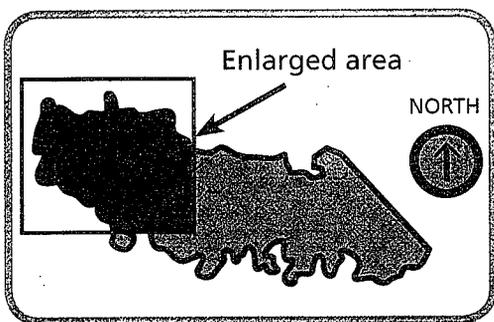
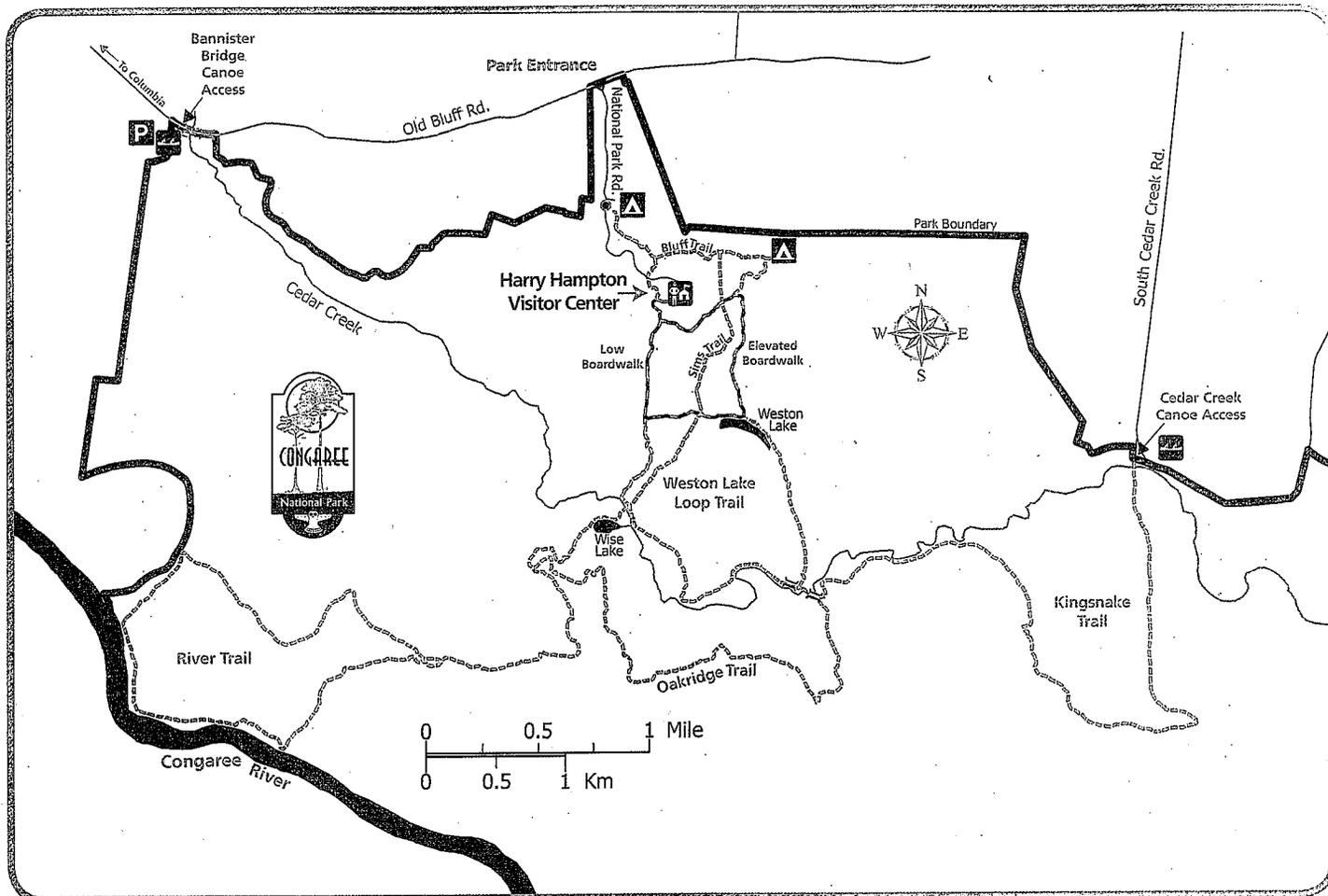


CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK



JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM WORKBOOK

CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK TRAILS



ABOUT CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK

All parks have different stories to tell. Congaree National Park is part of the floodplain of the Congaree River. When there are heavy rains in Columbia and in the mountains of North and South Carolina, the rainwater causes the river to swell and overflow its banks as the water flows to the Atlantic Ocean. About 10 times a year, most of the park is covered with floodwaters. The floodwater deposits soil and minerals that are left on the floodplain long after the Congaree river has returned to its normal course.

Water is the lifeblood that supports the park's world-class biodiversity. A storehouse of natural diversity, the forest is home to hundreds of species of plants and animals. With lots of water and plenty of sunshine, plants thrive in the rich soils. Many trees here are the largest of their kind in the United States or in South Carolina. The trees around the parking lots are about half the size of the giant trees on the floodplain.

Other forests like this one were cut, farmed, or drowned behind dams. This is the largest floodplain forest in the United States that has survived without being cut. Here you can see some of the same trees that hid Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox," and his soldiers from the British during the Revolutionary War.

In November, 2003 the monument became Congaree National Park to be protected and preserved for future generations.

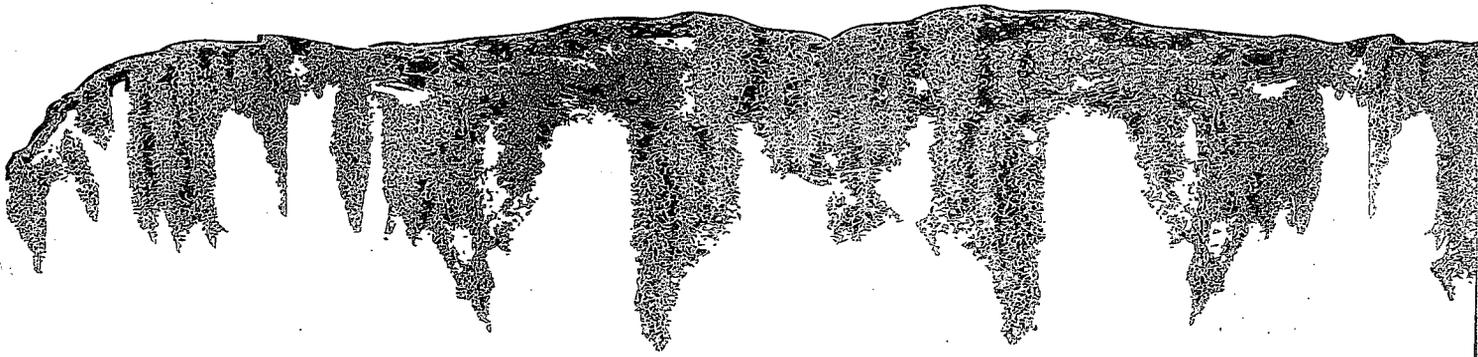
WELCOME TO THE
**Congaree National Park
Junior Ranger Program!**

*Are you between the ages of 6 & 12 years old?
Are you interested in being a "great discoverer?"*

YOU COULD BE A CONGAREE JUNIOR RANGER!



- Step #1.** Complete the workbook activities for as many pages as you can. Some activities may be done at the picnic tables near the visitor center and others should be completed along the Boardwalk trail. If you get stumped, ask a parent or adult for help.
- Step #2.** Pick up one bag of man-made litter or recycle one bag of plastic, aluminum or glass from the parking lot and picnic area.
- Step #3.** When you have completed your booklet, you and a parent or other adult must sign the back. Then take your workbook to the visitor center information desk and read your "Promise to Your Park" to the Rangers and they will sign your certificate and award your badge.



THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service is a part of the federal government of the United States. It was created in 1916 to protect and preserve the outstanding natural, cultural and historical areas of this country for the people of the United States.

The National Park Service preserves over 390 of these special places in monuments, parks, battlefields, and seashores located in just about every state.

Draw a line matching the name of the National Park or Monument with its location on the map.

