

# Effigy Mounds

National Monument

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Junior Ranger Activity Booklet



**PROTECT**



**LEARN**

**EXPLORE**



## Dear Junior Ranger Candidate:

Welcome to Effigy Mounds National Monument! The Junior Ranger program was created to help children EXPLORE the national parks and monuments, LEARN about the national parks and monuments, and to understand them well enough to want to PROTECT them. If you would like to earn an official Junior Ranger certificate, please follow these instructions:

- 1) Fill in your name, address, and age on next page.
- 2) Complete the activities from this booklet required for your age level.  
A parent, adult, or ranger must verify the completion of each activity.
- 3) Turn in your booklet at the visitor center or mail it to:

Junior Ranger Program  
Effigy Mounds National Monument  
151 HWY 76  
Harpers Ferry, IA 52146

Junior Ranger books and badges are available at the visitor center desk or by mail. There is no cost to participate. Junior Ranger patches are also available for purchase in the visitor center.

- 4) Your booklet will be returned to you as a reminder of your visit to Effigy Mounds National Monument.

This booklet is designed to help you explore Effigy Mounds National Monument. When you watch the film, visit the museum, hike the trails and attend ranger programs you will gain:

- \*An understanding and appreciation of the early American Indian people that inhabited this area so long ago.
- \*An understanding and appreciation of the natural environment here and along the Upper Mississippi River Valley.
- \*A knowledge of the National Park Service's mission to preserve and protect natural and cultural resources.

Good luck and have a great time!





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

## ☐ Little Bear    Ages 6-7

The smallest bear effigy in the monument, Little Bear is 87 feet long and only about two feet high. This mound is the first effigy you see on the Fire Point Trail. Complete 5 activities in this booklet.

## ☐ Bird of Prey    Ages 8-10

Some of the bird mounds have wings that are angled back like falcons, making them look like they are diving. Bird mounds almost always are facing water and might represent birds that we still see today along the Mississippi River. Complete 7 activities in this booklet.

## ☐ Great Bear    Ages 11-12

At 137 feet long and over three feet high, Great Bear is the largest bear effigy mound in the monument. While most bear mounds face downstream, Great Bear is mysteriously facing the other way! Complete 8 activities in this booklet.



# WHAT'S RIGHT, WHAT'S WRONG?

In order to PROTECT our national monuments and preserve them for others to visit, we must take care of the monument. While visiting Effigy Mounds National Monument, decide which things are okay to do and circle them.



- Smell the flowers
- Keep dogs on a leash
- Dig in the Indian mounds for souvenirs
- Feed the wild animals
- Put litter in a trash can
- Pull a squirrel's tail
- Pick the flowers
- Throw rocks off Fire Point
- Walk on the mounds
- Say "HI" to a park ranger
- Touch a tree along the trail
- Use binoculars to look out over the river
- Carve your name in a rock



