: What is the name of an animal that once lived here and is our National Mammal?

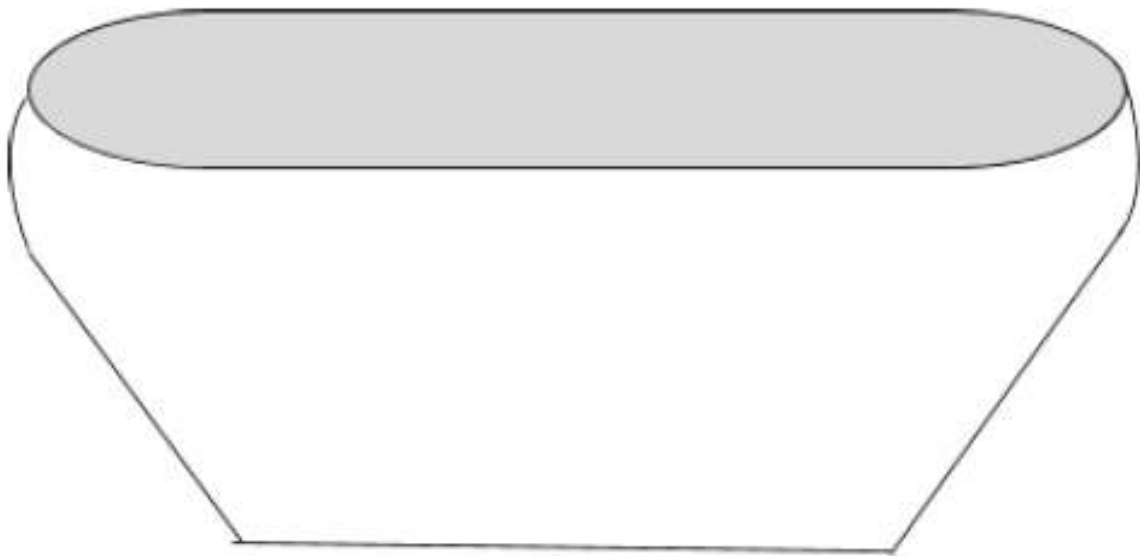
Pottery Art



The American Indians who lived here made lots of pottery for thousands of years. Over time, their pottery had different designs on it, like the one shown here. The patterns were carved onto a wooden paddle and then stamped onto the clay pot.



Create your own pattern on the pottery below.