Mt. Rushmore

Congaree

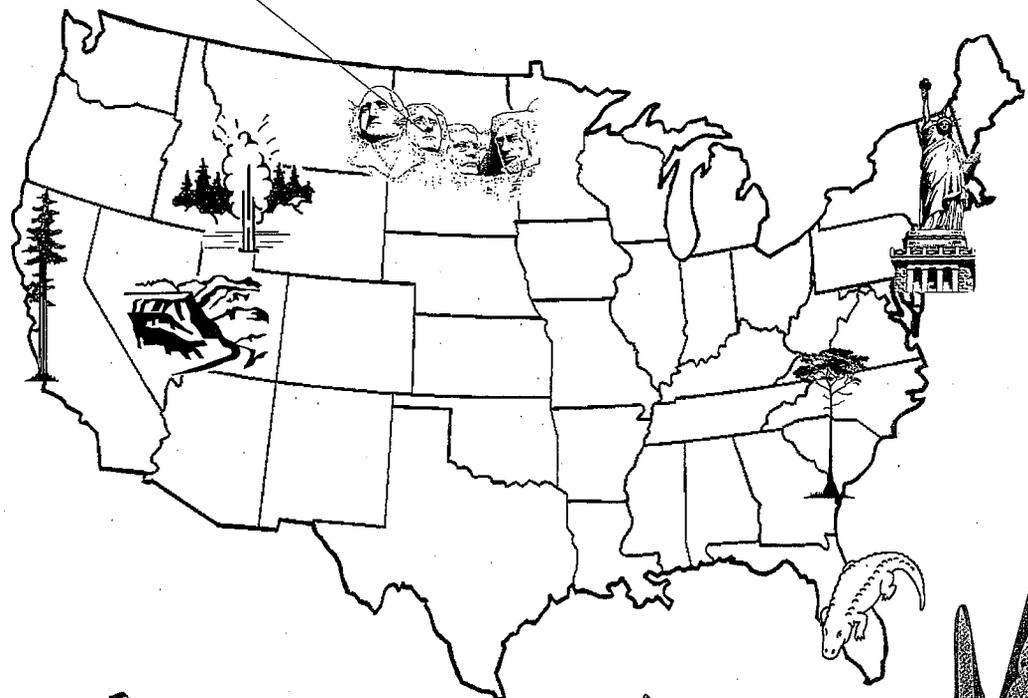
Statue of Liberty

Redwoods

Everglades

Grand Canyon

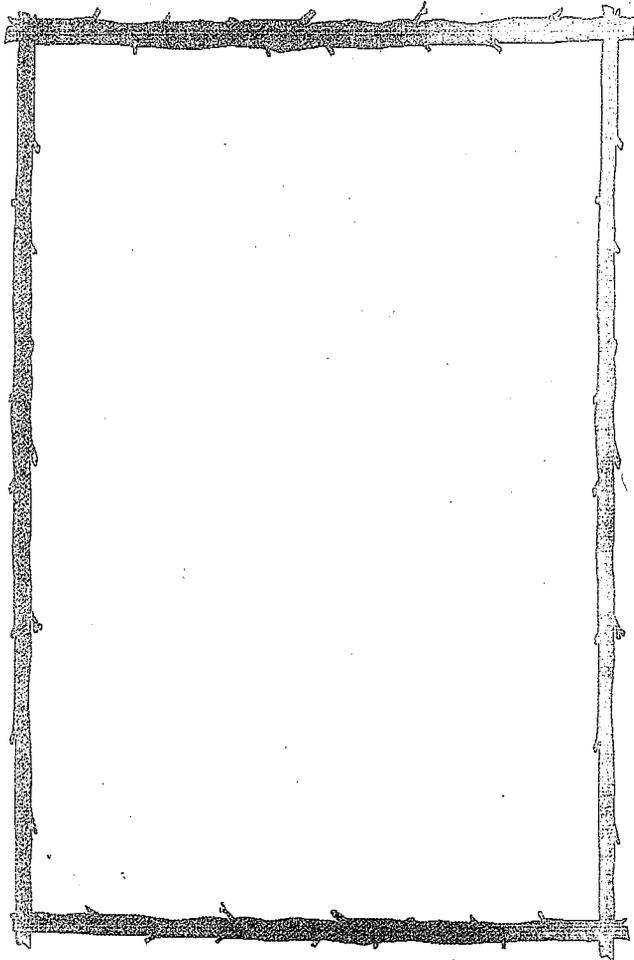
Yellowstone





WHAT IS A PARK RANGER?

Draw a picture of a Ranger.



What do you think are the duties of a Ranger?

A Ranger's job is to protect and take care of the park, so your grandchildren can see the same kinds of trees and birds you saw. They teach people how special these parks are, enforce important rules, and build trails to make sure plants and animals are not hurt by visitors.

Rangers are divided into divisions by the jobs they do. As a Junior Ranger, you will learn about these divisions and what kinds of work Rangers do.

Because Congaree is a natural National Park Service area, we have these divisions:

Law Enforcement

Maintenance

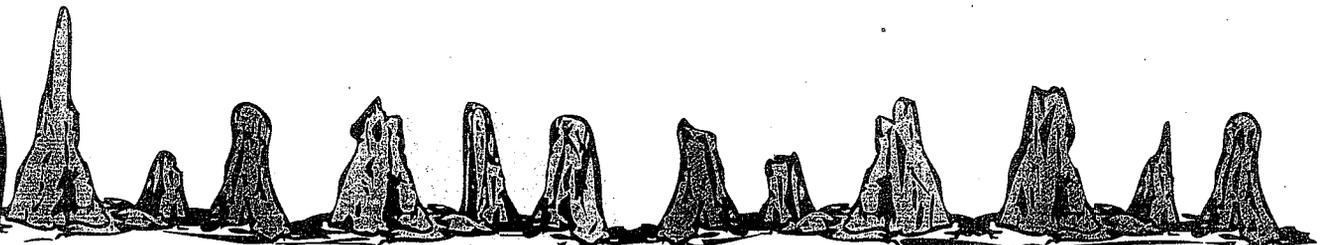
Resource Management

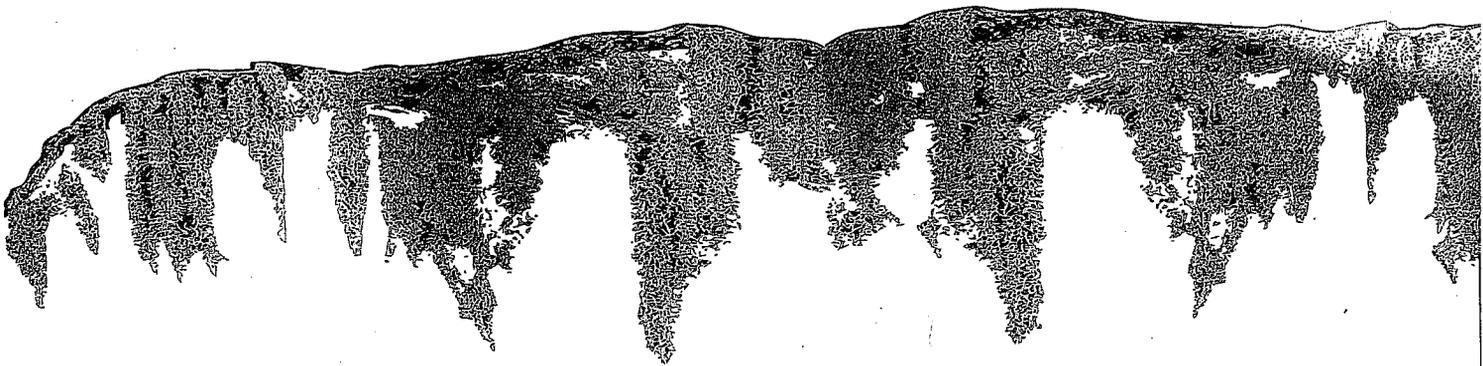
Interpretation

Administration

Superintendent

Remember what you drew. Compare your drawing to the Rangers you see during your park visit.



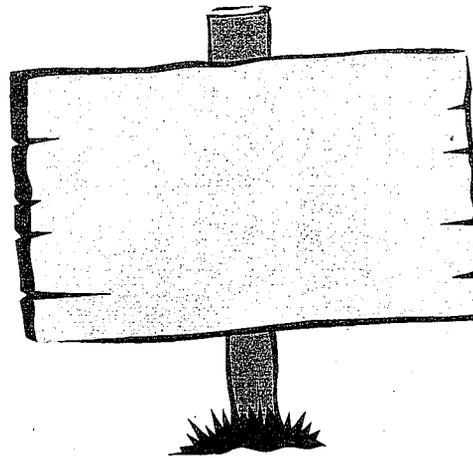
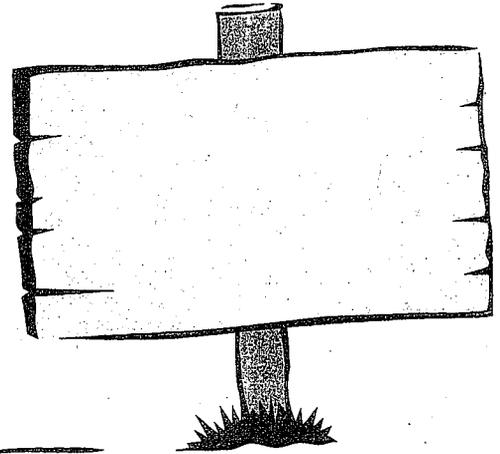
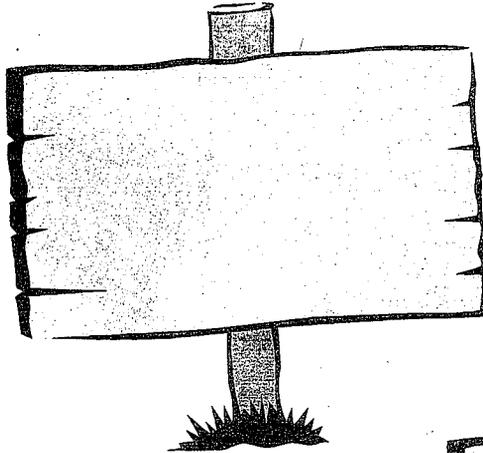


LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION WHO MAKES THIS PARK A SAFE PLACE?

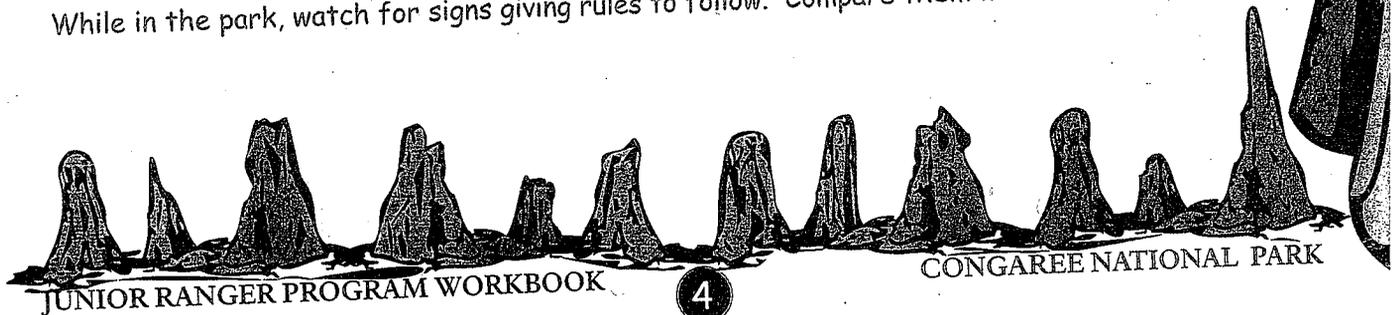
Law Enforcement Rangers make sure that the park is safe for plants and animals as well as for people.

