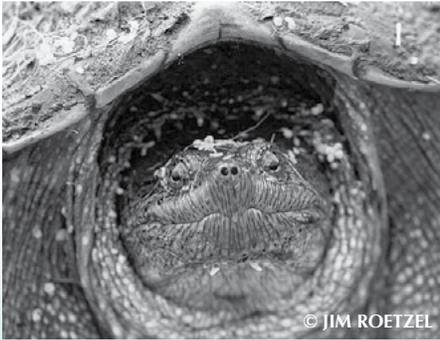




Junior Ranger Handbook

Recommended for Ages 7 and Older



© JIM ROETZEL



Beaver Marsh
© JEFFREY GIBSON



Brandywine Falls
© SUE SIMENC



NPS / ARRYE ROSSER



© SARA GUREN



NPS



NPS



NPS / D.J. REISER

Welcome to Cuyahoga Valley



Planning Your Visit

Americans protect National Parks so everyone can experience our heritage. This handbook will help you discover why Cuyahoga Valley National Park is one of these special places.

Allow about 3 hours to earn a Junior Ranger badge. If you have more time, do something extra to also earn a patch. Details are on page 3.

We suggest starting at **Boston Store Visitor Center**, 1550 Boston Mills Road, Peninsula, Ohio 44264. Several activities can be done nearby. Pick up a park map and get some advice. The visitor center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Hours may be extended seasonally.

We also recommend **Canal Exploration Center**, 7104 Canal Road, Valley View, Ohio 44125. Go inside to complete two activities. Check beforehand for seasonal hours.

Other popular spots are:

- Beaver Marsh
- Brandywine Falls
- Station Road Bridge
- Ledges

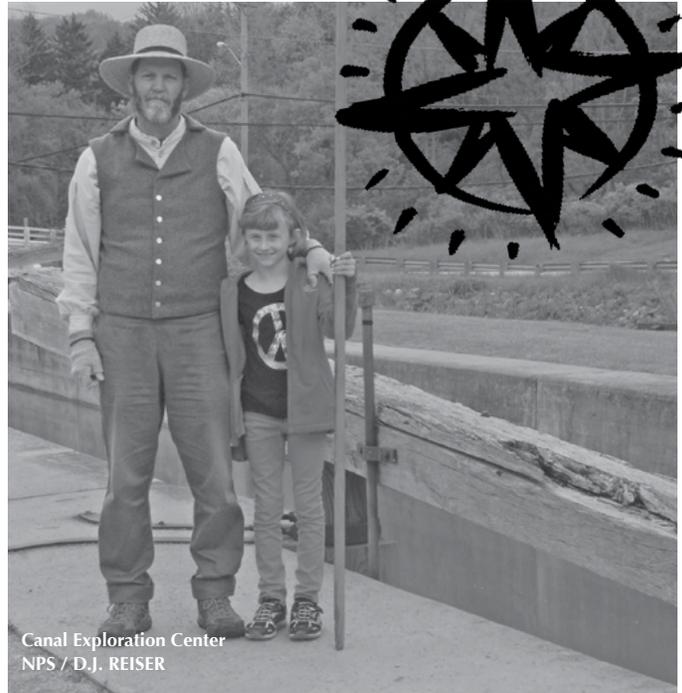
Questions? Call Boston Store Visitor Center at 330-657-2752.

For more information, click Plan Your Visit at nps.gov/cuva.

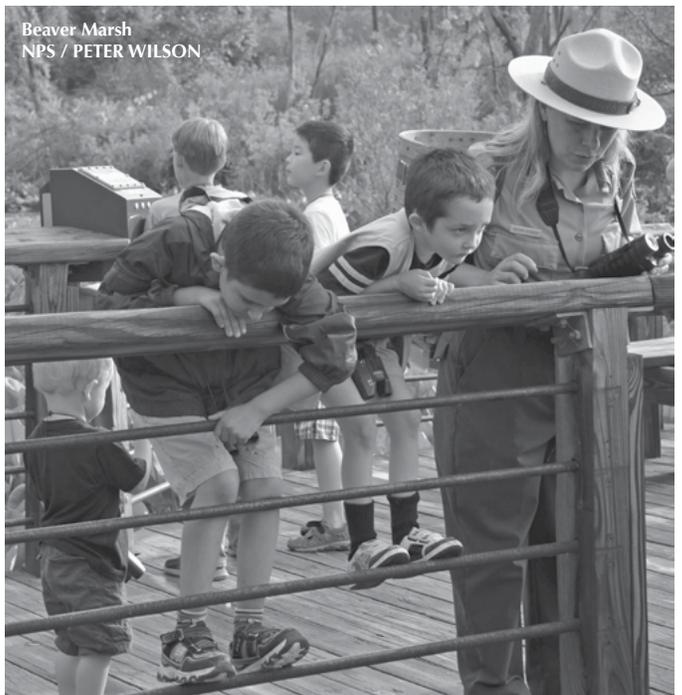
I love the Beaver Marsh!



