

# Fort Pulaski

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## JUNIOR RANGER HANDBOOK



# Welcome to Fort Pulaski National Monument!

Hello, Junior Ranger!

You have been called into service to **EXPLORE**, **LEARN**, and **PROTECT** this amazing site. Use this Junior Ranger booklet as a guide to help you **EXPLORE** the fort, **LEARN** about its incredible history, and **PROTECT** the fort's beauty and surrounding environment so that everyone can experience Fort Pulaski and Cockspur Island for many years to come.

In order to earn your Fort Pulaski Junior Ranger badge, complete the number of activity pages for your age group indicated below. Use the glossary in the back if you need help. When finished, return this handbook to the visitor center or to a ranger inside the fort. A Park Ranger will review your work and award you a Junior Ranger Certificate and badge.

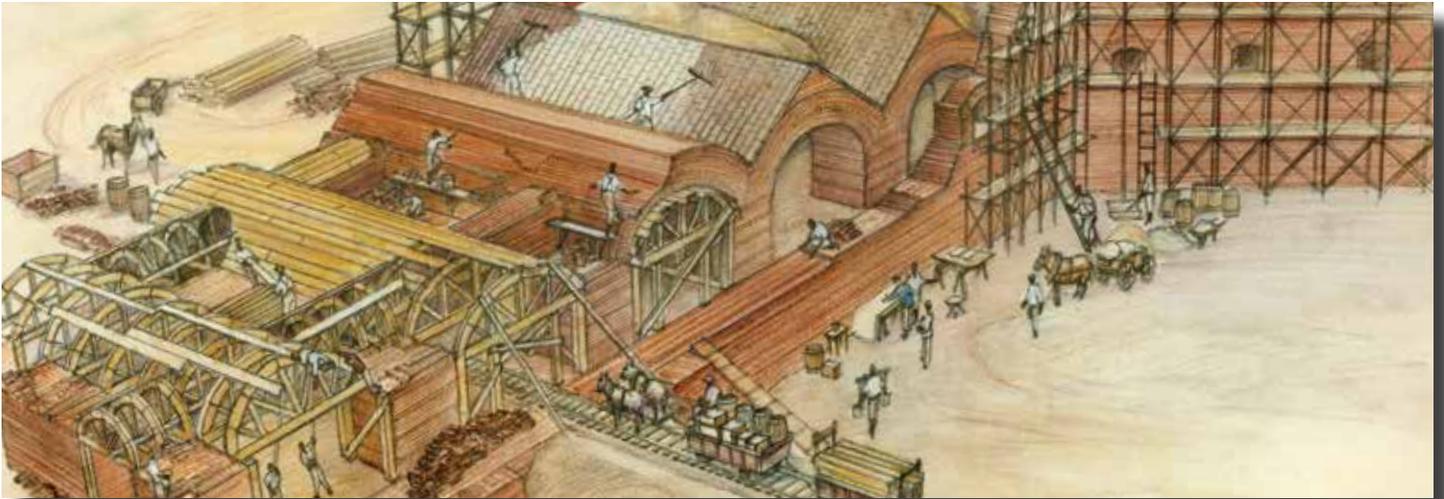
**Under 6 years old: 5+ activity pages**

**7-10 years old: 7+ activity pages**

**11 years and over: All activity pages**



# BUILDING THE FORT



The fort was built by both paid laborers and enslaved people from nearby Savannah and surrounding areas. Some of these people were experts with brick and stone, while others were very good at working with earth and wood.

There were many different materials needed to build the fort. While all the materials came from nature, many of them were not available nearby and had to travel from afar on trains and boats. One of the many reasons the fort took 18 years to build.

**Draw a line and match each part of the fort on the left side with the correct natural material on the right. Then circle if these materials were available nearby.**

		Available Nearby?	
		Yes	No
<i>Pilings and grillage</i>	Granite    Rock usually found in hilly areas.	Yes	No
<i>Floor and walls</i>	Soil    Tiny bits of minerals mixed with decayed plants.	Yes	No
<i>Cannon platforms on top</i>	Iron    Common mineral, but not found along the Atlantic coastline.	Yes	No
<i>Brackets (latches) on casemate doors</i>	Lead    Mineral found mainly in the Mississippi River valley.	Yes	No
<i>Filter for rainwater</i>	Pine trees    Common in flat, sandy soils in eastern United States.	Yes	No
<i>Terreplein</i>	Bricks    Made from clay, a common mineral found in many locations.	Yes	No
<i>Pipes</i>	Oysters    Found in bays near the ocean.	Yes	No

# WILDLIFE

More than just a fort! Fort Pulaski was built on a marsh and mud island called Cockspur Island. The marsh and forest environments around you attract a wide variety of marine and other wildlife. As you explore the areas surrounding Fort Pulaski, you might be surprised at what you see.