As part owner of this park and a Law Enforcement Junior Ranger, you are responsible for taking care of Congaree National Park.

On each of the three signs below, write a rule you think you and others should follow while visiting the park.



While in the park, watch for signs giving rules to follow. Compare them with the ones you wrote.



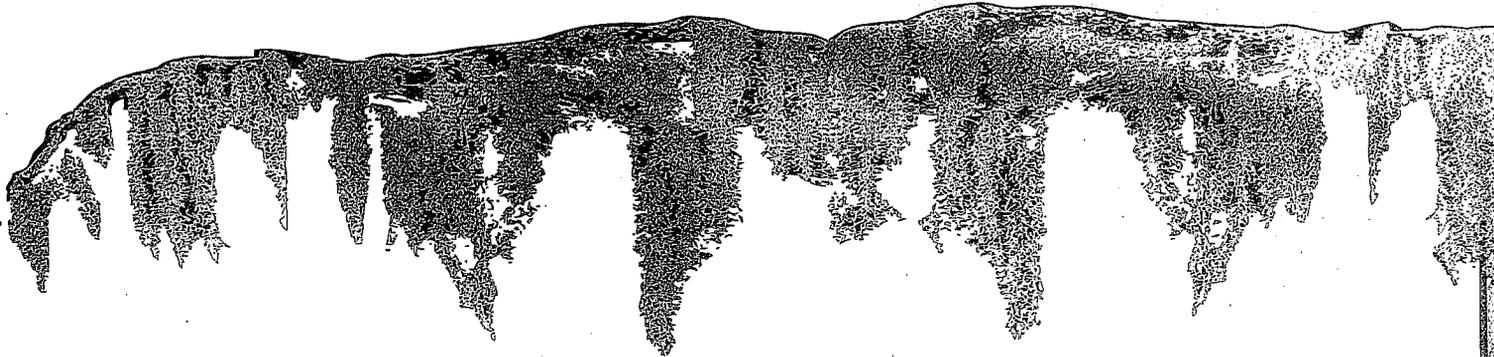


HELP A RANGER

Circle the correct answer for each situation.

(There may be more than one.)

- 1) You're walking down the trail and see a snake, you should
 - a. teach it to dance.
 - b. kill it.
 - c. walk around it.
 - d. throw things at it.
- 2) When you see a deer in the woods, you should
 - a. feed it to bring it closer.
 - b. enjoy watching it from a distance.
 - c. ask it if it knows Bambi.
 - d. yell to make it go away.
- 3) You see a beautiful flower, you may
 - a. take a picture.
 - b. pick it.
 - c. feed it potato chips.
 - d. appreciate it.
- 4) You're planning a hike, you should bring
 - a. water.
 - b. fly swatter.
 - c. food.
 - d. map.
- 5) When walking on the boardwalk, you should
 - a. race your friends to the end.
 - b. stomp in the mud.
 - c. walk quietly and observe wildlife.
 - d. throw down your candy wrapper.
- 6) You notice a huge spider in a web. Would you
 - a. wait for it to write "Some Swell Junior Ranger?"
 - b. knock it down with a big stick?
 - c. leave it alone and watch how it lives in its own environment?
 - d. scream?



LUNCH TIME

What did you bring for lunch? Where did you get it? We buy food for our meals in supermarkets. Where do animals get their food? The forest is their supermarket, and they have plenty of choices.

This is why people should not feed animals in the park. Animals are used to their own food and may

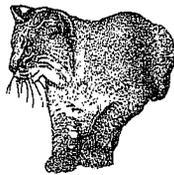
get ill from eating our kind of food. Animals don't need to eat cookies, bread or potato chips any more than people need to eat grass, bark or beetles. Once an animal eats human food and loses its fear of people, it will seek people out and it is more likely to get hit by a car or ill from human food.

DO NOT FEED THE ANIMALS.

By drawing lines, match the animal with its proper food source.



tiger swallowtail butterfly



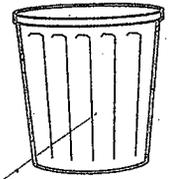
bobcat



red-headed woodpecker



people



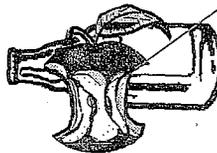
garbage can



sandwich, soda, etc.



wild cherry blossoms



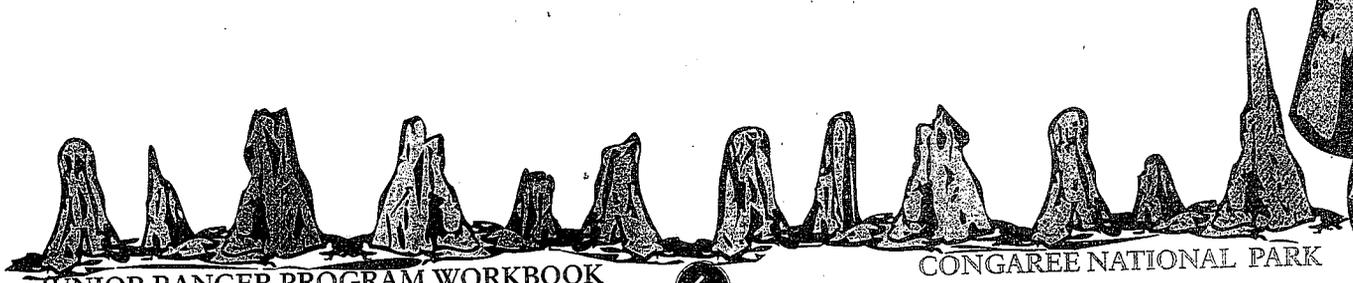
litter



tree-boring insects, ants



gray squirrel





MAINTENANCE DIVISION

Maintenance Rangers keep the park clean and safe for visitors and for the plants and animals that live here.

Maintenance Rangers keep the park clean by making sure that the park is free from litter (litter is man-made trash that has been thrown away on the ground instead of being put in a trash can). This also helps keep the animals safe because litter can hurt animals.

As a Junior Maintenance Ranger you are responsible for picking up litter on the trails.

What two pieces of litter do you think you will find in the park?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Remember that to complete **Step #2** of the Junior Ranger Program you are to pick up one bag of litter or recycle one bag of plastic, aluminum or glass.

Maintenance Rangers keep the park safe for visitors by building boardwalks and keeping pathways clear. This also helps to keep the plants and animals safe.

If a tree falls on the boardwalk or a trail, the Maintenance Rangers move it out of the way, but if a tree falls out in the woods, they leave it alone. Why?

While you are walking around the park, look for trail work that needs to be done or anything that needs to be built or repaired. Write your maintenance request on this form:

Reported by
Junior Maintenance Ranger

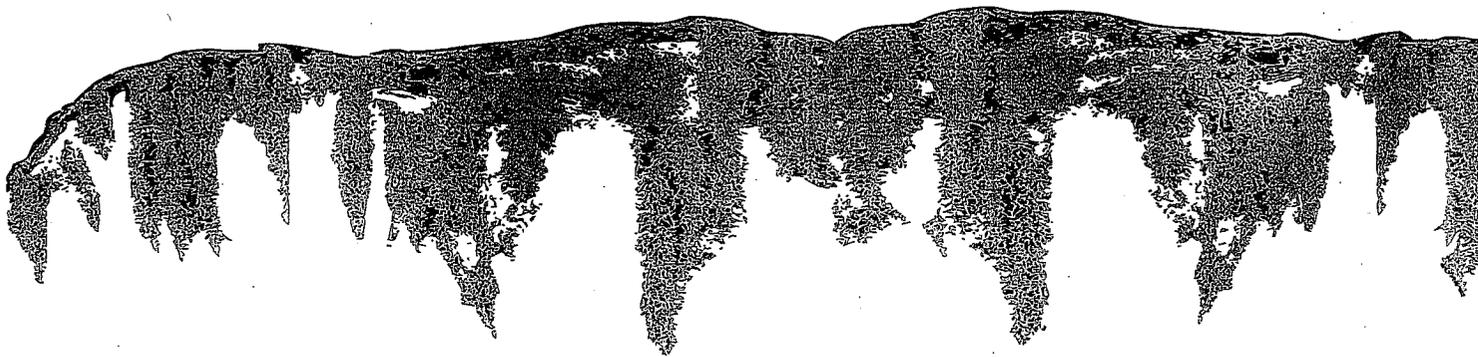


Name: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Location of Problem: _____

Description of Problem: _____



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION LEAF HUNT

A Resource Management Ranger keeps track of what living things are found in the park, identifies threats to resources, and recommends solutions. That includes making lists of animals and plants,

finding out about any problems and learning as much as possible about the land and water resources in the park.

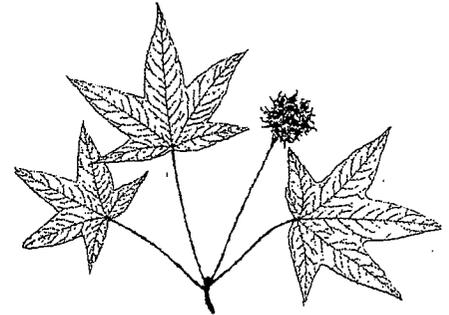
As you start walking along the Boardwalk, find leaves to match these. Please don't pick any leaves.

Below each one you find, write:

Where: _____ On the ground or on a plant?

Color: _____ What color is the leaf?