Image Credit: U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service



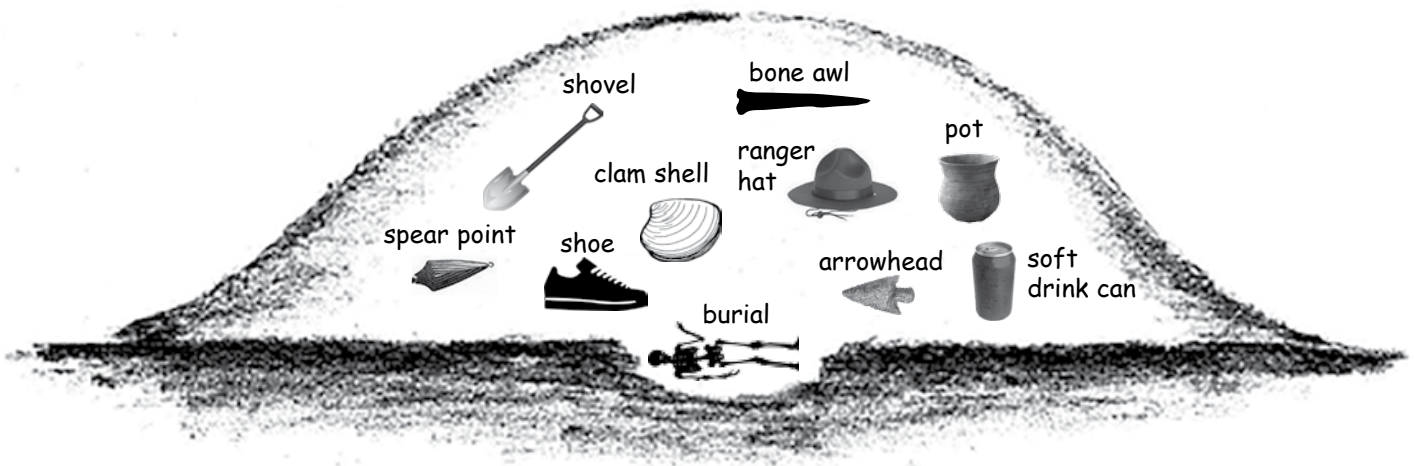


# WHAT BELONGS IN THE MOUND?

While you EXPLORE the monument, LEARN about the mounds and the artifacts that would have been buried in them.

Find and circle six things that could be found in an undisturbed prehistoric Indian mound.

Cross out the things that do not belong.



# MATCH THE MOUNDS

**LEARN** about the different types of mounds that the Indians of the Woodland Culture built. Then draw a line to the correct mound shape from its description.

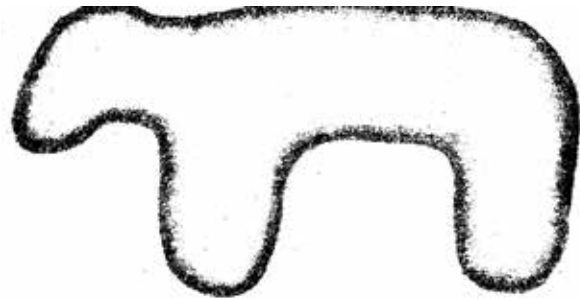
**Effigy Mound** - The term effigy refers to mounds built in the shape of something. Here at Effigy Mounds National Monument, we have effigy mounds in the shape of bears and birds.



**Conical Mound** - Round, dome shaped mounds three to ten feet high and approximately ten feet across. Some can be bigger, some can be smaller.



**Linear Mound** - Long, hot dog shaped mounds in lengths from 50 to 300 feet long and up to 10 feet wide.



**Compound Mound** - Conical mounds connected to linear mounds. Most consist of three conical mounds and two linear mounds, but there is one at Effigy Mounds National Monument that has seven conicals and is 300 feet long.



# PICTURE THE PAST

While you are EXPLORING the monument...  
Visit the museum, watch the film, and/or go on a hike with a ranger  
to LEARN the answers to the following questions.

Compare your life to the life of a  
Woodland Indian your age living 1,000 years ago.

## WOODLAND INDIAN

Where they lived in the winter: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How they would get their food: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What they did for fun: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where they put someone who had died: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who they would be with at a feast or celebration:

\_\_\_\_\_

How they would know it is dinnertime: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Which ways of life of the Woodland Indian are similar to yours?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Which ones are different?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## YOU

Where you live in the winter: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How you get your food: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What you do for fun: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where you put someone who has died: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who you would be with at a feast or celebration:

\_\_\_\_\_

How you know it is dinnertime: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# National Parks Word Search

There are currently over 400 areas in the national park system and the oldest one is Yellowstone National Park which was created in 1872. Iowa has two, Herbert Hoover National Historic Site and Effigy Mounds National Monument.

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

ACADIA

ANDERSONVILLE

APOSTLE ISLANDS

ARCHES

BADLANDS

CHACO CULTURE

DENALI

DEVILS TOWER

EFFIGY MOUNDS

GETTYSBURG

HERBERT HOOVER

MT. RUSHMORE

OCMULGEE

PIPESTONE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

SHENANDOAH

VOYAGEURS

WIND CAVE

YELLOWSTONE

YOSEMITE





# National Park Service Mission

The arrowhead patch is a symbol that you will see on every Park Ranger's uniform and on signs throughout the park. It is important because each part of the patch represents the resources the National Park Service works to protect.