Great Blue Heron

**Which animals do you think live around  
Cockspur Island? Circle your answers.**

*alligator*

**OTTER**

*egret*

frog

*snail*

**TURTLE**

*Fish*

**BALD EAGLE**

snake

**CAMEL**

*Blue Heron*

**moose**

*Gnats*

**elephant**

**bear**

*White-tailed Deer*

**MOSQUITO**



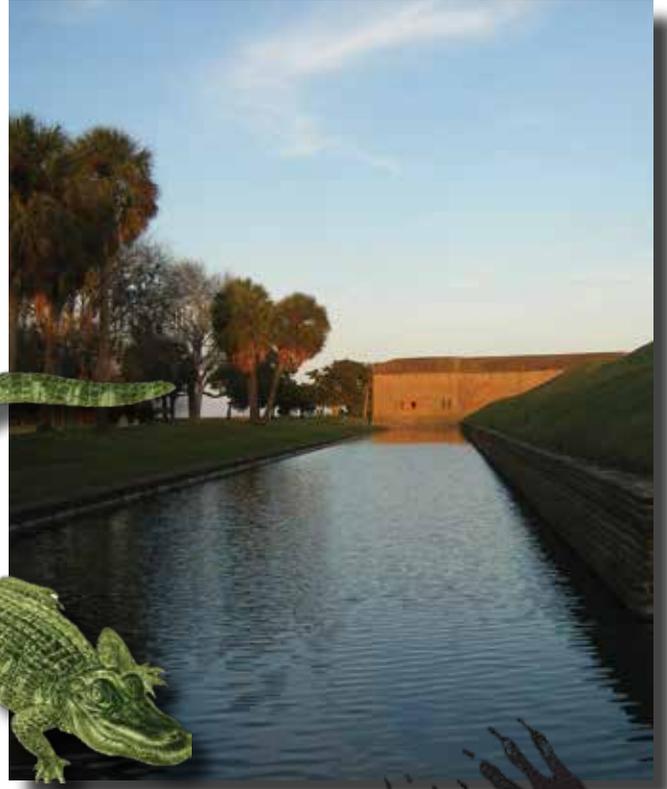
American Alligator

# THE MOAT

The moat was dug by enslaved workers building the fort. The water is 8 feet deep, so be careful around the moat, the water is over your head! The water in the moat attracts lots of wildlife because there are fish, frogs, and insects for them to eat.