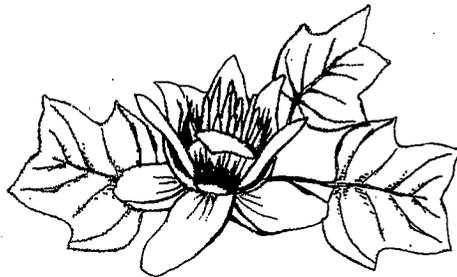
Sweetgum



Where: _____

Color: _____

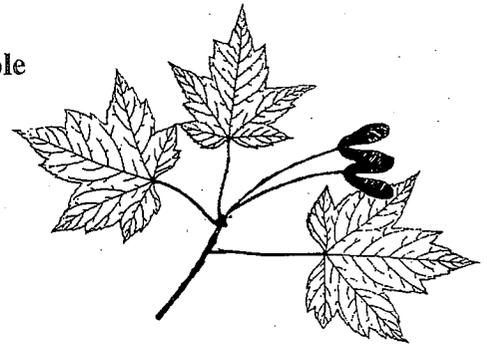
Tulip Poplar



Where: _____

Color: _____

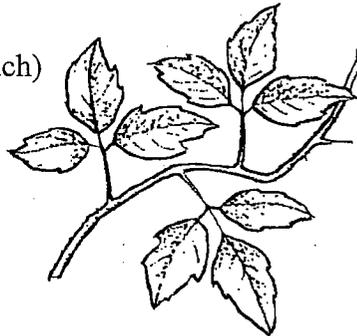
Red Maple



Where: _____

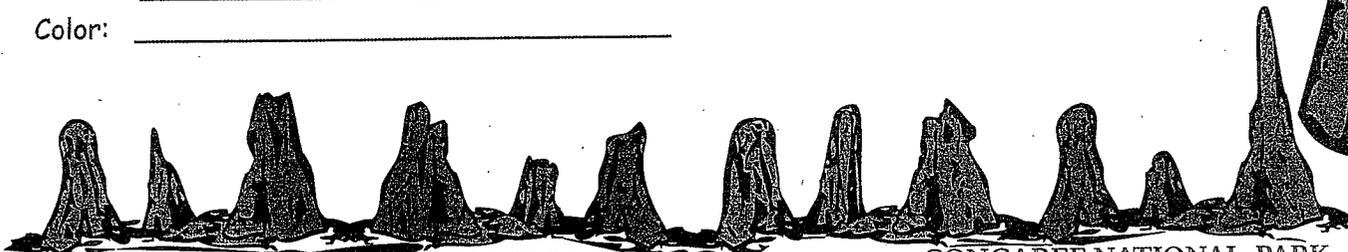
Color: _____

Poison Ivy (Don't touch)



Where: _____

Color: _____



Animal Homes



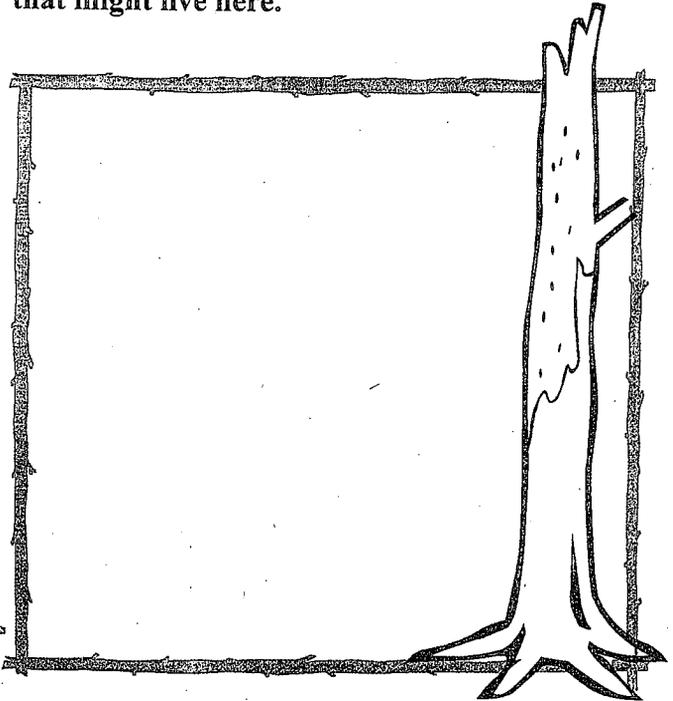
When you go further down the Boardwalk, you will see many trees without bark or leaves. The tops of these trees have been broken off by storms. They are called "snags."

These trees look dead, but many animals live in them.

The snags are like animal apartments!



Draw pictures and write the names of animals that might live here.



Rainbow Connection

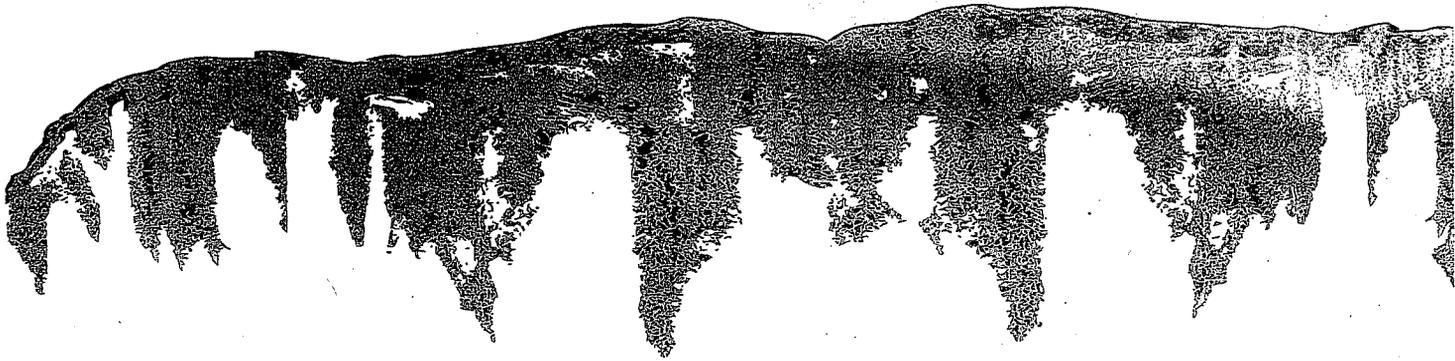
Continue walking and stop at the next bench, sit down and look around you. Notice how many colors can be found in nature.

How many different shades of green do you see?

How many different shades of brown do you see?

What other colors of the rainbow do you see?

List them here.



BOARDWALK BINGO

As you continue down the Boardwalk, go on a scavenger hunt in the park. Look and listen for the things in the boxes below. Draw a picture when you find them.

Try to find three in a row — down, across or diagonally. Can you find all of them?

Remember to leave everything where you find it!