**Instructions:** Below is the outline of the arrowhead patch. Find an arrowhead in the park and draw in the missing elements, then read about what each part of the patch represents. Please note the sample below the outlined patch.



The bison represents all the different **animals** in all the different parks.

The trees represent all the different **plants**.

The mountains represent all the different **land formations**.

The lake represents all the different bodies of **water**.

The arrowhead shape represents the different **history** at every park.

**Sample:**



# Cultural Currents in a River of Time

Life ways along the Mississippi River have evolved for more than 12,000 years. Archaeologists organize artifacts that mark these changes by date and assign cultural names that describe them.

## 12,000 BP

Small bands of wandering hunters called

\_\_\_\_\_ passed through this region tracking large game animals. Specially fashioned spear throwers, called atlatls enabled skilled hunters to hurl stone-tipped spears with speed and accuracy.

## 2300 BP

Centered in the Ohio River Valley, the \_\_\_\_\_ extended its powerful reach to the Mississippi. Artifacts made from copper, obsidian and other exotic materials have been found in burials suggesting participation in a vast trade network.

## 1300 BP

Mounds of earth sculpted into the shapes of bears, birds, and reptiles are thought to reference the realms of earth, sky, and water. The builders belonged to the

\_\_\_\_\_ and were the last purely hunter/gatherers to live in the region.

12,000	BP	Paleo-Indians
3,000	BP	Archaic Tradition
2,300	BP	Hopewell Tradition
1700	BP	Cultural Transition
1300	BP	Effigy Mound Tradition
700	BP	Oneota Tradition

**BP refers to Time Before Present**

Your task in this activity is to read the description and fill in the missing name OR the missing date. Names and dates for the cultural traditions found at Effigy Mounds are in the box below.

## \_\_\_\_\_ BP

Early American Indians throughout the Eastern Woodlands followed Archaic Traditions. They were experts at skillfully using the forest environment to survive. Their dead were buried in shallow pits lined with red oxide.

## \_\_\_\_\_ BP

After Hopewell traditions faded from the region, Indians living here experienced a Cultural Transition where harmony with the natural world became most important once again. Many compound and linear mounds were built during this era.

## \_\_\_\_\_ BP

Moving up the Mississippi River from what is now the St. Louis region, the Oneota Tradition introduced farming, extensive trade, and complex social organizations. During this era traditional mound building eventually disappears.



Complete the following story by filling in the blanks. Choose your words from the list printed below. Each word can only be used once.

## A Woodland Indian Story

My people follow the life ways of the \_\_\_\_\_ Indian traditions. In the summer we live in villages along the \_\_\_\_\_ River. When winter comes my extended family moves up into the highland bluffs where we live in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

In the summer we harvest \_\_\_\_\_ and fish from the river, gather \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ from the forests, and collect plants and herbs that we use for \_\_\_\_\_. We also dig clay from the river beds that we fashion into \_\_\_\_\_ and storage containers. When we live together we build mounds and hold \_\_\_\_\_ to honor our ancestors. We also bury \_\_\_\_\_ so that they may return to the earth.

In the winter we hunt for \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and other small game. During long winter nights Grandfather tells stories about the ancient ones, our \_\_\_\_\_. He tells us how they followed rivers to find this \_\_\_\_\_ land. This has been our home for many \_\_\_\_\_.

I sometimes wonder who will come here after we are gone. Will other people one day walk on our \_\_\_\_\_ and watch \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ soar over the river? Will they gaze at the \_\_\_\_\_ rising over the Mississippi River? Will they honor our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ our ancient mounds? I can only hope they will.

### Word Bank

Mississippi

caves

rock shelters

generations

nuts

berries

Woodland

cooking pots

ceremonies

deer

rabbits

human remains

sacred

clams

trails

ancestors

eagles

medicines

vultures

full moon

traditions







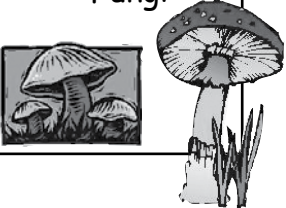
protect



# EFFIGY MOUNDS

## SCAVENGER HUNT BINGO

As you **EXPLORE** the museum and trails at Effigy Mounds National Monument, you will see and hear many different things. Observe any of the items in the squares below and make an X through it. Get five in a row up, down, across, or diagonally and you have BINGO! Remember to check the exhibits in the visitor center and museum!