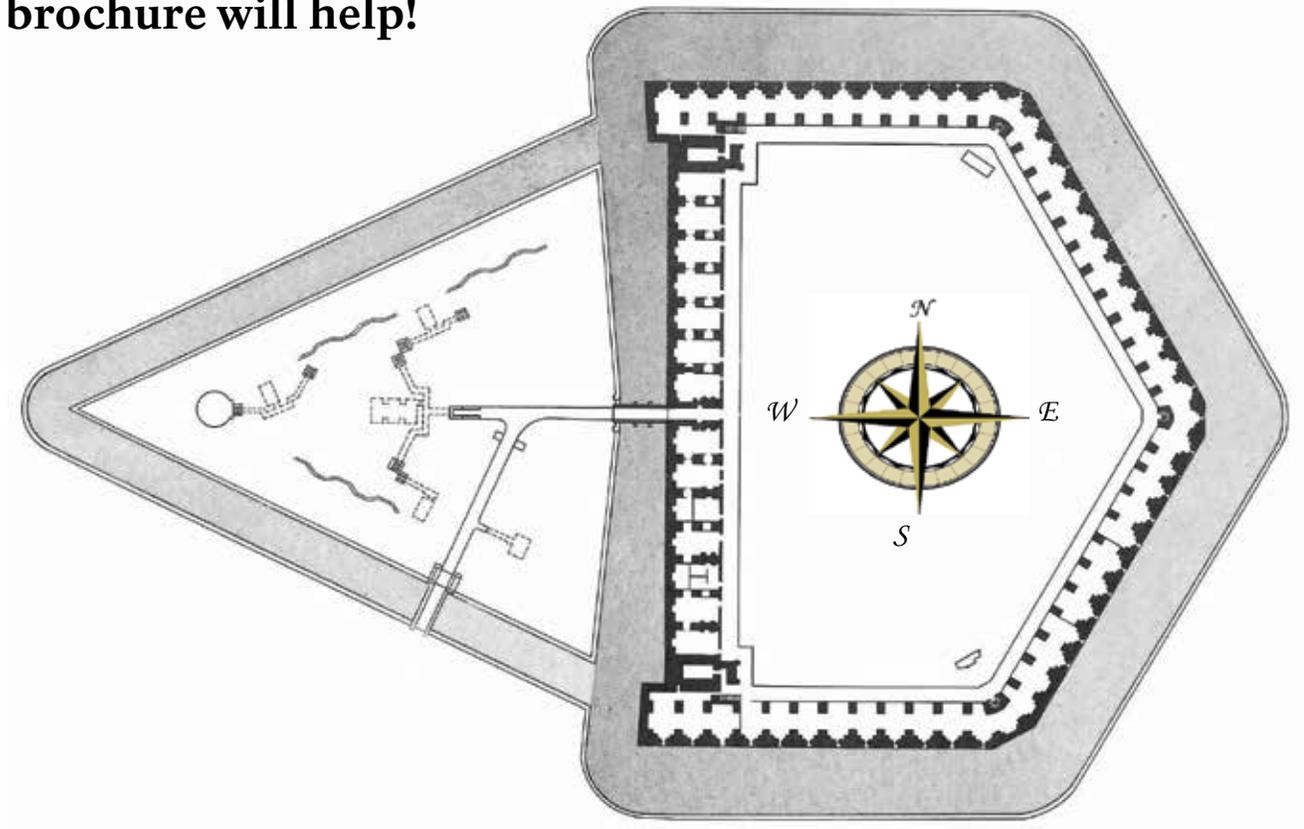
You might see an alligator around the moat. Alligators are wild and dangerous animals. If you see one, give it plenty of room. Don't feed the alligators. Human food is not good for wild animals.

The moat is one obstacle to keep invaders out of the fort. Cross the first drawbridge and stand at the second drawbridge. There are several other features of the fort designed to keep invaders outside. **Draw or describe these features.**



# THE PARADE GROUND

Stand in the grassy area in the middle of the fort. This is called the parade ground. It is where soldiers conducted inspections and practiced with their weapons. The arched rooms all around the bottom of the fort are called casemates. Some of the casemates at Fort Pulaski were used for cannon and some were used as sleeping quarters. **Explore the fort and find the places listed below. Mark them on the map. Your park brochure will help!**



Find the items listed below. Mark their location on the map above.

- |                         |                    |                  |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| A. SALLYPORT (ENTRANCE) | E. STAIRCASE       | I. DEMILUNE      |
| B. CASEMATE GIN         | F. FIG TREE        | J. BATTLE DAMAGE |
| C. GUARD ROOM           | G. BLINDAGE        | K. RIFLED CANNON |
| D. DRAWBRIDGE           | H. POWDER MAGAZINE | L. PRISON        |



## *Did You Know?*

Soldiers played baseball on the parade ground to help pass the time.

# THE NEW CANNON TECHNOLOGY

Find the large black cannon on the parade ground.

This is the type of cannon that was used to attack the fort. During the Civil War, it was a new technology. Look inside the barrel. Do you see grooves? That is called rifling.

When the ammunition was fired from this cannon, the rifling made it spin in a tight spiral. This new cannon could fire more than one mile with great accuracy. Rifled cannon were the key to the quick Union victory in the battle.



There were five of these cannon in the Union batteries on Tybee Island.

On the first day of the attack, **three** of the cannon fired 133 projectiles each. **Two** of the cannon fired 134 projectiles each.

**How many total projectiles were fired from these cannon on the first day?**

**SHOW YOUR WORK**

Rifled cannon fired projectiles that would spin through the air and travel longer distances. Circle the rifled projectile.



# THE PRISON

Find the casemates with the iron bars and wide bunkbeds.

