



# Growing Communities

## *A Quest at Muir Woods*



To learn more about Muir Woods,  
visit our website: [www.nps.gov/muwo](http://www.nps.gov/muwo)



Save-the-Redwoods League™  
Education Grants Program

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Follow the quest and find the clues.  
Along this journey many things will surprise you.  
At the end of the quest a hidden treasure box will be found.  
So, pay attention and write all the letters down.

Start under the Muir Woods sign.  
Look way up to your right: What do you find?  
Tall, very old redwood trees  
Waiting to speak to you and me.



Stroll along the boardwalk.  
You must be quiet...please do not talk.  
Quietly take 40 steps and you will see  
A giant hole in a redwood tree.



Continue through the woods.  
Cross the bridge—I think you should.  
Look for a window in an old-growth tree.  
There's a window in it? How can this be?

Now look for others standing close together  
A "family circle" supporting one another.

**1** **st letter of clue**

**Spirit of Forest sign; 3rd line, 4th word, 1st letter**

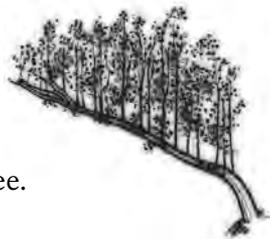


On the fence to the left place your hand.  
Ten posts forward at a fallen log you'll land.  
Stand with your back against a tree—listen closely!  
Tell someone in a quiet voice what you hear mostly.

The rock ahead is hard and cold.  
Move forward, a new environment will unfold  
Cross a bridge, up the path, you'll go.  
On the right Redwood Creek flows.



Keep walking forward and look to your right  
A giant redwood fell late one night.  
Step through an arch of bay laurel trees  
And a wonder of different life and light you'll see.



In the opening spin around.  
How many types of trees can be found?

Sun-kissed you are now, but that was not always so.  
A giant bay laurel tree here did grow.  
As it stretched for the sun, over it blew.  
Opening a gap so light can shine through.

Now a blanket of new life instead of bare ground.  
Without that light none would be found.  
Under these leaves closely peek.  
A variety of critters you might seek.



From the gap where the open sky can be seen.  
Head down the path back into the shady green.

Go around the curve—look to your right and see  
A young redwood tree grown from seed.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> letter of clue

Sunlight and shade sign; 15<sup>th</sup> line, 4<sup>th</sup> word, 4<sup>th</sup> letter



Continue your quest past the Bicentennial Tree  
That has stood witness to over two hundred years of history.

As we continue to watch the old redwoods grow.  
Behold you have entered Bohemian Grove.

Stand inside the hollow tree and imagine what it is like to be  
As ancient as this old-growth tree.  
Protecting the tree is a thick coat of bark.  
The heat and the flames left only black marks.



Black scars on the trees are evidence of fire.  
The burns long ago helped the forest grow higher.  
Enriching the soil and clearing the way.  
So new life can sprout each and every day.

Please stay on the path and do your share  
To show these trees how much you care.