				
Eagle or Turkey Vulture	Animal Track	Boat on the Mississippi River	Leaf Chewed by an Insect	Bird Nest
				
Great Bear Mound	Bird Singing	Squirrel Leaf Nest	Bird Feather	Little Bear Mound
				
Wild Mammal	Maple Tree	Piece of Litter (please pick it up!)	Frog Calling	Conical Mound
				
Fork in the Trail	Spider Web	Dog on a Leash	Mosquito	Park Ranger
				
Reptile or Amphibian	Compound Mound	A Fern	Den Hole in a Tree	Mushroom or Fungi



# ANIMAL SCRAMBLE & MATCH

Unscramble the letters below to discover what each animal is. Then LEARN about each animal by matching the number of the animal with its description.

1. DLWI RKUTYE

2. REBVEA

3. DIPRES

4. AESKN

5. ETIALWIHT EERD

6. SQTIMOOU

7. ULSERQIR

8. NORCACO

A. I have 8 legs and up to 8 eyes. I like to eat insects after spinning a web to trap them in.\_\_\_\_\_

B. I am a large brownish mammal that many people think is beautiful. A male is called a buck and a female, a doe.\_\_\_\_\_

C. I am the mammal you are most likely to see while walking the trails at Effigy Mounds. I will ignore you if I am busy gathering nuts.\_\_\_\_\_

D. I am a big bird, but you don't see me fly too often. Ben Franklin wanted me to be the national bird, but the eagle was chosen instead. Thanksgiving is a holiday I do not like.\_\_\_\_\_

E. I am nocturnal, meaning I hunt for my food at night. I like to eat seeds, insects, and berries. If you are camping and leave food unattended, I might steal it. I guess that's why I'm a Masked Bandit.\_\_\_\_\_

F. I am North America's largest rodent, growing up to 46 inches long, including my flat tail. My front teeth are sharp and help me cut trees down to build a dam or lodge.\_\_\_\_\_

G. Many people think I'm a real pest, but I'm just doing my job. Only the females of my species are the ones that bother you, as they try to draw blood for protein to lay eggs.\_\_\_\_\_

H. Don't jump, don't be scared! I'm just coiled up on this rock enjoying the sunshine. When I get hungry, I'll slither away and eat a mouse.\_\_\_\_\_