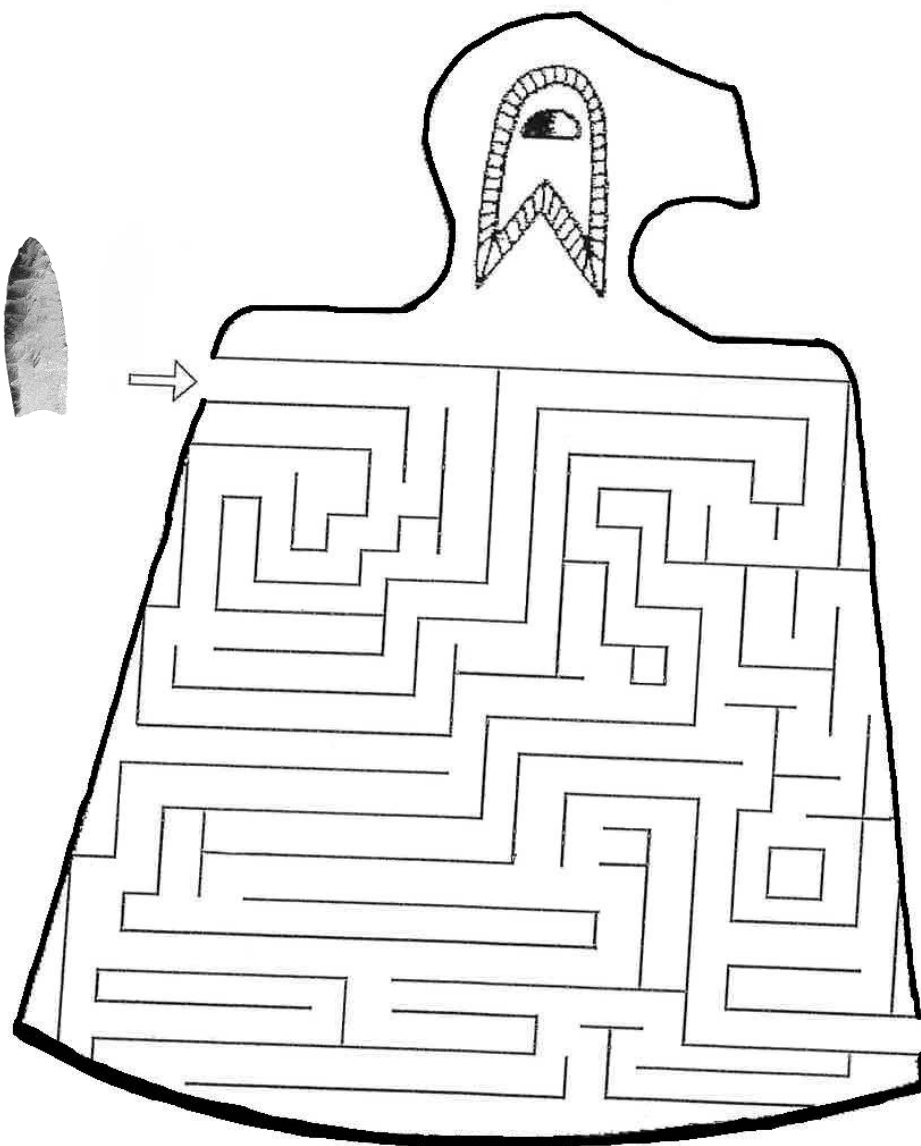


Effigy Maze



Effigies, or symbols, were very important in the Mississippian culture. Symbols can represent many different things about life. Birds were a symbol of the sky and the heavenly realm to the Mississippians. When you visit the Earth Lodge, check out the bird effigy in the original clay floor.

Find your way through the bird effigy maze from the Clovis spearpoint on the left to the National Park Service logo on the right.



What Do You See?



Time to hit the trails! As you explore the park, keep your eyes open to see what's around you. Look for the things listed below and draw pictures of them in the boxes.

Something that grows out of the ground

A large, empty square box with a black border, intended for drawing something that grows out of the ground.

Something you could travel in/on

A large, empty square box with a black border, intended for drawing something you could travel in/on.

Something man-made

A large, empty square box with a black border, intended for drawing something man-made.

What do you see when you look up?

A large, empty square box with a black border, intended for drawing what you see when you look up.

What Do You Hear?

Sit on a park bench or stand still and close your eyes.
Write down five things that you hear.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

If you want an extra challenge, circle the sounds that belong in nature and cross out the ones that don't.

A Mark Of History

Stand at the wayside behind the Earth Lodge and look towards the Lesser Temple Mound. Compare the picture showing what it looked like 1,000 years ago and the 1873 photo on the wayside and answer the questions.



How do the pictures look similar?

1. _____
2. _____

How do the pictures look different?

1. _____
2. _____

What does the Lesser Temple Mound look like today? _____

A Step Back In Time

Check out the inside of the Earth Lodge. Did you know that the clay floor is over 1,000 years old? This lodge was where the Mississippians had their meetings and ceremonies. There are 50 seats along the edge of the room, with three seats on the bird effigy across from the entrance for the chief, the second chief, and the speaker to sit at.



How does standing in a place that's a 1,000 years old make you feel?