This section of the fort was used as a prison in the winter of 1864-65. Union soldiers controlled the fort, and they kept several hundred Confederates as prisoners during the cold winter months. These prisoners, known as "The Immortal 600," spent six months at Fort Pulaski.

Conditions were very bad for the prisoners. They had very few blankets and hardly any firewood.

**H**unger drove our men to catching and eating dogs, cats, and rats...Our men became as expert as cats at catching rats. If a rodent poked his nose out of his hole some fellow would nab him like a cat...When the wolf, hunger, takes hold of a man, all that is human in the man disappears."

J.Ogden Murray,  
"The Immortal 600"

Read the diary above and circle the foods below that you think were eaten by the prisoners while they were imprisoned at Fort Pulaski.



ONION



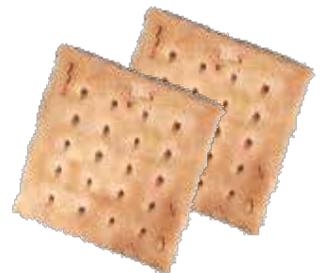
CUPCAKE



TURKEY



RAT



HARDTACK



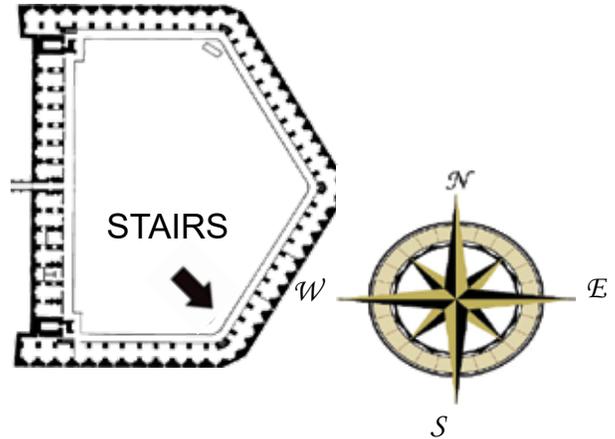
APPLE

What are three things from your life you would want to have with you if you were living in the prison?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# THE BREACHED CORNER

Take the stairs to the top of the fort and head to the southeast corner. This is the breached corner. A breach is a gap or hole. The Union cannon shot two huge holes in the section of the fort below you. They fixed the hole after the battle, but you can still see damage to the walls and cannon.



1862 photograph taken near the breached corner after the battle.

## LOOKING AT THE LANDSCAPE

As you stand on the top of the fort, look across the water to the southeast toward Tybee Island. The landscape has changed greatly over the last 165 years.

The historic dike system keeps salt water out, which has allowed trees to grow where they wouldn't have. Even Tybee Island has changed. It has transformed from a quiet barrier island into a thriving coastal town.

As you look toward Tybee Island, circle the objects you see today. Place a checkmark on the line for each object that you think was here in 1862 during the Battle of Fort Pulaski.