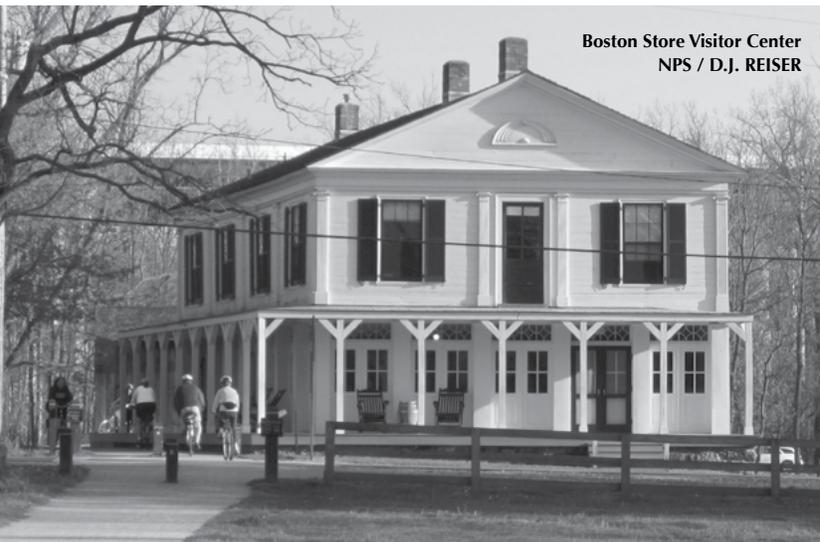
© RICK MCMEECHAN



Canal Exploration Center
NPS / D.J. REISER



Beaver Marsh
NPS / PETER WILSON

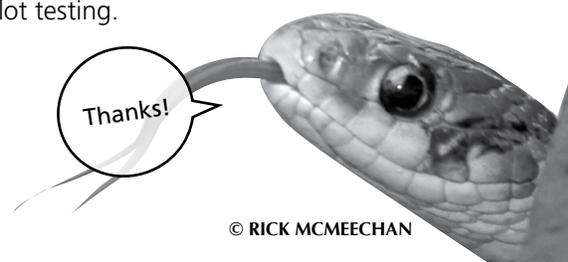


Boston Store Visitor Center
NPS / D.J. REISER

 Printed on recycled paper

We would like to thank Volunteer Hedy Jones (pages 6 - 7 and 10 - 13) and Gary Bodenshatz (page 8) for pen and ink illustrations, Volunteer Amanda Rosen for the initial graphic design, and many volunteer families for pilot testing.

Thanks!



© RICK MCMEECHAN

Become a Junior Ranger

What is a Junior Ranger?

Someone like you who completes Junior Ranger activities and promises to care for our National Parks.

Have fun exploring! You can earn your badge in a few hours. When you are done, take this handbook to the visitor center and show it the Park Ranger.



NPS

Rats, the visitor center is closed!

Mail it in!



To earn a badge, complete at least 8 handbook activity pages.

To earn a patch too, do ONE of these:

- complete 3 MORE activity pages
- attend a park program
- ride the train

If you can't return to the visitor center, mail your handbook to:

Cuyahoga Valley National Park
3675 Oak Hill Road
Peninsula, Ohio 44264

Tell us where to mail your badge:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____



© RICK-MCMEECHAN



NPS / PETER WILSON



Say the Junior Ranger Pledge.