## Word Bank

White Tail Deer   Raccoon   Snake

Wild Turkey   Beaver   Spider

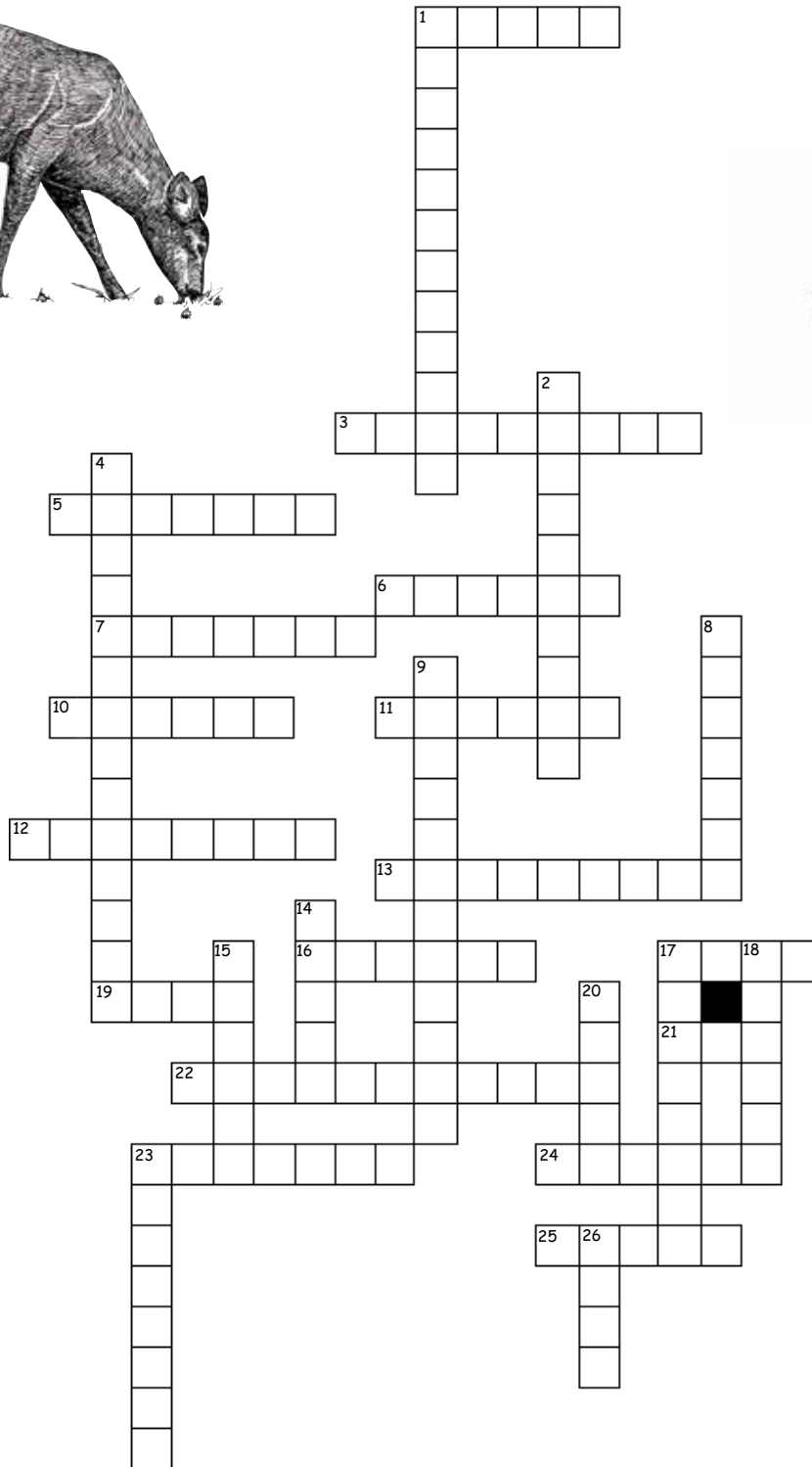
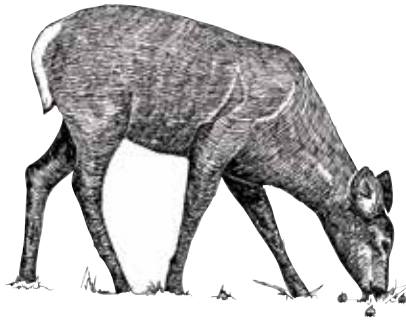
Squirrel   Mosquito





# EFFIGY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Read the park brochure, see the film, visit the museum, and/or go on a ranger-guided hike to fill in the crossword puzzle and test



## ACROSS

1. This huge bird can have a wingspan of 6 1/2 feet and has a white head when it is mature.
3. The view from here includes the Mississippi River and Prairie du Chien, WI. (2 words)
5. Tall grassy area that is sometimes set on fire to rejuvenate the plants.
6. A person in the park who can answer your questions, help you, or lead you on a hike.
7. From an overlook, you may see one of these pushing barges upriver.
10. The river between the North and South Units of Effigy Mounds National Monument.
11. Moundbuilders \_\_\_\_\_ for exotic items like copper, obsidian, mica, and ocean shells.
12. Type of mound made up of conical and linear mounds.
13. Beware of this plant in the woods "itching" to get you. (2 words)
16. This type of tree has an acorn that Native Americans ground up and used for food. (2 words)
17. Some spiders build these to trap insects.
19. A large animal the Woodland Indians hunted for food, especially in the winter.
21. Ellison \_\_\_\_\_, the man who studied the mounds in the early 1930s.
22. The grand river that can be seen from the overlooks on the monument's trails.
23. Places to look at and study artifacts and art of past cultures.
24. Prehistoric spear thrower.
25. At Effigy Mounds National Monument, there are effigy mounds in the shape of bears and \_\_\_\_\_.