**TYBEE LIGHTHOUSE**

1862? \_\_\_\_

**TREES**

1862? \_\_\_\_

**CARS**

1862? \_\_\_\_

**HOUSES**

1862? \_\_\_\_

**COCKSPUR LIGHTHOUSE**

1862? \_\_\_\_

**DOCKS**

1862? \_\_\_\_

**HIGHWAY BRIDGE**

1862? \_\_\_\_

**BOATS**

1862? \_\_\_\_

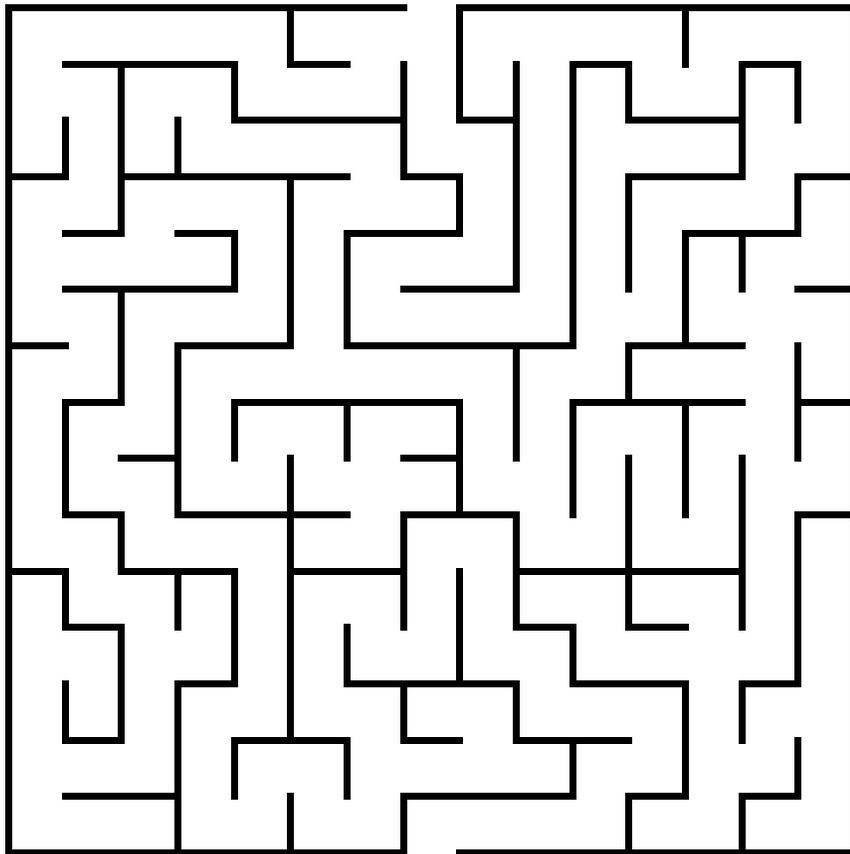
**WATER TOWER**

1862? \_\_\_\_

# THE COCKSPUR LIGHTHOUSE

Clinging to an islet off the southeastern tip of Cockspur Island is the Cockspur Lighthouse. This little light has withstood crashing waves, the roar of cannon, and the wrath of time.

The forty-six-foot-tall brick lighthouse marks the South Channel of the Savannah River and is one of only five surviving lighthouses in the state. Lighthouses are very important for guiding ships to harbor, especially at night or in stormy weather when it is hard to see.



**LightKeeper  
Wanted!**

Help guide the ship  
safely into the port of  
Savannah.



# PRESERVING THE PAST

Look at the breached corner on the outside of Fort Pulaski. What do you notice about the fort?

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(Left) View of breached corner after the Battle of Fort Pulaski, April 1862. (Right) Modern view showing same wall that was repaired after the battle. Several battle scars still remain.

The mission of the National Park Service is to preserve the historic and natural resources of this country. Preserve means to save for the future. **If the National Park Service is supposed to take care of Fort Pulaski, why didn't they fix the walls?**

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# THE SYMBOLS OF WHO WE ARE

Symbols are amazing things. One symbol can say so much!

The symbol of the National Park Service shows the things we protect for everyone in the parks.

The **Bison** represents all of the animals.

The **Sequoia** Tree represents all of the plants.

The **Mountain** represents all the scenic views.

The **Water** represents all the recreational opportunities.

And the **Arrowhead** represents the historical and cultural value of our national parks.



Now it's your turn! In the space below create your own symbol with 3-5 things that represent you.

# INTERVIEW A PARK RANGER

Find a park ranger and ask them questions to learn about Fort Pulaski. Asking questions is a great way to learn more!

What is your name?

Answer:

What is your favorite part of being a park ranger?

Answer:

Where does this park get its name?

Answer:

What kind of animals have you seen in this park?