NPS

As a Junior Ranger of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, I promise to keep learning more about the nature and history of the Cuyahoga Valley and help preserve the park for future generations.

This certifies that _____, age _____,

has successfully completed the requirement of a Junior Ranger on this

_____ day of _____, 20_____.

Reviewed by Ranger _____.

Great job!



The Arrowhead

Designed in 1951, the Arrowhead is the National Park Service symbol.

Look at it carefully. Every part represents something that Park Rangers protect. Fill in these words to decode the Arrowhead.

bison sequoia tree lake arrowhead mountain

The _____ represents plants.

The _____ represents animals.

The _____ represents scenic landscapes.

The _____ represents water resources and recreation.

The _____ represents history and culture.



Record how many Arrowheads you see during your visit.

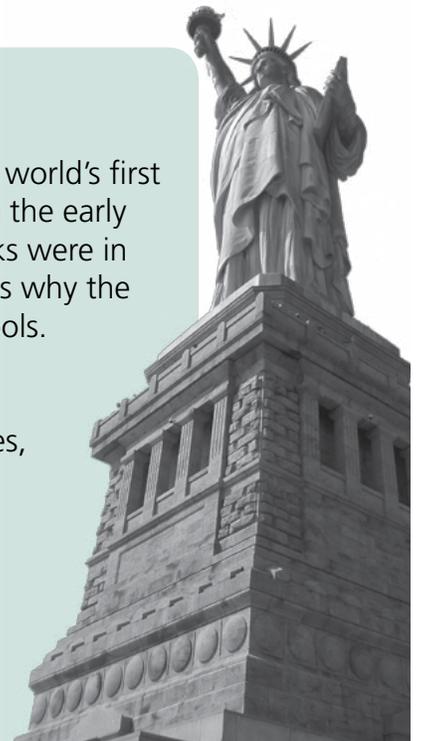
Can you spot them on signs, cars, brochures, and uniforms?

List any other National Parks that you have visited.

Did You Know?

Yellowstone became the world's first National Park in 1872. In the early years, most national parks were in the western states. This is why the badge has western symbols.

Today, the National Park System includes seashores, battlefields, monuments (recognize the Statue of Liberty, right?), huge wetlands, scenic rivers, islands, and urban parks (like Cuyahoga Valley).



If I Were a Park Ranger

If you were a Park Ranger, what would you do and how would you feel?

Draw a picture of yourself as a Park Ranger and tell us!

I would care for the park by ...

I would like to learn more about ...

I would enjoy ...

Hi! My name is Ranger ...



Leading Programs



Protecting Visitors and Park Resources



Fighting Fires

Sense of Boston Quest

Put on your detective hat! Begin at the information kiosk behind Boston Store Visitor Center, 1550 Boston Mills Road, Peninsula, Ohio 44264. The kiosk has three sides.

This quest takes about 35 minutes. Follow rhyming clues to a hidden quest box. Along the way are five activities that use your senses. When you find the box, use its unique stamp on page 7, sign the logbook, and put everything back as you found it. Be sneaky, so the location stays secret!



Five times on this quest you will take a seat
And use your senses to explore what's neat.
At the kiosk's WELCOME, begin your hike.
Stroll right of the barn and avoid any bikes.

The Towpath Trail gets busy with people galore—
Cyclists, hikers, dog walkers, and more.
Turn right onto the path when the coast is clear.
Imagine mules pulling boats along the canal here.
See that ditch on the left? It was once a waterway,
Bringing factory goods to Ohio from faraway.

Ahead the Cuyahoga River comes into better view—
Winding this way and that, making turns quite a few.
Just before the footbridge, turn to the right.
Sit on the block of stone and take in the sight.



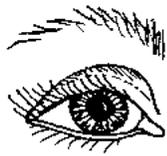
While sitting here there is something to do.
Close your eyes and sniff, but don't turn blue.
Draw or write what you smell in the first box.
Make a record below of what your senses unlock.

What I SMELLED

The bridges, big and small, are for another day.
Turn left and let the river's flow lead the way.
Toward the village, retrace your tracks.
Pass cars, a shed, a bench, and bike racks.



Walk to the largest building in white.
Boston Store Visitor Center is in your sight.
Down the side porch is where you must go.
Turn left to the front and then take it slow.