something that makes noise

something older than you

something that smells good

a bird nest

a leaf as big as your hand

a park visitor

something you think is interesting

a Park Ranger or Park Volunteer

a tree taller than your house



something that feels warm

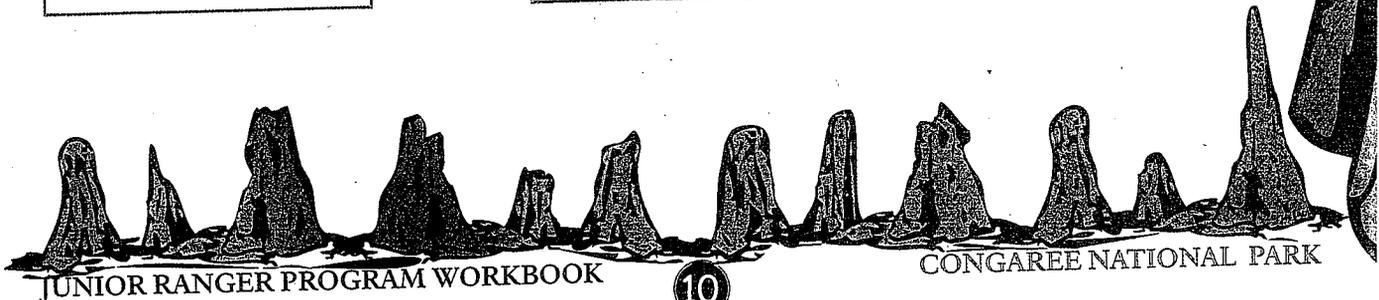
something living on something else

something cold-blooded

something wet

something man-made

something with 8 Legs

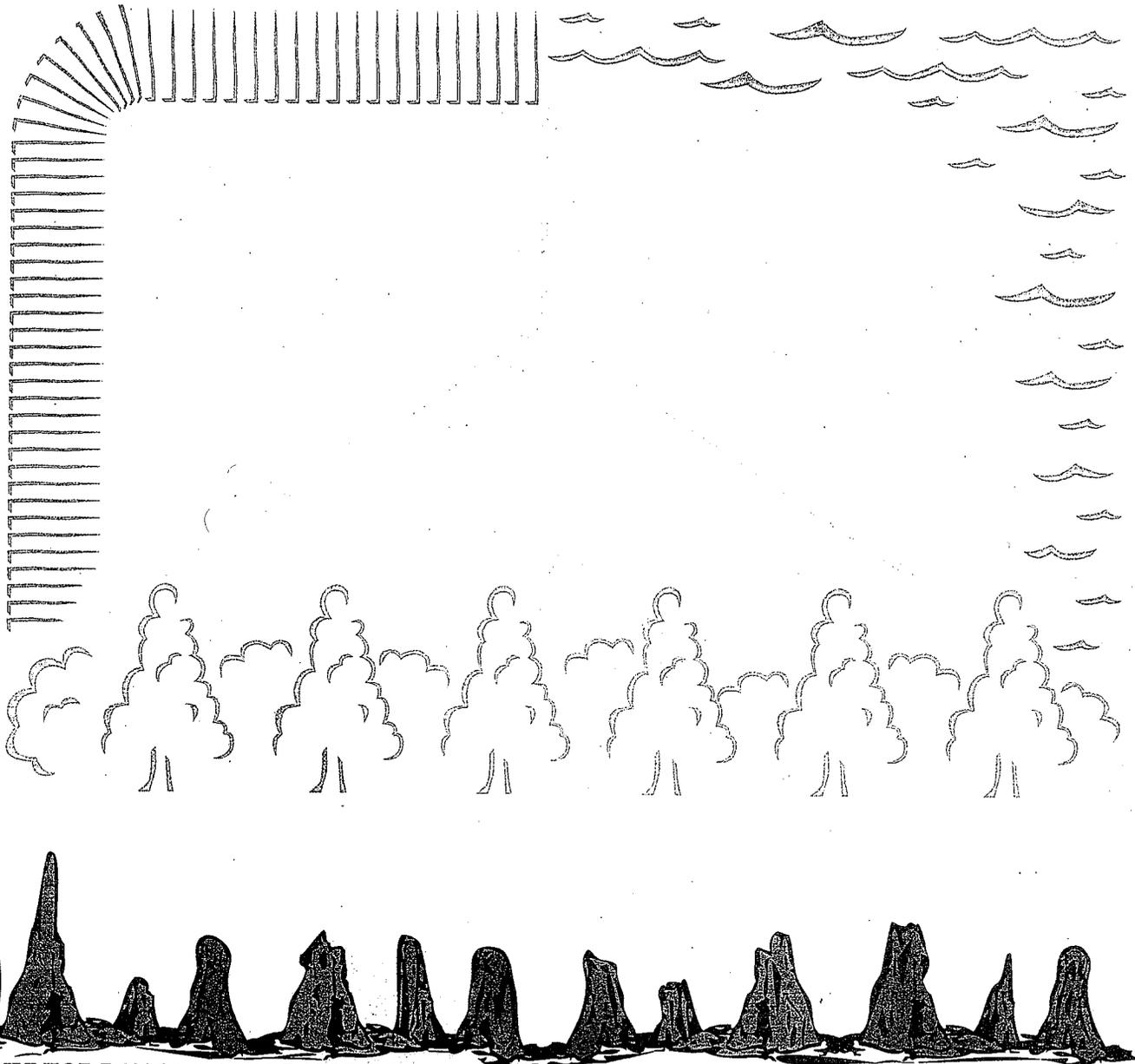


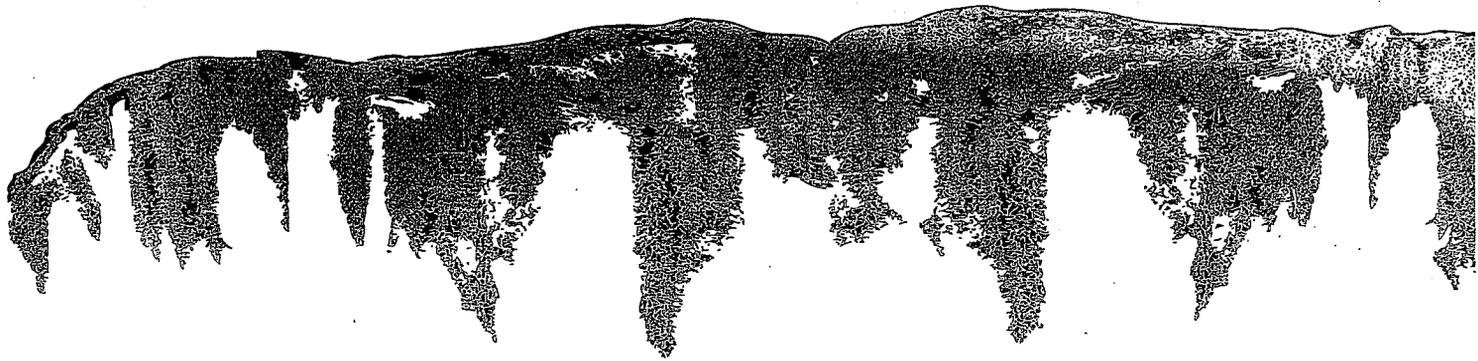


LIVING ON THE EDGE

Half way around the Boardwalk, you will arrive at Weston Lake. This is where the boardwalk meets the edge of the water and the edge of the land.

Think about what could be living on the edge. What does it eat? How does it protect itself? **Make up your own animal!** No one has seen your new animal, so draw its picture here.

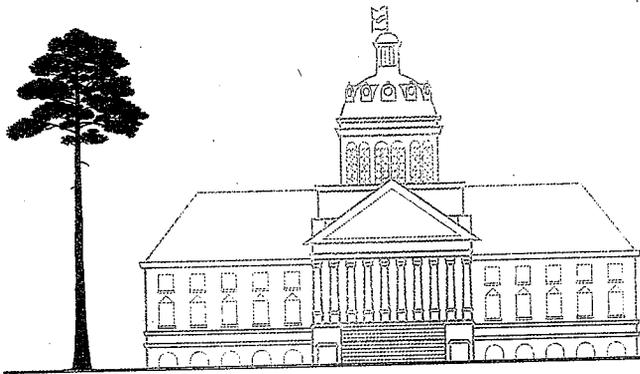




INTERPRETIVE DIVISION

Rangers of this division are called Interpreters or Naturalists. These Rangers answer questions and educate visitors.

- Along the low boardwalk near Weston Lake, look for a very tall pine tree. This tree is over 150 feet tall! That is nearly the same height as the State House in Columbia.



As you walk farther along the boardwalk, you will eventually reach some park benches. Sit very quietly and listen. This is a very special place.



POET-TREE

Write a cinquain, a five-lined poem, by filling in the blanks about Weston Lake or the huge pine you just saw.

One word to name your subject _____

Two words to describe it _____

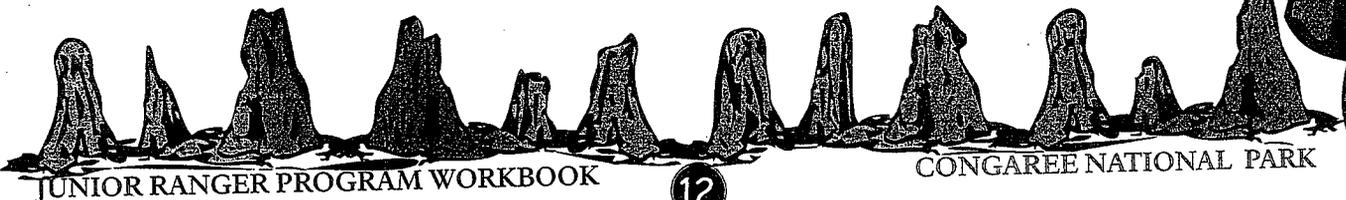
Three words of action about it _____

Four word phrase about it _____

One word that names the subject in a new way _____

Look back at what you wrote.

You just composed a poem.





DATELINE INTERVIEW

Find a tree that you would like to get to know. If it has poison ivy on it, do not touch the leaves or vines.

In order to tell people about this tree, you must interview it. Write what you learn.

Considering your height in feet, estimate the distance around the trunk of the tree. _____

Estimate the height of your tree. _____

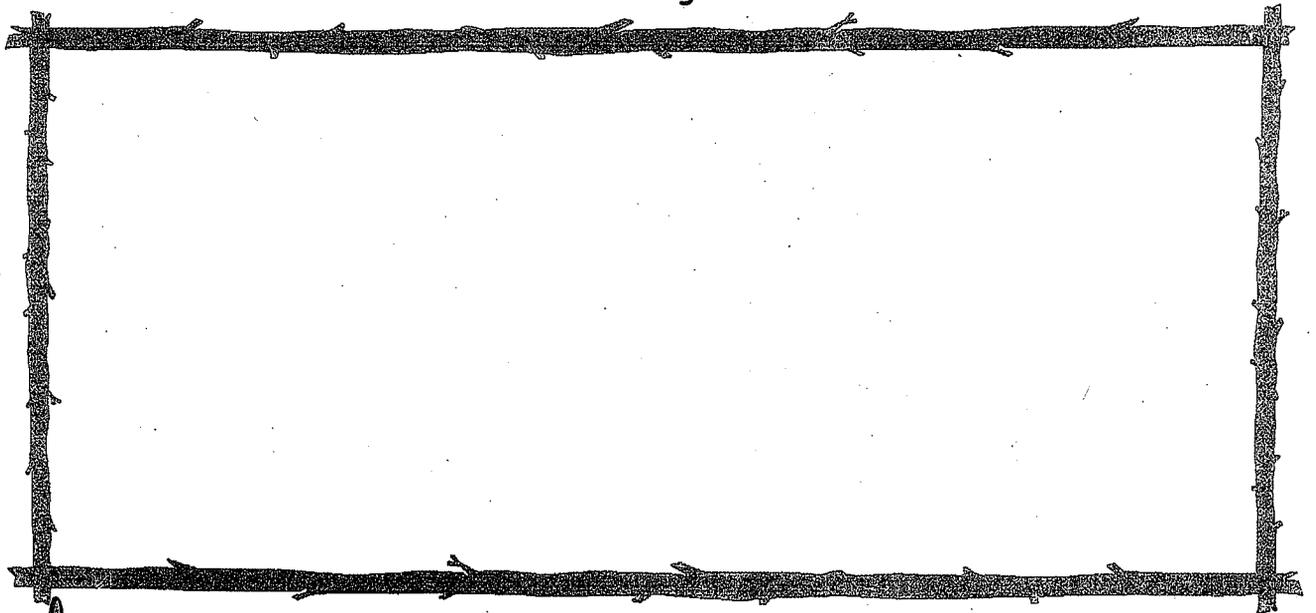
Describe the bark of your tree. _____

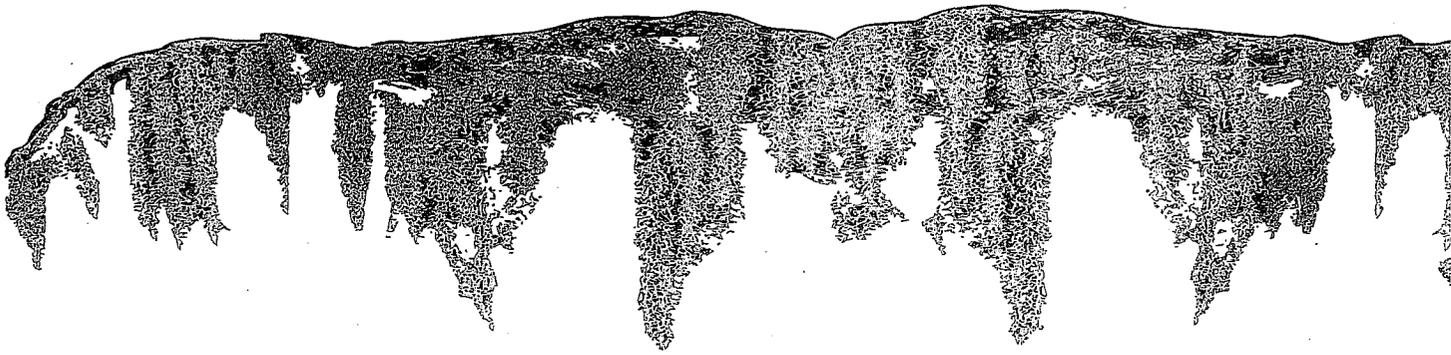
Describe the leaves. _____

Guess the age of your tree. _____

What is this tree's name? _____

In the space below make a bark rubbing or trace a leaf of your tree that you find on the ground.