**3** **rd letter of clue**

**Bohemian grove sign; 6th line, 3rd word, 3rd letter**

**4** **th letter of clue**

**Sign near walk-in tree; 5th word, 1st letter**

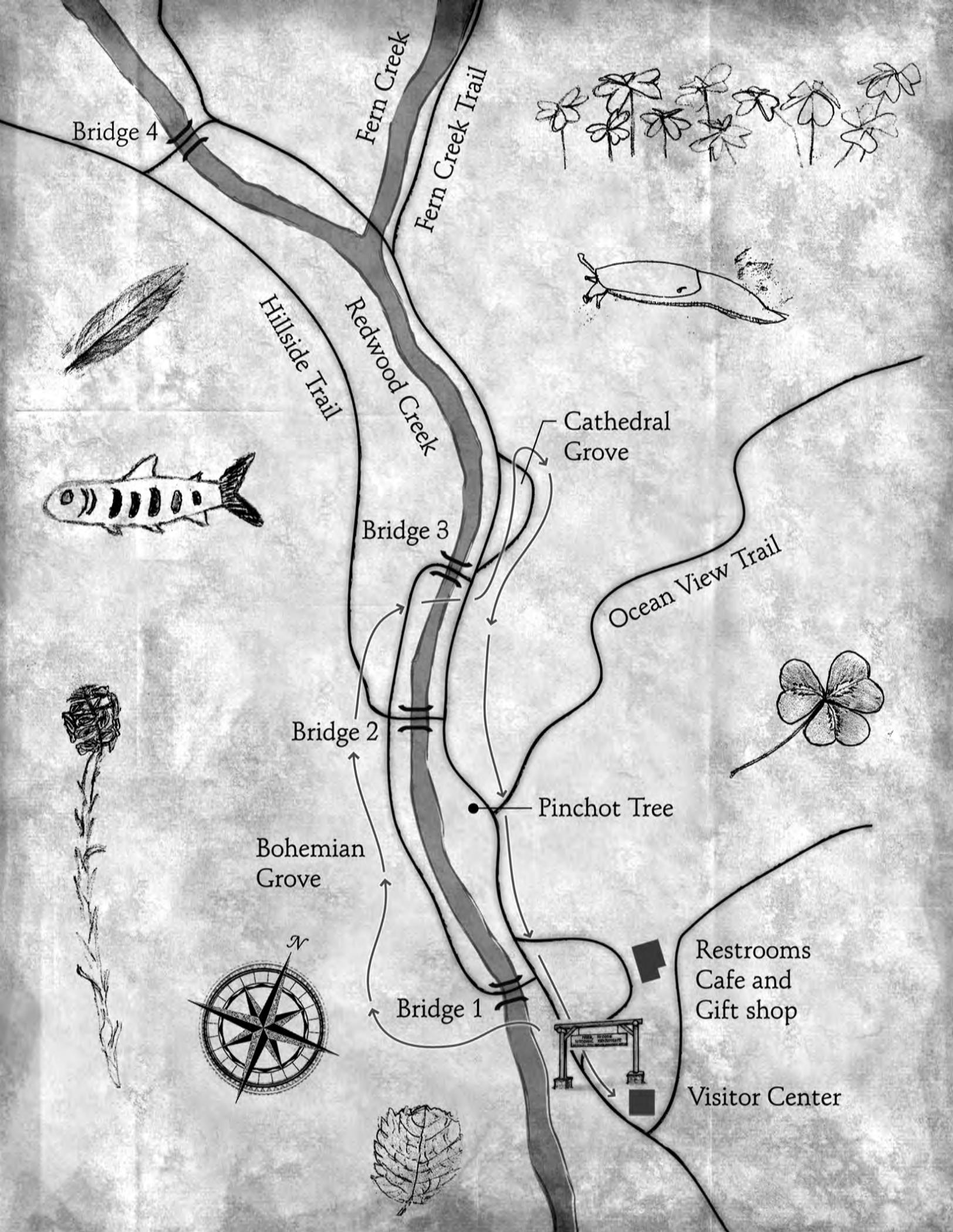
Up the trail on the left you will see a log with a hole.  
Spy inside, you are near your goal.  
Ignore the left and ignore the right.  
Keep walking straight, you'll be all right.

Listen to the creek find the fallen bay laurel tree.  
Take 15 steps and you are where you should be.  
Look high, look low—what do you see?  
These are two places that burls can be.

Burls are on trunks and also on roots.  
They sprout to make new branches or shoots.  
The old tree clones itself to make a new me.  
All the trees together form a circle family.



Until you reach the next burl, skip 15 times.  
As you continue your journey, count the tree-caves you find.  
Across the bridge, the number 7 is near.  
Tiptoe towards it...shhh...listen...what do you hear?