Your next seat is in a porch rocker outside.
Take in the village of Boston as you glide.
Using your eyes, draw what you see.
Make note of it in the next square, please.

What I SAW

Down the steps. Head to the building next door,
Across the street from the Trail Mix store.
Do you see the PURE sign from long ago?
This place pumped gas for people traveling to and fro.

Take a seat next to one of the old-time pumps.
Carefully use your sense of touch on the bumps.
Let your hands explore down and all around.
What else can you feel on the air or the ground?
Something smooth? Something hard? Warm sun's glow?
List each thing you sense in the box below.

What I TOUCHED

Return to the towpath. Safely cross the street.
Smile at the hikers and bikers you may meet.
Walk beside the fence screening houses from view.
At the Lock 32 sign farther on, rest a few.



Stairs just ahead are where you must go.
 Take a seat at the top, looking around and below.
 Use your ears to tune in to what nature has to say.
 Write in the fourth box what you hear today.*

**Questers using wheelchairs or strollers can enjoy the view from below.*

What I HEARD



Canal boats once passed between these walls of stone.
 Now this old “boat elevator” is a wetland zone.
 Lowland forest and marsh plants grow in wet ground.
 Turtles, frogs, bats, and birds of all kinds abound.

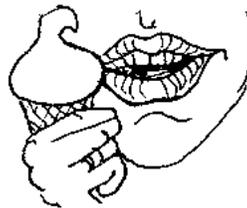
To reach the last stop, return the same way.
 Head back to the street again without delay.
 Stop at the CAUTION sign. Stay on this side.
 Turn left. Along a row of giant rocks, please stride.

Safely cross to the Volunteer Center (Savacoal House).
 Creep left around the porch, secret as a mouse.
 Below, a brick blocks a gap along the ground.
 Behind it, a hidden quest box can be found.

Before you pull the box out, make sure no one else sees.
 Stamp your book, sign the log, and repack with ease.
 Check that the baggies inside are sealed up tight.
 Return the quest box to its hiding spot out of sight.

Backtrack to the CAUTION sign, but don't stop there.
 Follow the path beside the fence and lawn with care.

What I TASTED or Wished I Did



If the Trail Mix Store is open, you can buy a special treat.
 Your favorite ice cream flavor makes the square complete.
 If you're ready to go home and not up for more,
 Return to your car behind the Boston Store.
 Your answers in the boxes prove you've passed the test.
 Good job finishing the *Sense of Boston Quest*.

Stamp Here



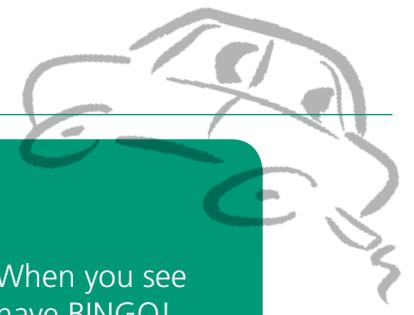
© SUE SIMENC

Did You Know?

There are dozens of quests within the Ohio & Erie Canalway. Quests are treasure hunts that help you explore our local National Heritage Area. Each one has its own personality. To try other titles, stop by the visitor center or download them at ohioanderiecanalway.com.

The Canalway Questing season is from April 15 to November 15, but the *Sense of Boston Quest* is available all year long.

Cuyahoga Valley Bingo

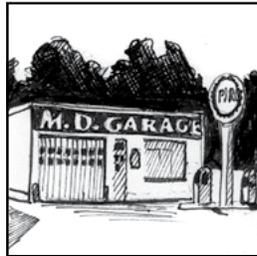


As you cruise through Cuyahoga Valley National Park, take a close look at the landscape.

What natural places are being protected? How are people using the land? When you see something in a square, check it off! Check five squares in a row and you'll have BINGO!



Farm



Gas Station



Train Tracks



Pond



Metro Park Sign



Canal Ex. Center



Ledges



Brandywine Falls



Happy Days Lodge



Cuyahoga River



Bridge



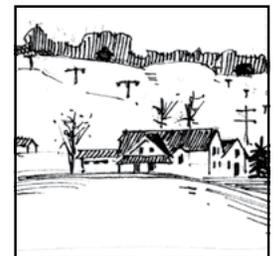
Private Home



Free Space



Forest



Ski Area



Boston Store V.C.