DO TREES HAVE KNEES?

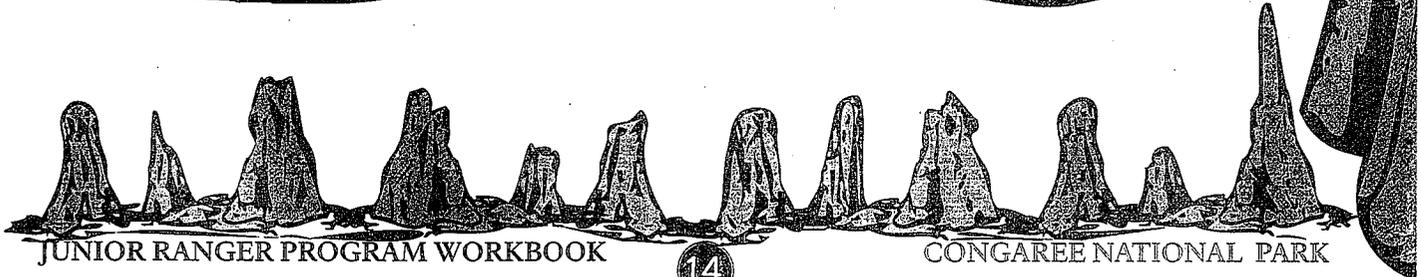
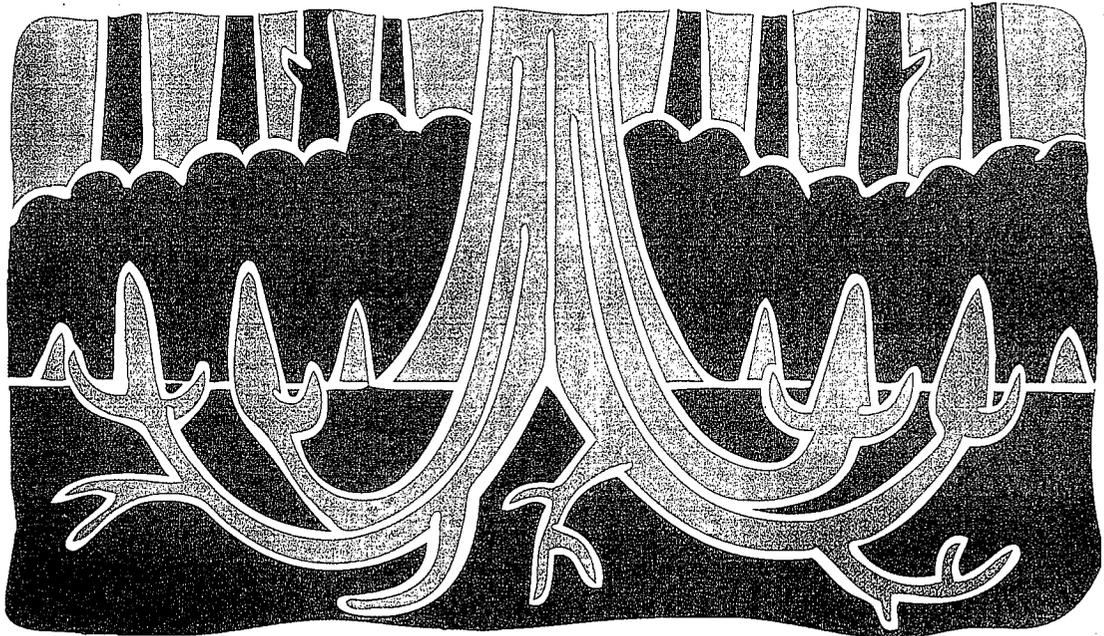
Walking along the boardwalk trail, stop and look around. In the Congaree there are many cypress trees. They have shaggy bark and light green needles in the summer months. Around them you will see something called cypress knees. The knees are cypress roots that have grown away from the tree and up into the sunlight.

What do you think is the purpose of cypress knees?

Stand with your legs apart and bend your knees as you lean forward. In what way do you think your knees are like the cypress knees?

Scientists think cypress trees use the knees for anchors during strong winds or floods and possibly as snorkels to give the tree additional oxygen when growing in wet soil.

Circle any anchors or snorkels you see below.





EVERY DAY IS DIFFERENT

Walk a little ways and then stop and look all around you. This area is in the floodplain of the Congaree River. That means that this area is under water sometimes and dry sometimes.

- You will see mud marks on the tree trunks from high floodwaters.

By using the picture of the tree on this page, draw a line to show the high floodwater mark.

Draw yourself next to the tree.

Would the water be over your head? _____

Imagine the park flooded.

Where would the animals go? _____

Circle on this tree any places animals might hide.

Which animals will be safest? _____

The soil on the floodplain is different from the soil in other places because of the changing water levels.

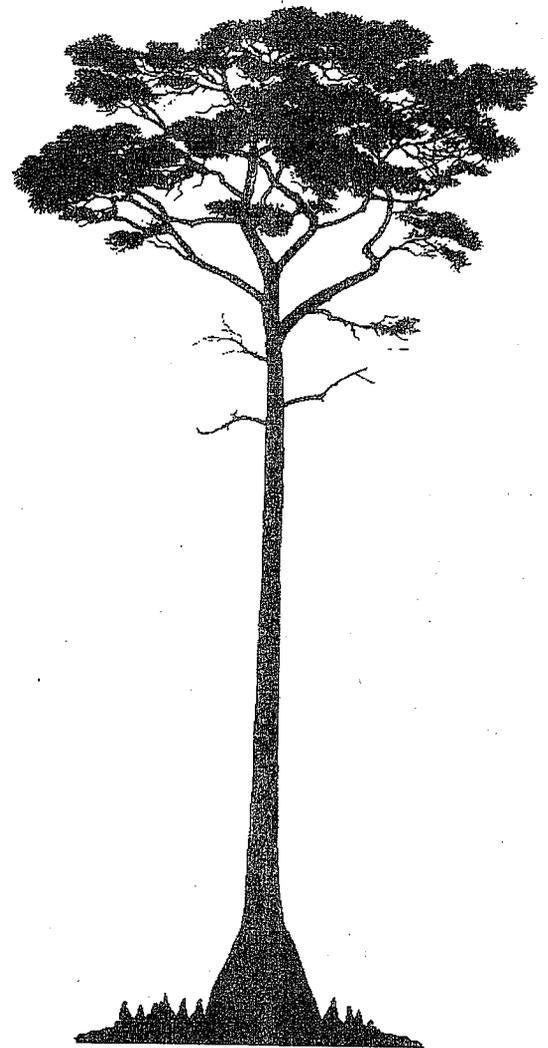
Feel the soil here.