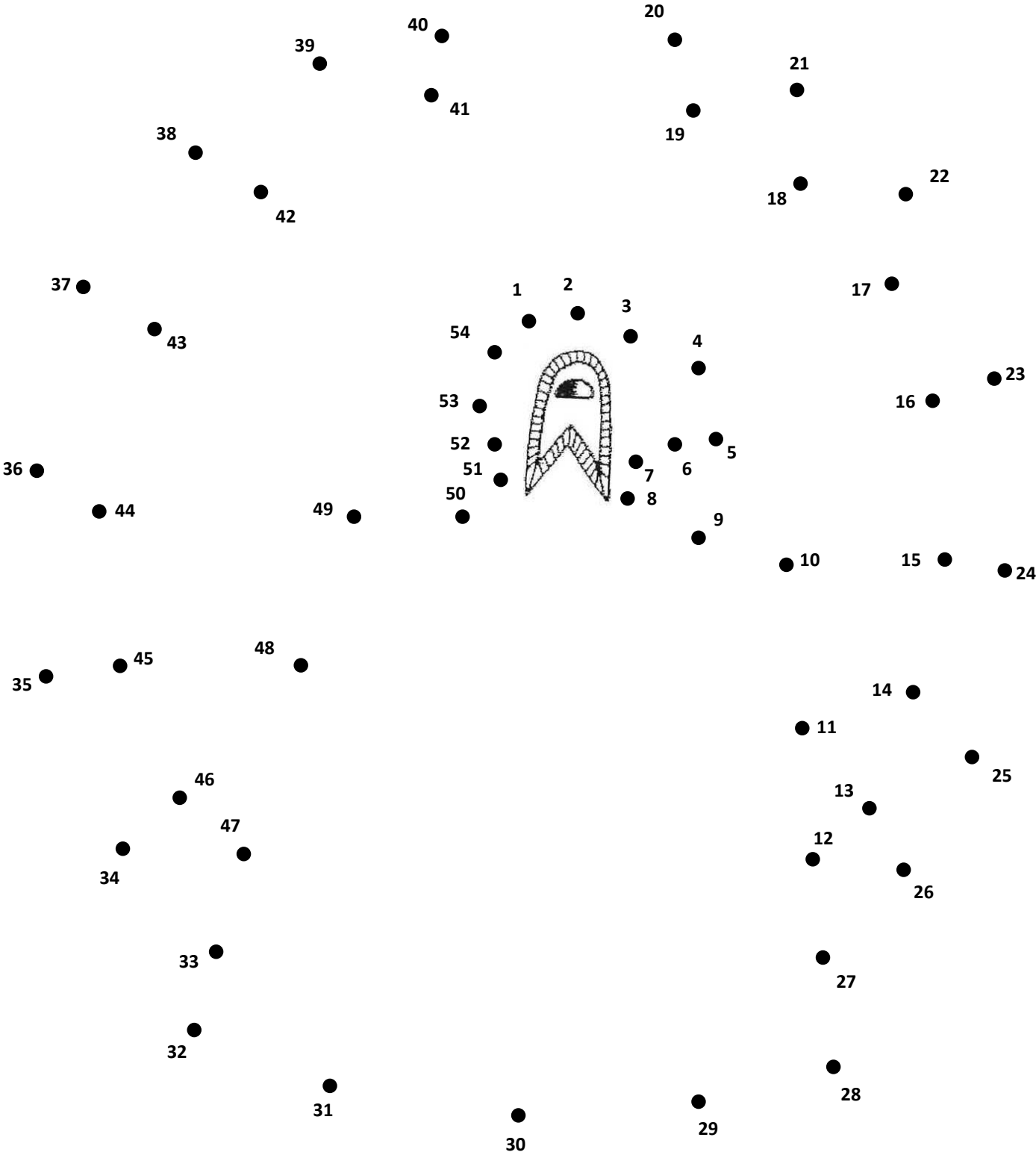


Imagine you were the archaeologist who discovered this Earth Lodge in 1934. How would you feel? What would you do with your discovery?

Connecting The Dots



Connect the dots to see what shape is on the Earth Lodge floor.



A Bird's-Eye View



Standing atop the Great Temple Mound gives you a beautiful view of the park. As you soak in the view, answer the following questions.

Do you think the view is the same or different from 1,000 years ago? What might have changed?

When American Indians stood here 1,000 years ago, what might they have been thinking about? What might they have been feeling? What do you think about and feel as you stand here today?

Picturing the Past



The Great Temple Mound gave the chief a great view of the village he was in charge of. Draw in the space below what you think the Mississippian village might have looked like from this view 1,000 years ago.

Muscogee Word Search



The Muscogee (Creek) language can be quite the tongue-twister! Learn some park-related Muscogee (Creek) words as you complete the puzzle (only the seven words in the left column are in the word search). Words are hidden ↓, →, and \.

Word	Pronunciation	Translation
Koha	GOH-hah	Rivercane
Hvlpvtv	HULL-buh-duh	Alligator
Fuswv	FOOS-wah	A Bird
Ossvnnv	oh-SUH-nuh	Otter
Watulv	wah-DOO-luh	Crane, heron
Mekko	MIHK-goh	Chief
Ocmulgee	oak-mull-ghee	Bubbling water

Q	Y	N	N	B	F	C	L	I	U	W	Y	K	P	X	X	O	V
G	G	N	Y	U	M	N	X	H	W	I	U	S	L	J	I	S	S
X	X	O	R	T	M	T	H	X	N	V	M	P	Y	L	A	S	L
R	P	H	I	B	H	K	S	X	O	D	X	F	Y	F	H	V	Z
A	M	W	V	D	N	R	O	Q	Q	C	E	O	J	I	E	N	X
F	A	Z	A	L	E	E	C	J	K	P	M	M	B	G	Q	N	Z
V	L	R	L	T	P	C	Z	X	O	M	I	U	E	L	I	V	F
X	N	T	R	O	U	V	O	D	H	X	X	A	L	K	T	W	X
P	F	U	S	W	V	L	T	H	A	V	Y	J	L	G	K	K	K
V	I	A	H	A	W	L	V	V	N	S	Q	Q	X	P	E	O	U
O	X	C	D	E	Y	M	H	X	Q	I	X	B	G	B	D	E	J
G	O	D	R	L	F	Z	I	V	Z	R	U	S	Q	R	B	E	Y

What's In A Symbol?



Ever wonder why the National Park Service symbol looks the way it does? Everything in the symbol represents something that the National Park Service protects.



The **Bison** and **Sequoia Tree** represents the plants and animals in the national parks. Name one animal and one plant you saw while exploring the park:

The **Water** and **Mountain** represent the scenery and enjoyment in the national parks. Name something fun that you did in the park.

The **Arrowhead** shape represents the human history and stories that our national parks protect, remember, and tell. Name something that you learned about people who lived in this area.

Mission Accomplished!

Congratulations! You've completed your Junior Ranger adventure! Head back to the visitor center to get sworn in as a Junior Ranger.

Today's Date

Park Ranger Signature

Put your favorite stamp from the visitor center here!



Junior Ranger Pledge:

I am a Junior Ranger.

I'll protect this Park from danger.

I will not pick the plants.

I won't step on the ants.

No animals will get my food

And I won't litter 'cause it's rude.

My job is never done.

This Ranger life is fun!