Wetland



Hiking Trail



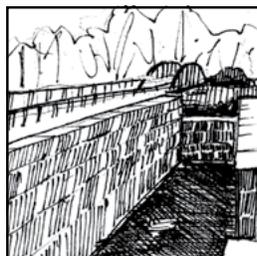
Towpath



Golf Course



Shop



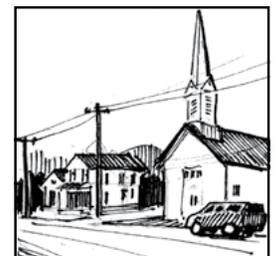
Lock



Frazee House



Meadow



Town

Recreation Challenge



There are many fun ways to get moving in this National Park.

Here's our challenge. Do one activity for every year of your life. For example, if you are 8 years old, you must complete 8 things on our list. Check the box when you finish each one.



© RICK MCMEECHAN



NPS



© SUE SIMENC

- I hiked on _____ Trail.
- I found a canal mile marker along the Towpath Trail. Look right for a photo of one.
- I took a picture of me in the park.
- I climbed 20 steps.
- I found a trail sign.
- I ran for more than one minute.
- I rode a bike in the park.
- I crossed a footbridge.
- I had a picnic in the park.
- I sat quietly on a rock.
- I saw my first _____.
- I hopped 25 times on one foot inside a canal lock.
- I completed the _____ Quest.
- I skipped inside a yellow train station.
- I played _____ in the park.
- I found a trail map on a park bulletin board.
- I visited _____ Falls.
- I went to the Beaver Marsh.
- I found a stick shaped like the letter _____.
- I think _____ counts too!



NPS / D.J. REISER

Did You Know?

Cuyahoga Valley National Park has over 175 miles of trails! The Towpath Trail is flat, while some other trails take you up and down steep hills, stairs, and rocks.

What Makes a River Healthy?



Cuyahoga Valley National Park got its name from the Cuyahoga River, which flows through its middle.

Healthy rivers give us clean drinking water, safe places to play, and great habitat for wildlife. In the picture above, color or circle the GOOD things that belong in or along a healthy river. Can you find them all?

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trees to shade and cool the water | <input type="checkbox"/> Rocks to mix oxygen into the water | <input type="checkbox"/> Farming away from streams and rivers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bald eagles | <input type="checkbox"/> Testing water quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Different types of fish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> River otters | <input type="checkbox"/> Picking up your pet's poop, so less bacteria washes into the water | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor fun along the river |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educating people about rivers | | <input type="checkbox"/> Native plants |



Visit the Cuyahoga River

Pick a location: Boston, Peninsula, Towpath Trail between Ira and Hunt trailheads, or Station Road Bridge. Go exploring and report what you see.

I saw these things that are GOOD for the river:

I saw these things that are BAD for the river:

Did You Know?

The Cuyahoga River caught fire at least 10 times! It's true! The most famous fire happened in Cleveland in 1969. The river was so polluted that a spark ignited floating oil and debris. Our nation was horrified! This fire helped inspire Earth Day and new environmental protection laws like the Clean Water Act.

Today, Cuyahoga Valley National Park protects 22 miles of river habitat. Wildlife is returning, but the Cuyahoga River still needs our help to heal.

Things I Can Do to Help Rivers

- Waste less water.
- Pick up my pet's poop, so it won't pollute waterways.
- Plant native trees and flowers at home. They provide better habitat for wildlife.
- Pick up litter with an adult.
- Mow less. Taller grass slows and filters storm water better.
- Volunteer at a park.