Bridge 4

Fern Creek

Fern Creek Trail

Hillside Trail

Redwood Creek

Cathedral Grove

Bridge 3

Ocean View Trail

Bridge 2

Pinchot Tree

Bohemian Grove

Bridge 1

Restrooms  
Cafe and  
Gift shop

Visitor Center



Step softly down the leftward path and look,  
Be patient you'll find a redwood nook.  
Step inside and breathe a peaceful pause in our song.  
Listen—as Redwood Creek flows along.

To continue your quest, turn left, don't turn back.  
Loop around to the right until you reach the plaque.



The peace you feel now, others have felt too.  
They called on world leaders to decide what to do.  
World War II had just ended, the world wanted peace.  
For inspiration and healing, they looked to these trees.

**5** **th letter of clue**  
**brass plaque, 3rd line, 1st word, 2nd letter**

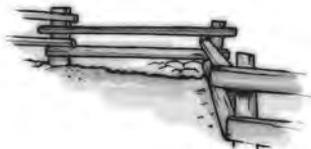


Head south down the path back to Bridge 3.  
Do not cross, but walk down stream on the east side with glee.  
Count down the signs, 6,5,4,3.  
Turn your back to the bench and you will see  
A moss-covered snag which is a standing dead tree.

Continue on down the path to the sign marked 2.  
The “V” on your right gives a good view.  
This is a swimming hole but not for me or you.  
What you may see in the water is our next clue.



You're almost there, start at sign post 2.  
Count 19 fence posts, where are we taking you?



Stand on the bridge, freeze motion.  
Watch water flow from Mount Tam to ocean.  
Families, that live here, breathe with gills.  
In winter, adults swim from ocean to hills.

Are you lucky? Do you see fish?  
Salmon and trout go splish, splash, splish.

Some think a coin in the water will bring them a wish.  
But the coin is a poison to the family of fish.  
Instead, close your eyes and make a fish face.  
And wish for a bright future for this beautiful place.

Return to the path and turn to the right.  
At the top of the small hill, there's a rock in sight.  
Graywacke (GRAY-WAK-EE) is the name of the stone.  
It's where all the redwoods love to make their home.

Walk past a redwood that's split.  
Then look for the tree with a plaque in front of it.



Now just you wait. I have something to say.  
Do you know why we have Muir Woods today?  
It began as a place where a child came to play.

After much time in nature he spent.  
This young child grew into a man named William Kent.  
He moved eastward to learn and to roam.  
Until with his wife Elizabeth he returned home.

Can you imagine what a startling fright?  
To return to stumps, pollution and blight?  
What once was lively and wonder-filled.  
Was quickly being stomped and felled and milled.

But for this last spot there was still enough time.  
And to save these woods Kent would spend his last dime.  
We needed a miracle, but what would it be?  
He turned to friends and community.  
And for help he quickly went.  
To Pinchot, Roosevelt, Muir, and Elizabeth Kent.

“Bully idea,” said the President, “we’ll name it for you.”  
“Better yet,” said Kent, “here’s what we’ll do.”  
“Name it for a hero of mine and a friend of yours too.”  
“Let’s name it for John Muir...yes, Muir Woods will do.”

**6** **th letter of clue**

**Saving muir woods; 8th line, 5th word, 2nd letter**

**What year was Muir Woods National Monument created?  
This is the combination to the treasure box.**

Continue down between redwood rails.  
On the last leg of this lovely trail.  
Past old growth and new trees .  
Rotten logs and redwood seeds.

Soon you’ll hear all the others.  
Fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers.  
Say goodbye to the ancient ones.  
Head out the archway, your task is almost done.