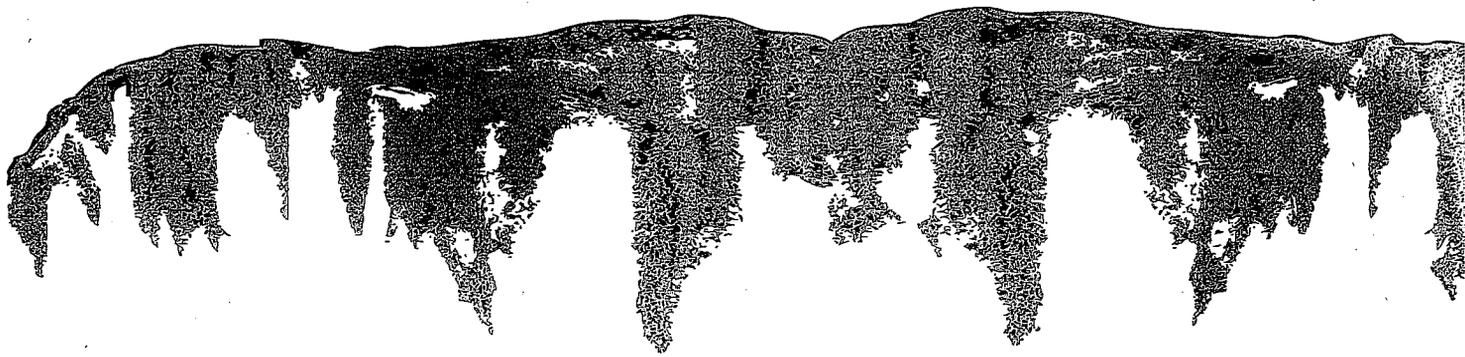
Is it wet or dry? _____

Describe its smell. _____

Is anything living in it? _____

Why don't plants float away? _____



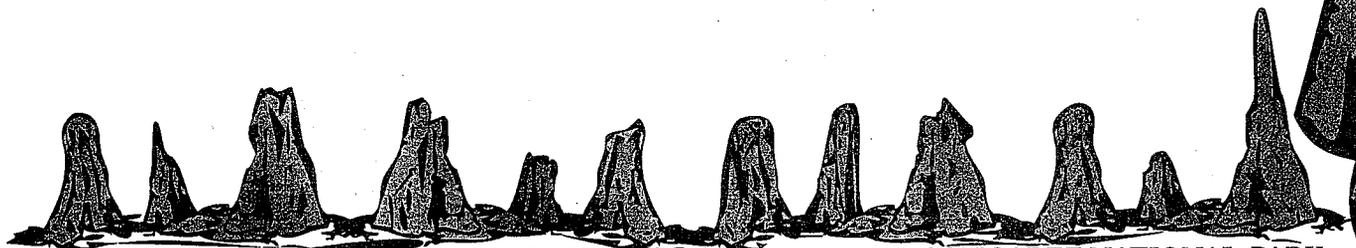
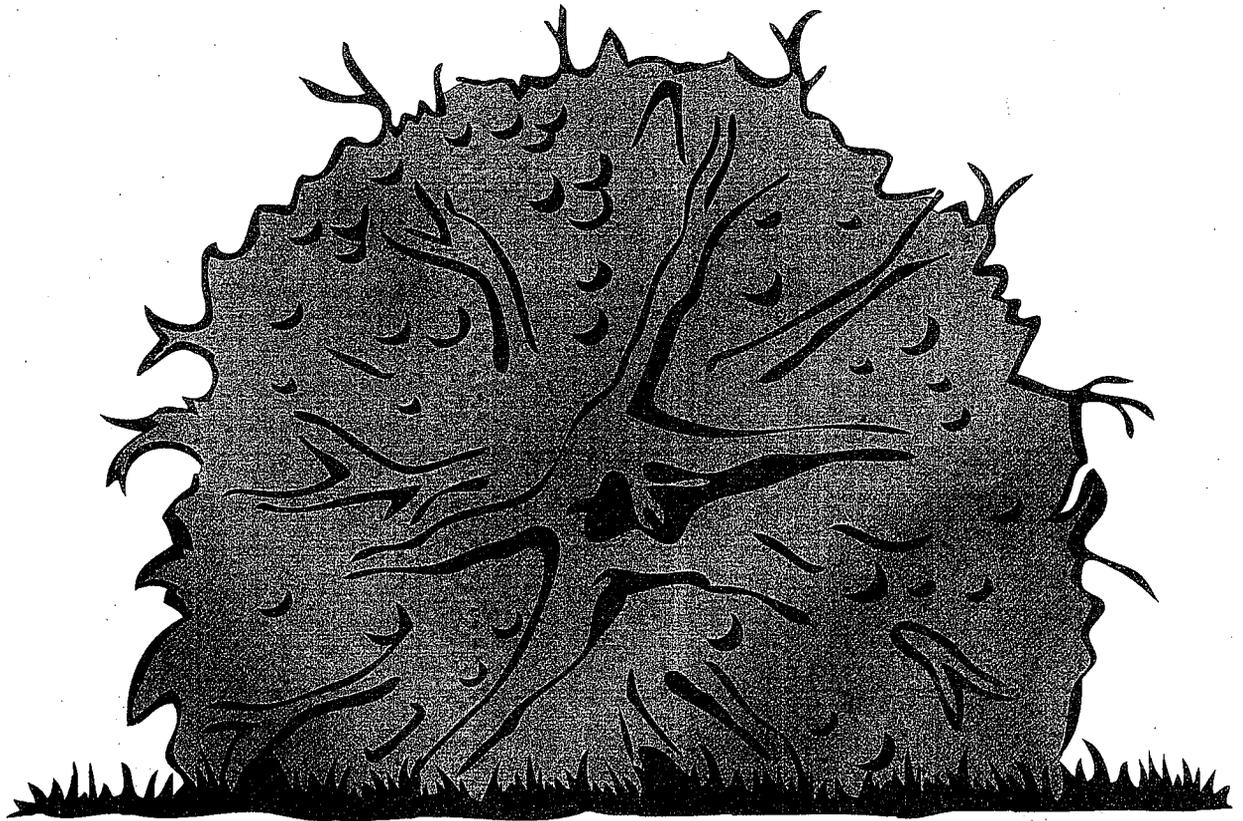


R.I.P. (Rot In Peace)

As you walk along the Boardwalk, look for the roots of a tree that has fallen. This is called a tree tombstone.

When trees fall in a wilderness area, they are left alone to provide food and shelter for plants and animals. Think about what this tree did to help the park and its animals.

Write two sentences or more on this tree tombstone about the life you imagine this tree had before it fell down or write what kinds of food and shelter it provided for plants and other animals.





UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Different communities are homes for different plants and animals. Near the visitor center is the bluff line. This area is on higher elevation, which means that it is not on the floodplain, and the floodwater does not rise this high. Notice the differences between this area and the floodplain.

Draw something that lives in this community.

- Sit down, extend your arms, and look closely at the area on the ground within your reach.

Count how many different kinds of living things there are in your study area.

Which animals find food in this community?
Circle your choices.



birds



squirrels



insects

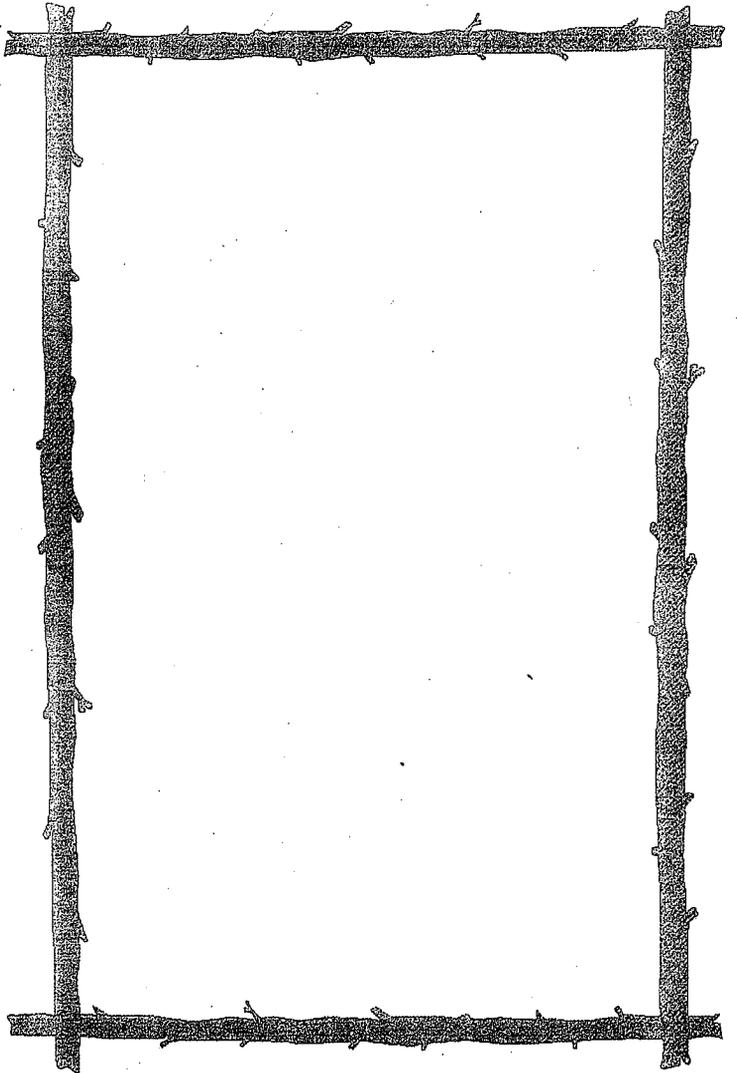


deer

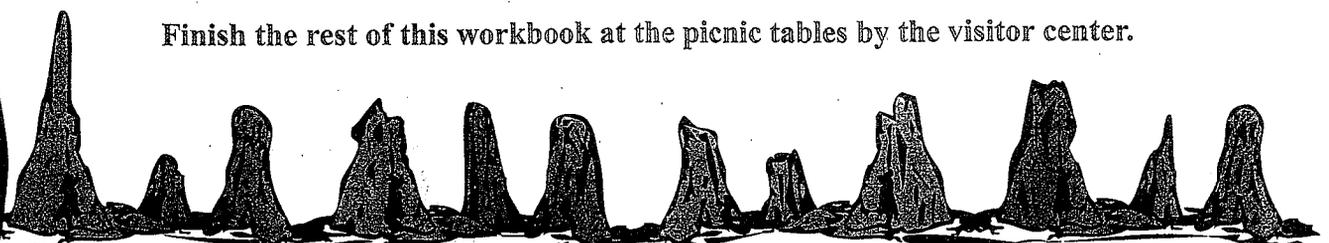


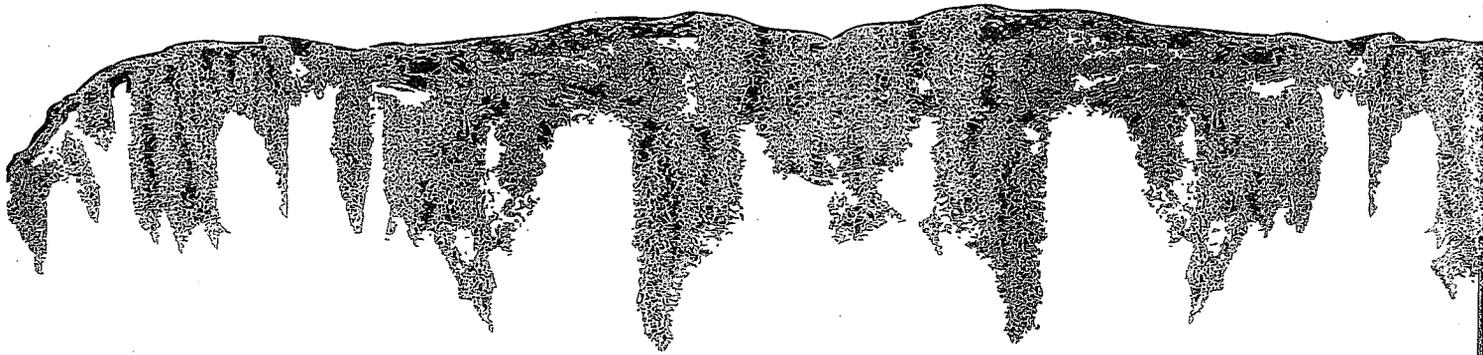
others

- Feel the soil in your study area. How is it different from the soil on the floodplain?