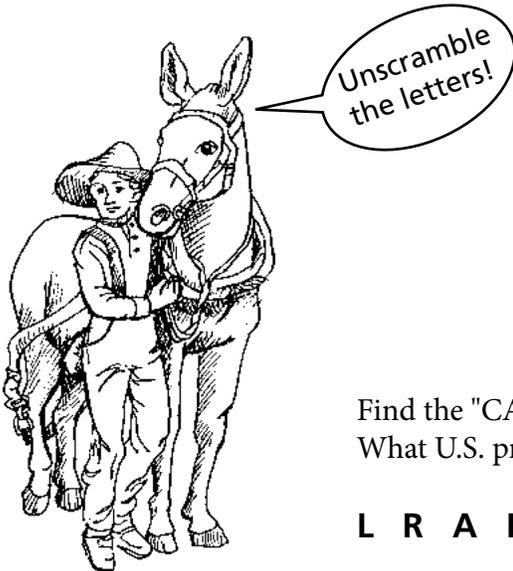


Kids on the Canal

Visit the Canal Exploration Center, 7104 Canal Road, Valley View, Ohio 44125.
Call 330-657-2752 for current hours. Allow at least 45 minutes.

The Ohio & Erie Canal ran right through Cuyahoga Valley. It was the watery highway of its day, connecting Lake Erie to the Ohio River. It operated from 1827 to 1913. Kids during that time had a life that was different from yours today. Use the exhibits to help compare your life to the life of a kid during the Canal Era. Write or draw your answers.

	Canal Kid	Me
Clothes		
Foods		
Having Fun		

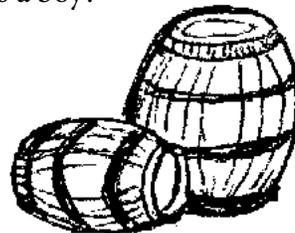


Find "The Checkered Game of Life" board game in the first floor exhibits. What did players try to reach to win? (Hint: The final square has the highest number.)

P A P Y H D O L G E A

Find the "CANAWLER Kids" flipbook in the first floor exhibits. What U.S. president was a mule driver as a boy?

L R A F E G I D



What did you enjoy most at Canal Exploration Center?

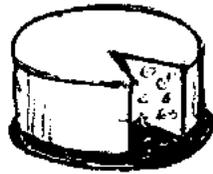
What's on the Boat?

The Ohio & Erie Canal helped the state to prosper. The exhibits inside Canal Exploration Center tell its stories.

The canal allowed Ohio farmers to sell their products to East Coast cities. With the extra money, farmers could buy fancier goods made in faraway factories. They no longer had to make so many things for themselves. This boat is called the *Evening Star*. It is being loaded with Ohio goods heading for New York City. Circle four things that go on this boat.



What came from my farm?



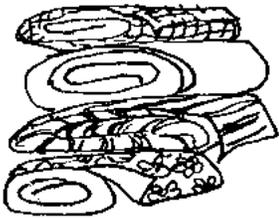
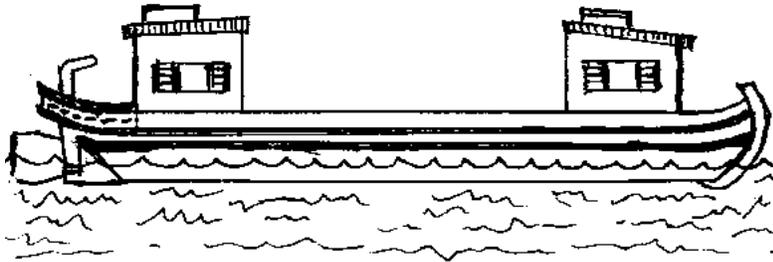
Cheese



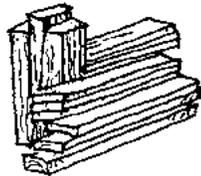
Wheat



Furniture



Printed Fabric



Lumber



Shoes



Salted Pork

Did You Know?

The mule driver, or hoggie, was in charge of the mules that pulled the canal boat. This job was often done by a boy. He would walk beside the mules on the towpath to make sure that the animals kept on going. One mule team usually worked while another rested on the boat. They switched every six hours.

Some canal boats had unusual names such as the *Rat of Portsmouth*, the *Forest Rose*, and the *Flying Cloud*. If you owned a canal boat, what would you name it?

What would you name your favorite mule?

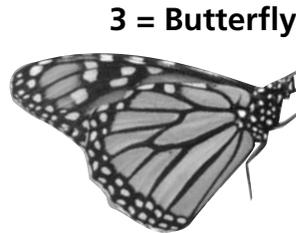
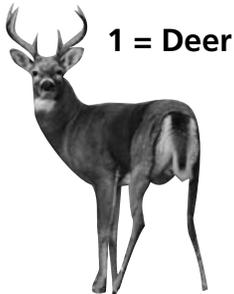
Today, we ship many things in cardboard boxes. What was used to ship things on canal boats?

