CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE is 56 miles of undeveloped beaches. The seashore is made of three barrier islands that protect the mainland from storms and waves. These islands are the southern part of North Carolina’s Outer Banks, an area called the Graveyard of the Atlantic. Wind, tide and storms are constantly changing the sands above and below the water on Barrier Islands.

Many years ago, villages thrived on the shores of the Outer Banks. Buildings from two of these villages still stand in this park. Portsmouth Village was a lightering port, which means they moved cargo from ships too big to sail inland to smaller ships. Many of the homes in Cape Lookout Village were built for the families of the Coast Guardsmen who worked at the island station. Both these villages had Life-Saving Stations where surfmen would watch for sinking ships and brave storms to rescue the passengers.
Activity #10: Those Who Came Before

People have been living and using these islands for thousands of years. Evidence of their existence is often found years later. When an archeologist finds an artifact, they have to determine what time period it is from.

Match the object with the time period it was used.

- Prehistoric Age
- Early 2000’s
- Early to Mid 1900’s
- American Colonial Period

Village Detective

People living on the Outer Banks are known as Bankers. Cape Lookout contains buildings from two historic villages: Portsmouth and Cape Village. Houses, schools, Life-Saving Stations, and a Coast Guard Station are some of the buildings you can see in this park.

GUIDELINES: Check out the Junior Ranger Adventure kit from the Visitor Center. In it you will find guide books, activity instructions, and all the materials needed to complete this booklet. Six of the ten activities must be completed to earn the Village Detective award. Once completed, see the Ranger at the Visitor Center to receive your award.

Activities with “Additional Instructions” will be in quotes.
Activities with Guide Books will be underlined.

Which village did you visit?

Activity #1: History Hunt

There are many things to see in Cape Village and Portsmouth. Some are easier to miss than others. But, a Village Detective knows how to find hidden history.

Take out the Village Map for the village you are visiting. Check off the number of each item when you find it.

1. _______ 4. _______
2. _______ 5. _______
3. _______ 6._______
**Activity 2: Village Match-Up**

Look at the houses in the village. Read the signs about the people who lived in the area.

Place a “P” next to people who lived in Portsmouth Village and a “C” by the names of people who lived in the Cape Village.

- Carrie Davis – owner of the General Store and Dance Hall
- Henry Pigott – one of the last three people living in his village
- Annie Salter – one of the last people to run the Post Office in her village
- Charles Seifert – owner of the Coca-Cola bottling franchise in New Bern
- Mary Dixon – the village teacher for 37 years
- Earl O’Boyle – Coast Guardsman who built a house in the village for his family

(Hint: Your village maps can help!)

**Activity #9: Shipwreck Salvaging**

The area along this coast is called the “Graveyard of the Atlantic” because so many ships have wrecked along these shoals. The items that wash up on these beaches from these shipwrecks can be exciting and sometimes confusing.

Look through the pictures and debris in your kit. Try to identify what some of these objects were used for. If you can’t identify it, describe how it could be used.

Item #1  ___________________________________________

… could be used as  __________________________________

Item #2  ___________________________________________

… could be used as  __________________________________

Item #3  ___________________________________________

… could be used as  __________________________________
**Activity #7: Know Your Ride**

Getting to the villages on the Outer Banks required a boat. Knowledge of boats and boating was essential to survival on the islands.

Use your Reference Sheet to label the picture.

A: __ __ __ __ __  B: __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __  SIDE

C: __ __ __  D: __ __ __ __  SIDE

**Activity #8: “Ship Ashore”**

The Life-Saving Service/Coast Guard was a much needed service in and around these villages. Rescuing passengers from wrecked ships required physical strength. Do you have the strength to be a member of the Life-Saving Service/Coast Guard?

Test your physical strength. Determine the number of each exercise that you can do in a 1 minute period. Have someone use a stopwatch or watch to keep track of time.

# of Arm circles ________  # of Push-ups________

# of Jumping-jacks ________  # of Toe-touches ________

**Activity 3: Growing Up on the Banks**

Growing up on the banks gave children the opportunity to explore and enjoy the islands. They spent much of their time outside using their imaginations.

After looking over these activities, circle the ones that the children would have enjoyed here in the early 1900’s.

Hide and Go Seek  Texting  
Video Games  Hunting/Fishing  
Swimming  Jacks  
Dominoes  X-Box 360  
Playing Cards  Checkers  
I-Pod Music  Shell Collecting

What would you do for fun while living on the islands?

__________________________________________________________

**Activity #4: Building Banker Homes**

Hurricanes and heavy rains were a fact of life for Bankers. Village land was regularly the victim of storms and high waters. Houses were often destroyed.

Look at the houses around you and at the “Banker Homes” photos in your kit. List some of the ways these buildings have been adapted to survive stormy weather.

1. ____________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________________
Activity #5  Survival of the Fittest

Survival in these islands required vast knowledge on the plants and animals that live here. Do you have that kind of knowledge?

Use your Guide Books to help find the answers.

1. Identify an edible plant or animal:
   ___________________________________________________

2. Identify something that could be used to build a house:
   ___________________________________________________

3. What could you use to help keep food cool:
   ___________________________________________________

4. Identify something that could be woven into a mat:
   ___________________________________________________

5. Identify a plant that could be used in making tea.
   ___________________________________________________

Activity #6: Island Reporter

Imagine you lived in a village on the Outer Banks sometime between 1753 (when Portsmouth was founded) and the early 1900s (before these villages were part of the park). Write a short news story about the village or the people living there. Include a small sketch of your village.

Island Times

Article Title

Date:                Since 1753

_________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________