## DOWN

1. The name of the film shown regularly at Effigy Mounds National Monument about people who shaped the earth.
2. A bird you might hear tapping at trees as it looks for insects.
4. The largest effigy mound in the North Unit. (3 words)
8. The Woodland Indians made this out of clay to store food and to cook in.
9. A person who studies the artifacts of a past culture.
14. Listen carefully and you might hear these amphibians calling near the water, especially at night.
15. Effigy Mounds National Monument has over 13 miles of these you can hike on.
17. The name given to the Native Americans who built the mounds.
18. One of the things sometimes found in a mound.
20. The type of material used to make stone tools.
23. You might encounter one of these pesky insects on your hike.
26. The state in which Effigy Mounds National Monument is located.

## Word Bank

Atlatl   Tugboat   Orr   Trails   Deer   Ranger  
Webs   Iowa   Fire Point   Red Oak   Museums  
Burial   Flint   Frogs   Eagle   Prairie   Mosquito  
Pottery   Woodland   Birds   Great Bear Mound  
Yellow   Archeologist   Traded   Woodpecker  
Earthshapers   Compound   Mississippi   Poison Ivy



# DIGGING DEEP

When archeologists study artifacts of prehistoric peoples, they usually discover the deeper an object is in the ground, the older it is. But not always! Watch out for disturbances in the soil.

Using the diagram and key below, match the time period of each soil section with the artifact found in the ground.