Finish the rest of this workbook at the picnic tables by the visitor center.





ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

The Administrative Division of the park is made up of men and women not often seen by visitors. They work in offices and see to the smooth running of the park. These are some of their duties.

1. They take care of buying the equipment the Rangers need to do their jobs.
2. They answer letters and pay bills for the park.
3. They hire Rangers.

How many people do you think work at Congaree Park?

Congaree has few permanent employees, but we can always use more help! Have the person you are with interview you for a Park Ranger job at Congaree National Park.

CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK JUNIOR RANGER
EMPLOYMENT

APPLICATION FOR

Name: _____

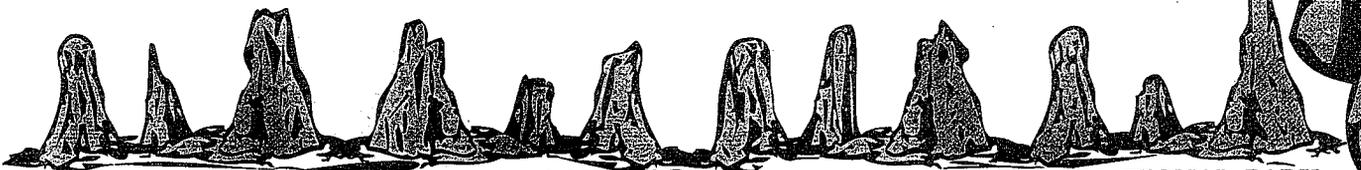
In which division would you most like to work? _____

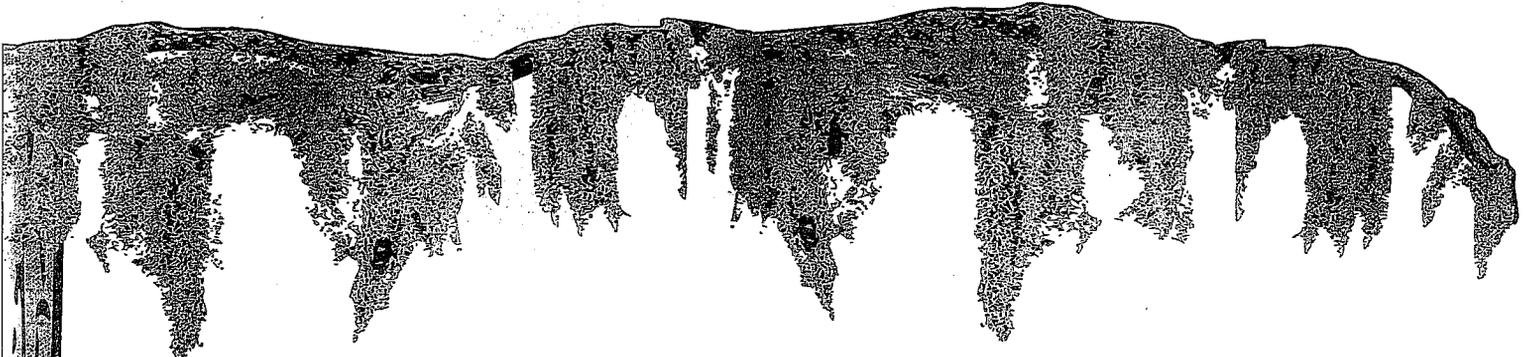
What are your best subjects in school? _____

To which environmental clubs do you belong? _____

What do you recycle? _____

What do you do everyday to take care of the environment? _____





SUPERINTENDENT

Each park has someone in charge of all of the divisions. This person is called the Superintendent and is like the principal of your school. He or she is responsible for making sure the Rangers do their jobs well. The Superintendent oversees the protection of all resources of the park.

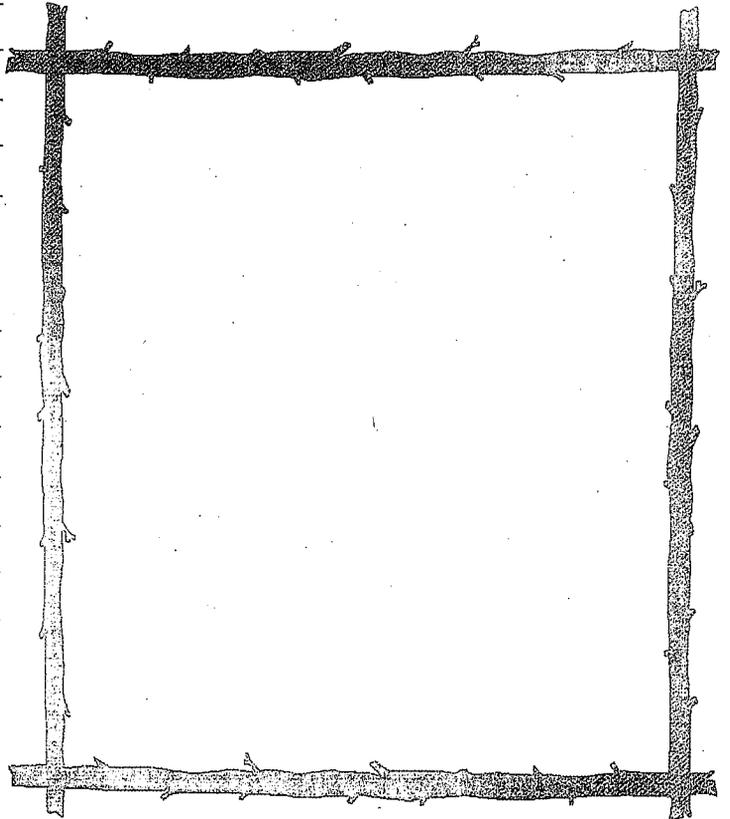
 The National Park Service manages areas for people to use today while also protecting these areas for future generations. **What challenges do you think the Superintendent has in meeting these goals?**

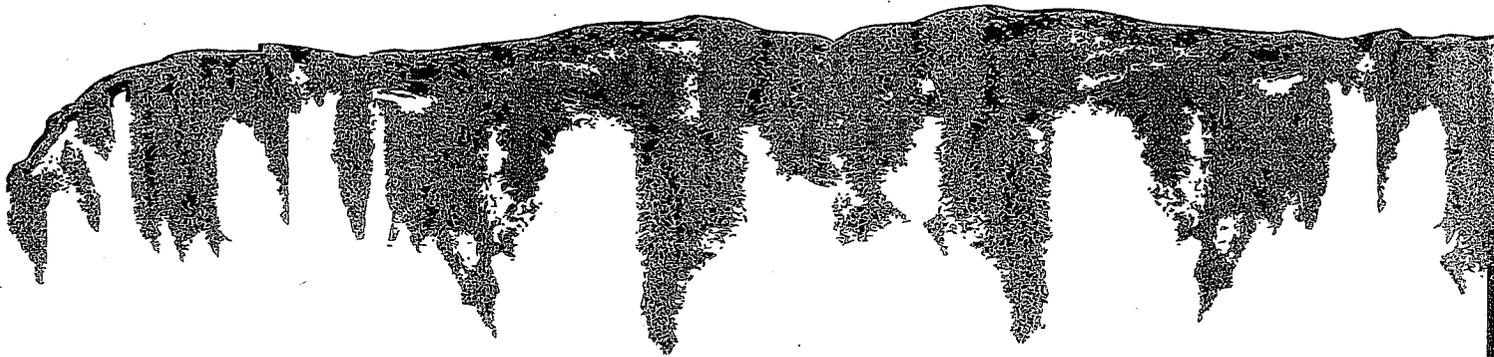
How would you handle these challenges?

 Part of the Superintendent's job is to tell the public about the park and its resources.

Write a sentence telling your best friend about this park.

What "photo" would you draw to show other people what a special place Congaree is to you?





YOU BE IN CHARGE

As a Junior Ranger your job is to protect and take care of this park, so your grandchildren can see the same kinds of trees and birds you saw during your visit. These special places will only be around as long

as we want them and take care of them.

On this page, write a promise to your National Park.

Dear Park,

Date: _____

I promise that I will do this for you:

Sincerely,

Name

Age

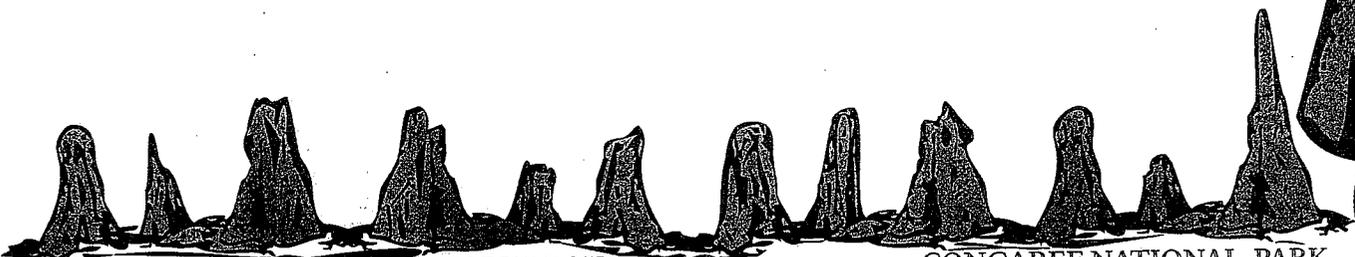
Street

City

State

Zip code

You and a parent or other adult must sign the back of your completed workbook. Read your 'Promise' to the Ranger at the visitor center to receive your signed certificate and award.



*CERTIFICATE OF
ACHIEVEMENT*

Presented by

CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK

To



For successful completion of the
Junior Ranger Program

Signed By

Date