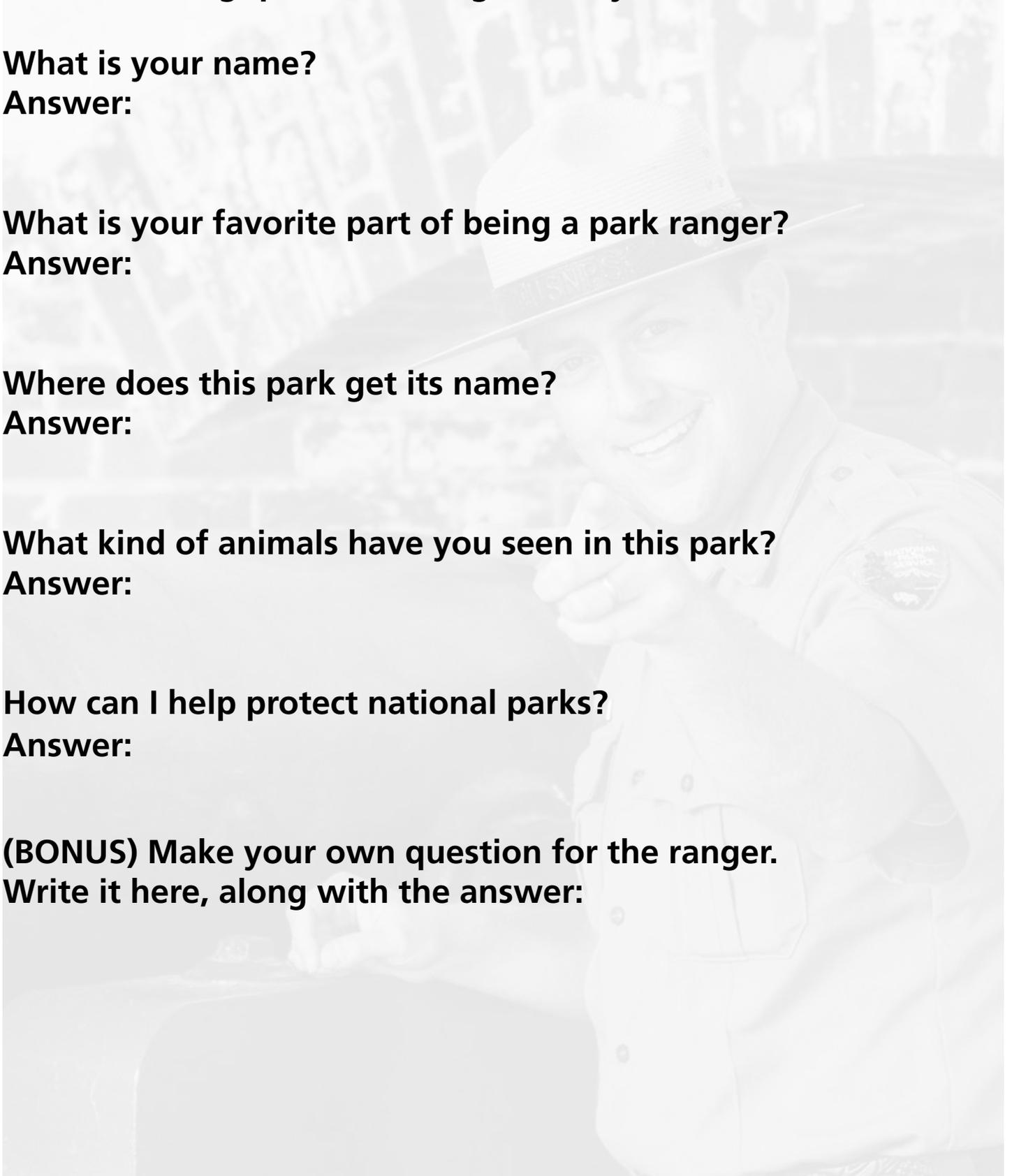
Answer:

How can I help protect national parks?

Answer:

**(BONUS)** Make your own question for the ranger.

Write it here, along with the answer:



# GLOSSARY

**ammunition**-the material fired by any weapon such as shot, shrapnel, bullets, or shells.

**barrel** - the long tube of a gun or cannon

**blindage** -large timbers to protect inside of fort

**breach** - a hole or opening

**carriage** - the piece of equipment that supports the barrel of a

**casemate** - a big room inside the fort, mainly used for holding

**cistern** - underground water storage

**Confederate** - soldiers from the southern states that formed the Confederate States of America (CSA)

**gin** - simple machine used to move cannon

**grillage** - wooden, underground platform that supports the fort

**infirmary** - hospital

**magazine** - room where black powder was stored

**moat** - water-filled ditch surrounding a fortification

**muzzle** - the opening at the end of a barrel of a gun

**parade ground** - large grassy area in center of fort

**pilings** - sunken wooden timbers that support the grillage

**preserve**- to keep safe, protect

**terreplein**- the top of the fort

**Union**- soldiers from the northern states that remained in the United States of America (USA)



# JUNIOR

## FORT PULASKI NATIONAL MONUMENT

As a Junior Ranger, I promise to protect and preserve  
Fort Pulaski National Monument and all national parks. I  
will continue to learn about parks and share what I have  
learned with my family and friends.

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Official Junior Ranger



Official Junior  
Ranger Stamp

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Park Ranger



Official Park Stamp

# RANGER

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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[www.nps.gov/fopu](http://www.nps.gov/fopu)



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