Artifact

Time Period

A. Tire

\_\_\_\_\_ years ago

B. Spear Point

\_\_\_\_\_ years ago

C. Pot

\_\_\_\_\_ years ago

D. Shovel

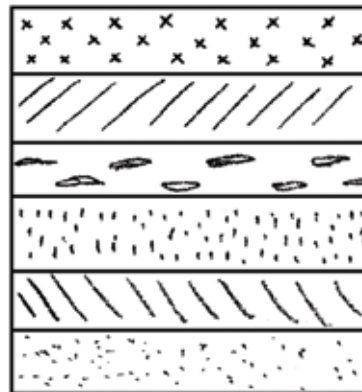
\_\_\_\_\_ years ago

E. Bone Awl

\_\_\_\_\_ years ago

F. Arrowhead

\_\_\_\_\_ years ago



0-10 years ago

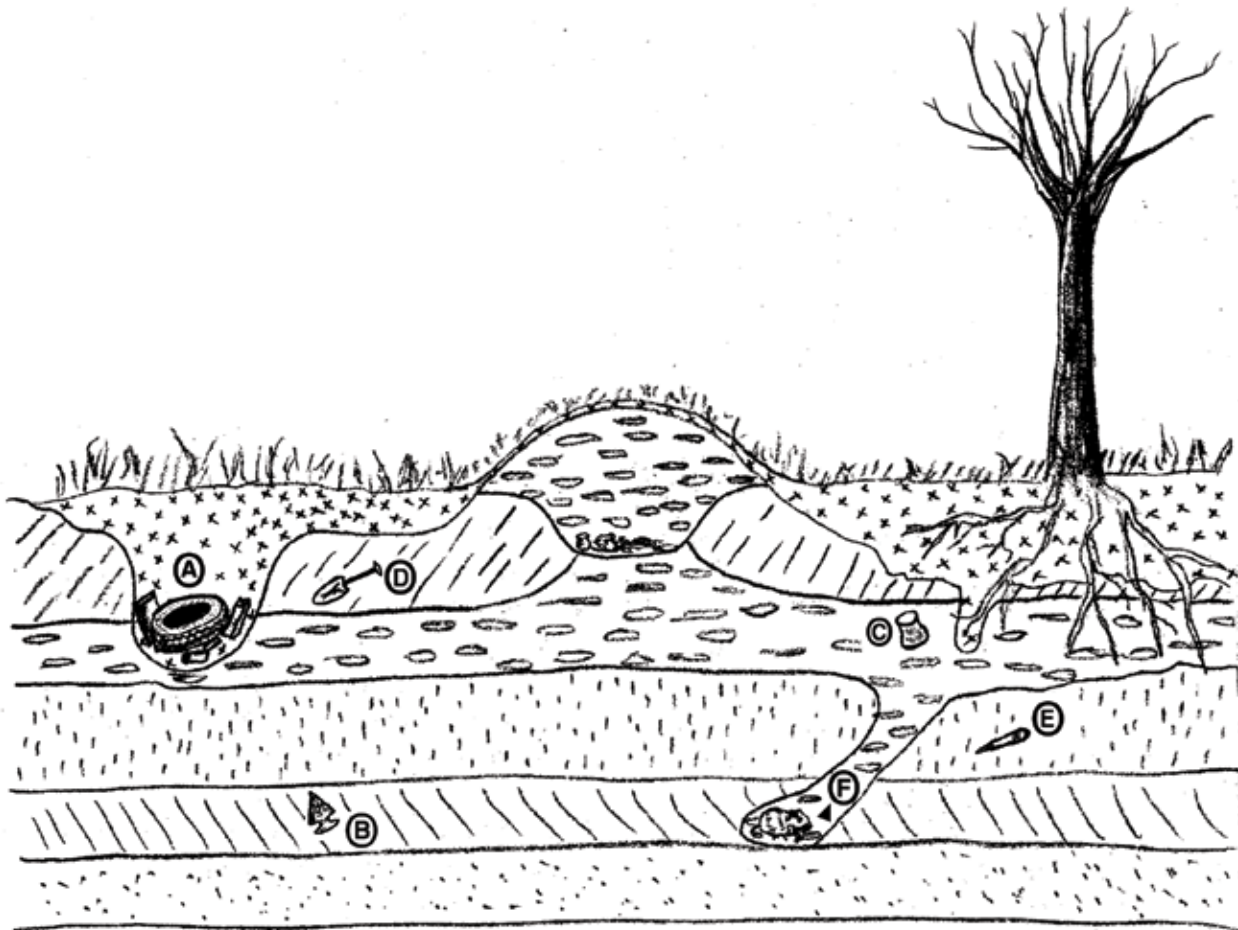
10-200 years ago

200-800 years ago

800-1,500 years ago

1,500-8,000 years ago

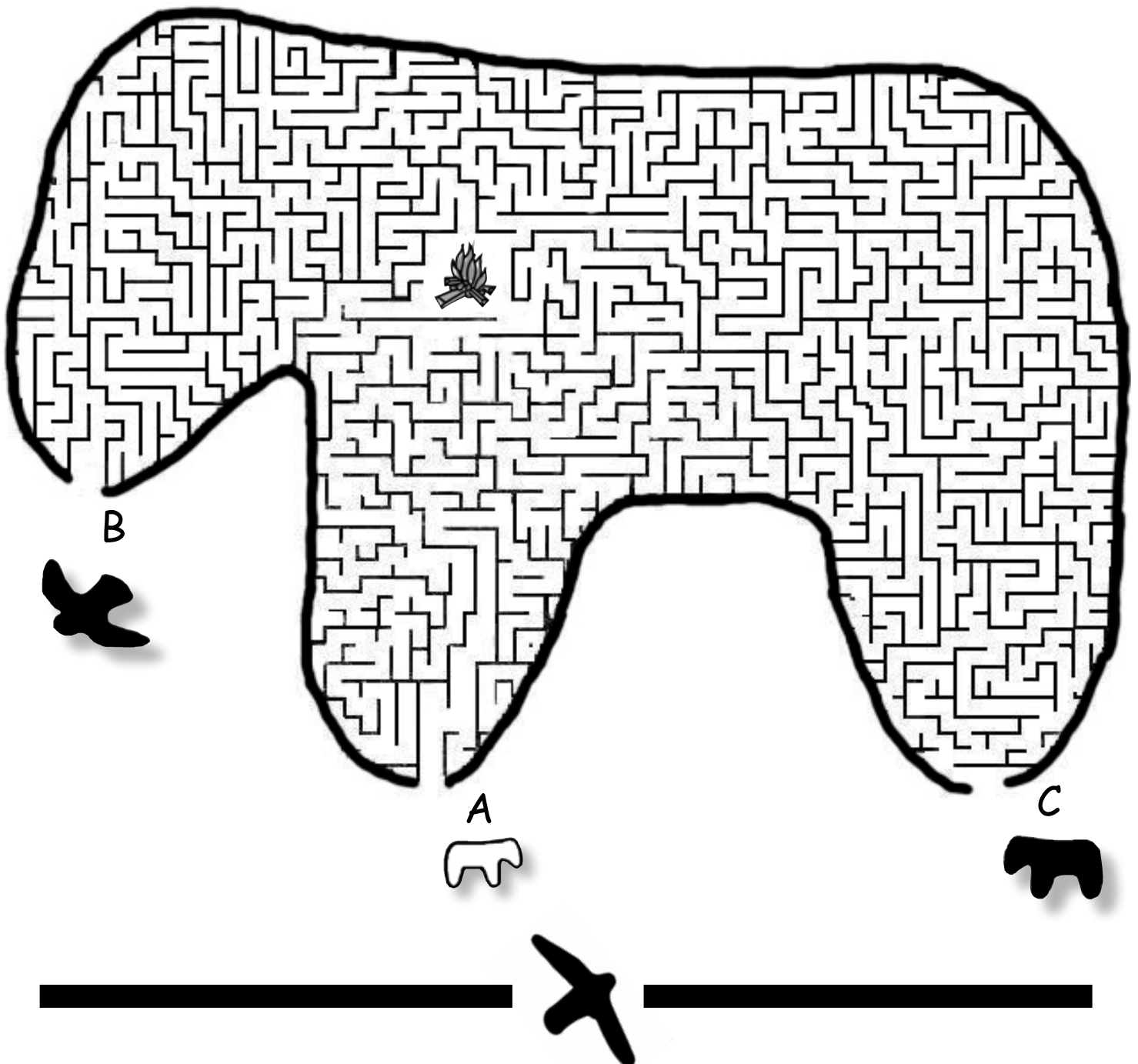
8,000+ years ago



# BEAR MAZE

While you are EXPLORING Effigy Mounds National Monument you will see many mounds. The effigy mounds are in the shapes of bears and birds. This national monument was created to PROTECT these mounds. We PROTECT them by not walking over them and we ask you to help protect them for future generations.

Find your way to the ceremonial fire pit located in the heart of the bear mound. Little Bears start at A, Birds of Prey start at B, and Great Bears start at C.



# ADOPT-A-TREE

While EXPLORING the trails at Effigy Mounds National Monument, you might encounter the tree that is "just right for you." If so, you can adopt that tree! When you have found the perfect tree, answer the following questions. Then come back to Effigy Mounds National Monument time and time again to check on your tree, PROTECT your tree and give it a hug!

Where is your tree?

(Describe its location along the trail. Example: On the right side of the trail just before Little Bear Mound.)

What kind of tree is it?

What do you think this tree has seen over the years of its life?

Do you think the tree is older or younger than you?

Does anything use this tree as a home?

Give your tree a name:



This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_

has adopted above said tree by the name of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ within the boundaries of

Effigy Mounds National Monument. The above named person will treat this tree with respect and honor, including the environment in which the tree is found.

Certified this day \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(Park Ranger)





## Match These Other National Park Sites

Draw a line matching the name of the park to its picture



Saratoga



Mesa Verde



Herbert Hoover  
(Birthplace)

Great Smoky  
Mountains



Grand Canyon



Mount Rushmore

Devils Tower

Yellowstone



PHOTOS BY NPS





# JUNIOR RANGER

## Effigy Mounds National Monument

This Certifies that

\_\_\_\_\_

has successfully completed all the requirements to be granted the title of **JUNIOR RANGER** for taking an active interest in Effigy Mounds National Monument

Explore, Learn, Protect: Be A Junior Ranger !



**Junior Ranger Pledge:** I promise to discover all I can about Effigy Mounds National Monument and to share my discoveries with others. I pledge to conserve the natural resources of the Earth and show respect for nature and the historical events that happened before me.

\_\_\_\_\_

Park Ranger

\_\_\_\_\_

Date



Eastern National promotes the public's understanding and support of America's national parks and other public trust partners by providing quality educational experiences, products, and services.



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.