Home Sweet Home

A habitat is a place where an animal lives. It provides the animal with food, water, shelter, and space.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park has many different habitats where wildlife can be found. Match each animal to its habitat to decode the first puzzle.

Match me to my habitat.



Forest Floor = S



Forest Edge = O



Meadow = E



Wetland = T



Deer, beaver, forest floor
© RICK MCMEECHAN

Butterfly
© CHERYL OSGOOD

Salamander
COURTESY ODNR

Forest edge
NPS / ARRYE ROSSER

Meadow
© SYLVIA BANKS

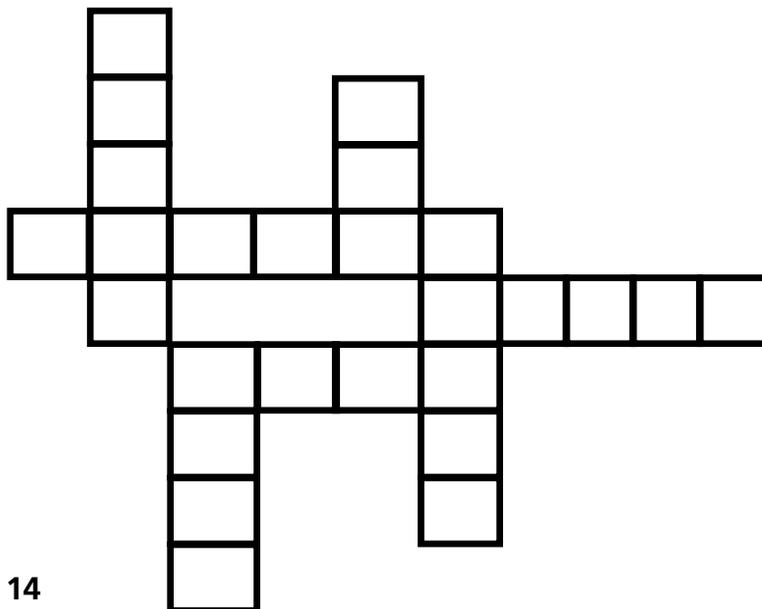
Wetland
© JACK RIGBY

Once you have matched the correct animal numbers with habitat letters, solve the first puzzle. What animal has recently returned to the Cuyahoga River? Its return shows that the river is becoming healthier.



Next, fill in the letters.

_____ R _____
1 2 2 3 4



Solve the park science crossword.

Park scientists study plants and animals to see if our ecosystems are healthy. Some of these are listed below. Use the words to fill in the puzzle. (Hint: Start with the six-letter word.)

- Bat
- Eagle
- Frog
- Heron
- Fish
- Coyote
- Algae

Fill in the words, please.



© RICK MCMEECHAN

Dear Superintendent

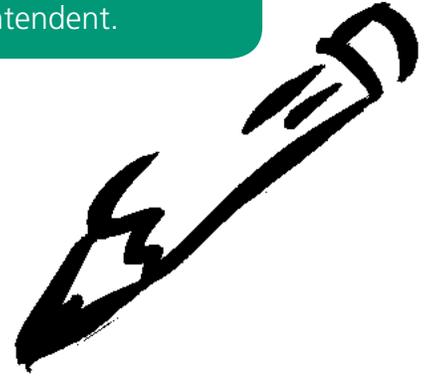
The person in charge of a National Park and all its workers is called the Superintendent.

As a Junior Ranger your ideas are important. Write a letter to our Superintendent.

Today's Date: _____

Dear Superintendent,

The best thing I did at Cuyahoga Valley National Park was . . .



I will always remember . . .

I want you to know that . . .