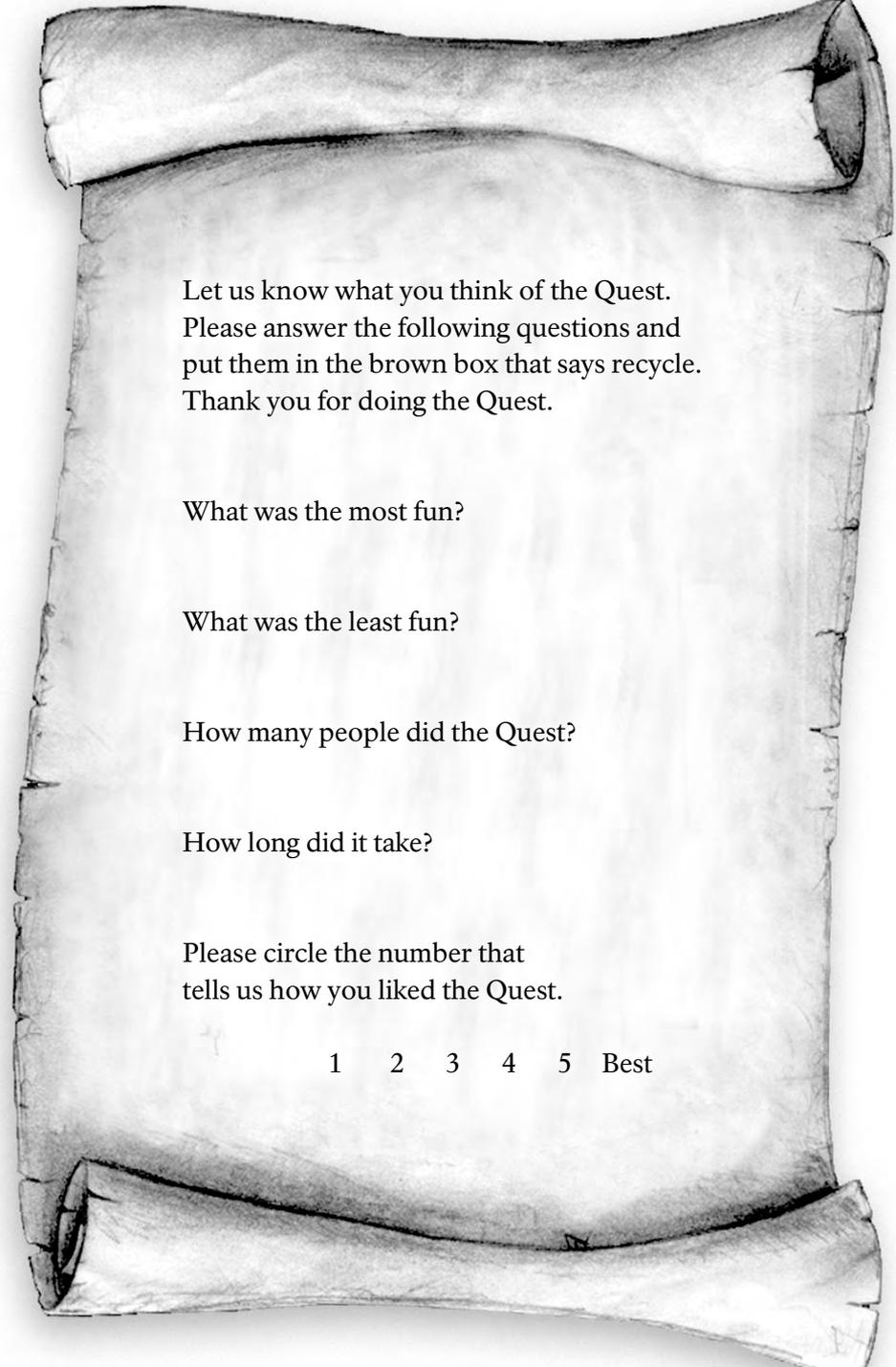
Look around, search high and low.  
A treasure box is hidden in a place you don’t know.  
Read the lettered clue and figure it out.  
The numbers are important, without a doubt.

**Fill-in letters for treasure box clue.**

**National Park Service**

<input type="text"/>					
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**1 2 3 4 5 6**



Let us know what you think of the Quest.  
Please answer the following questions and  
put them in the brown box that says recycle.  
Thank you for doing the Quest.

What was the most fun?

What was the least fun?

How many people did the Quest?

How long did it take?

Please circle the number that  
tells us how you liked the Quest.

1 2 3 4 5 Best