Sincerely,

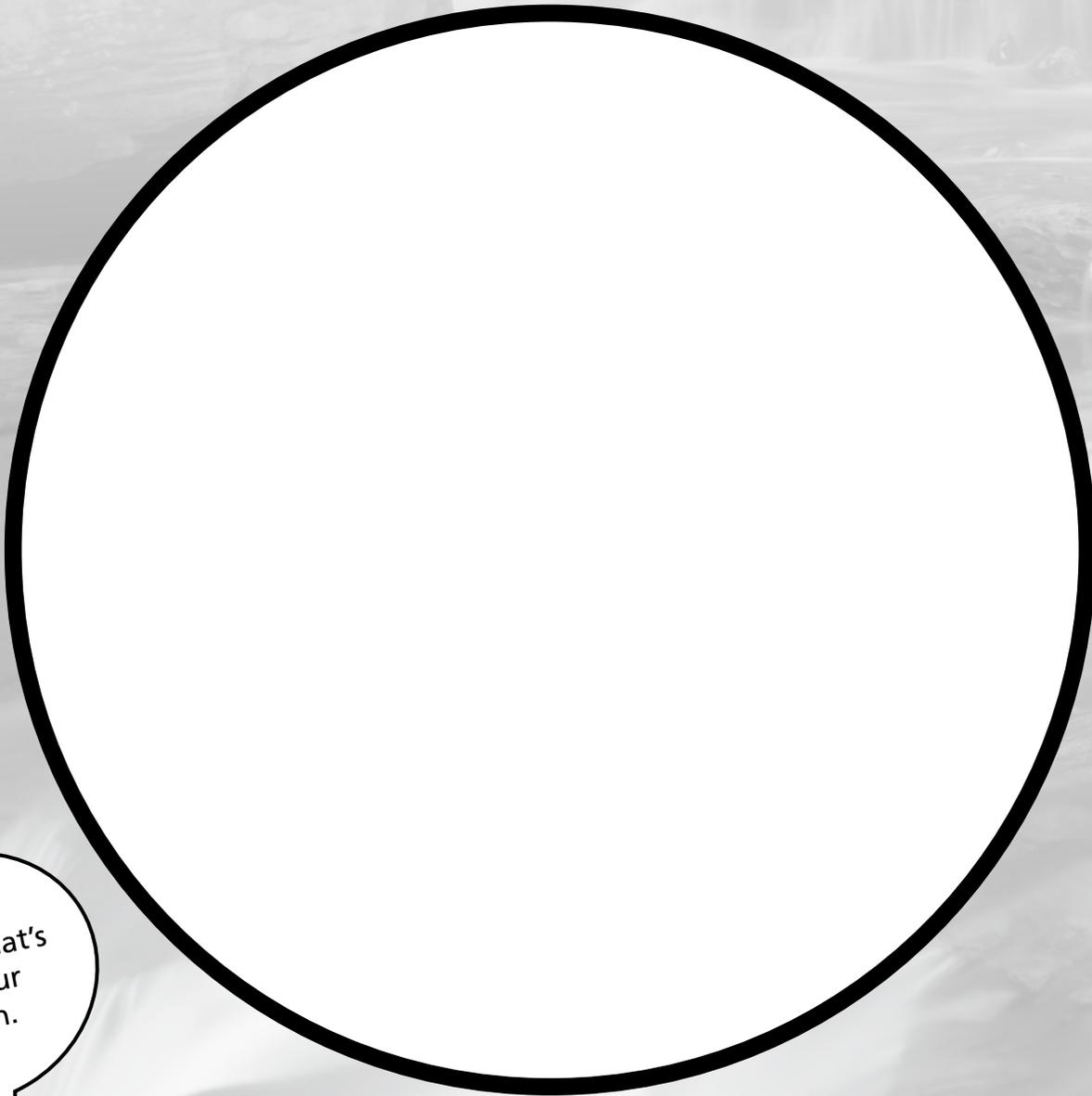
_____, age _____

Do you want a Park Ranger to send this to the Superintendent? If so, rip out the page and hand it in.

Cuyahoga Valley Patch

In the circle below, design a patch to represent Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Think about what you saw and did here. Share what you learned about why this park is important. You can include wildlife, plants, scenery, water, recreation, or history—just like the National Park Service Arrowhead on page 4.



Label what's
on your
patch.

Did You Know?

Cuyahoga Valley is a refuge for people, wildlife, and plants sandwiched between two big cities. In 1974, it became part of the National Park System because local citizens cared enough about the valley to protect it.

