

Cultural History along the Natchez Trace Parkway



Classroom Lesson:

Planning the Trek (code PPT)

➤ **Grade Level:**

4th grade

➤ **Subject Areas:**

Math, Social Studies,
Civics, Geography

➤ **Setting:**

Classroom

➤ **Duration:**

30 minutes or more

➤ **Skills:**

Spatial relevance,
map measurement,
map reading,

➤ **MS Objectives:**

MS Social Studies:

➤ **Vocabulary:**

Legend, Map Key,
boatman

Summary: Students will use maps to locate specific points and measure the distances between the points and then answer a few questions.



Materials Needed: One complete photocopied set of the four Natchez Trace Parkway sections per each pair of students. Scissors and tape to trim and then tape the sheets together in the proper sequence. Pencils and paper.

Instructional Information

Mississippi Objectives:

3. Demonstrate the ability to use social studies tools resources,
 - a. Describe relationships among people, places, and environments
 - b. Demonstrate spatial and ecological perspectives to life situations
 - c. Locate Mississippi in relation to other states.
 - d. Identify time relevant to the student's environment.
 - f. Recognize space relevant to a student's environment
 - h. Locate various places in Mississippi using a grid
5. Integrate, connect, and apply social studies into other subject areas and everyday life.
 - c. Measure the distance between geographical locations discussed within

Mathematics:

1. Understand relationships among numbers, use the four basic operations, compute fluently, and make reasonable estimates.
2. Analyze and represent patterns, number relationships, and functions using algebraic symbols. Demonstrate an understanding of the properties of the basic operations.

Learning Objectives: The students will be able to: 1) locate various places on Natchez Trace Parkway 2) Identify landmarks on a map 3) measure distances between points on a map. 4) Use personal judgment to plan a successful trip.

Teacher Set: Students they will pretend they are mapping out a hike along the Natchez Trace. They will determine how long it would take to walk the Natchez Trace Parkway today. They can then determine how long an experienced bicyclist would take to make the trip. They could also determine how long it would take a car to travel the entire Natchez Trace. They will compare their answers to the average time it took historic boatmen to travel the Trace. They may work in pairs. Students may be given different assignments according to their skill levels.

The car trip is the easiest and the hiking trip is the most challenging.

Teacher Overview: The old Natchez Trace was a hard place to walk. A very fast journey would take about two weeks. Most people took much longer; some people died or were murdered before they completed their journey. A healthy person in good shape can walk 15 or 20 miles per day. Today An experienced bicyclist might travel 50 miles per day. The speed limit on the Natchez Trace Parkway is 50 miles per hour. Horses can average 35 miles on good trails.

Student Instruction: The students will determine the number of stops (nights) or the number of hours it takes to travel the Trace. The students may be assigned only the hiking option, or all of the options.

Student Task: Map a trip along the Natchez Trace. Depending on the teacher assignment, you will hike, bike, ride or drive. Hikers may hike no more than 20 miles per day. You may hike less than 20 miles. Bikers may bike no more than 50 miles but may bike less. Riders may ride no more than 35 miles but may ride less and drives must travel no more than 50 miles per hour. You will need to stop and spend the night at a town or campground. On your tracking sheet, write the name of the stop and the mileage you traveled that day. When you are done, count the number of stops you made. This is how many nights you spent on the Natchez Trace.

Teacher Closure: Lead the students in a discussion about what factors make it quicker to hike the Natchez Trace today rather than in the early 1800's

Student Assessment: Participation in the activity and follow-up discussion.

Suggestions for re-teaching: Play the Trekking the Trace Classroom Game

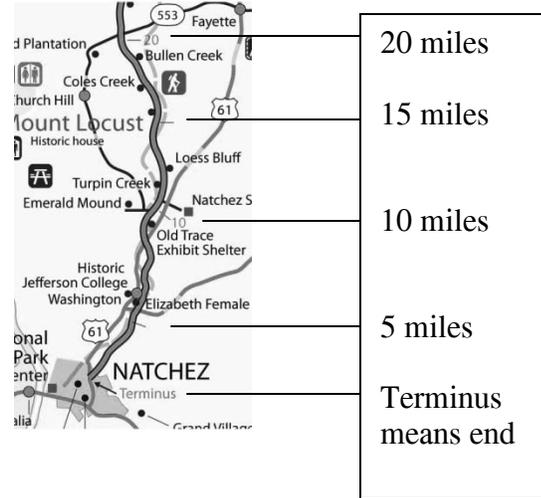
Extension: Visit the Natchez Trace Parkway and see how long it takes your school bus to travel from one point to the next.

Instructions to all:

Finding a safe place to stay was a problem for the boatmen known as Kaintucks. They might meet up with outlaws, thieves, angry Indians and even bears. They might get wet or hungry. If they got injured, it could be a really bad problem. While it is best to stay on trails and while horses are not allowed on many sections of the modern Parkway, for this exercise we will “pretend” that it is okay.

Carefully cut the white edges off of the maps then tape them together. Map 1 is the southern-most map and Map 4 is the northern-most map.

Look at the maps carefully. You will notice that the mile markers on the Natchez Trace are marked with numbers every ten miles and that there is a line marking the 5 mile half-way point.



Your assignment is to plan a trip on the modern Natchez Trace Parkway.

- Hikers can travel 20 miles per day.**
- Horses can travel 35 miles per day.**
- Bikers can travel 50 miles per day.**
- Cars travel 50 miles per hour.**

Starting at the Natchez Terminus, you will map a hike along the Natchez Trace. You may hike no more than 20 miles per day. You may hike less than 20 miles. You will need to stop at a town or campground. On your tracking sheet, write the name of the stop and the mileage you traveled that day. When you are done, count the number of stops you made. This is how many nights you spent on the Natchez Trace. (you may not need to use all of the lines on the tracking sheet)

Tracking Sheet for a hiking trip

	How many miles traveled this day	Where I stopped
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42.		

Add more if necessary.

Bicycling Trip:

Starting at the Natchez Terminus, you will map a bike trip along the Natchez Trace. You may hike no more than 50 miles per day. You may bike less than 50 miles. You will need to stop and spend the night at a town or campground. On your tracking sheet, write the name of the stop and the mileage you traveled that day. When you are done, count the number of stops you made. This is how many nights you spent on the Natchez Trace. (you may not need to use all of the lines on the tracking sheet)

	How many miles traveled this day	Where I stopped
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
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11.		
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22.		

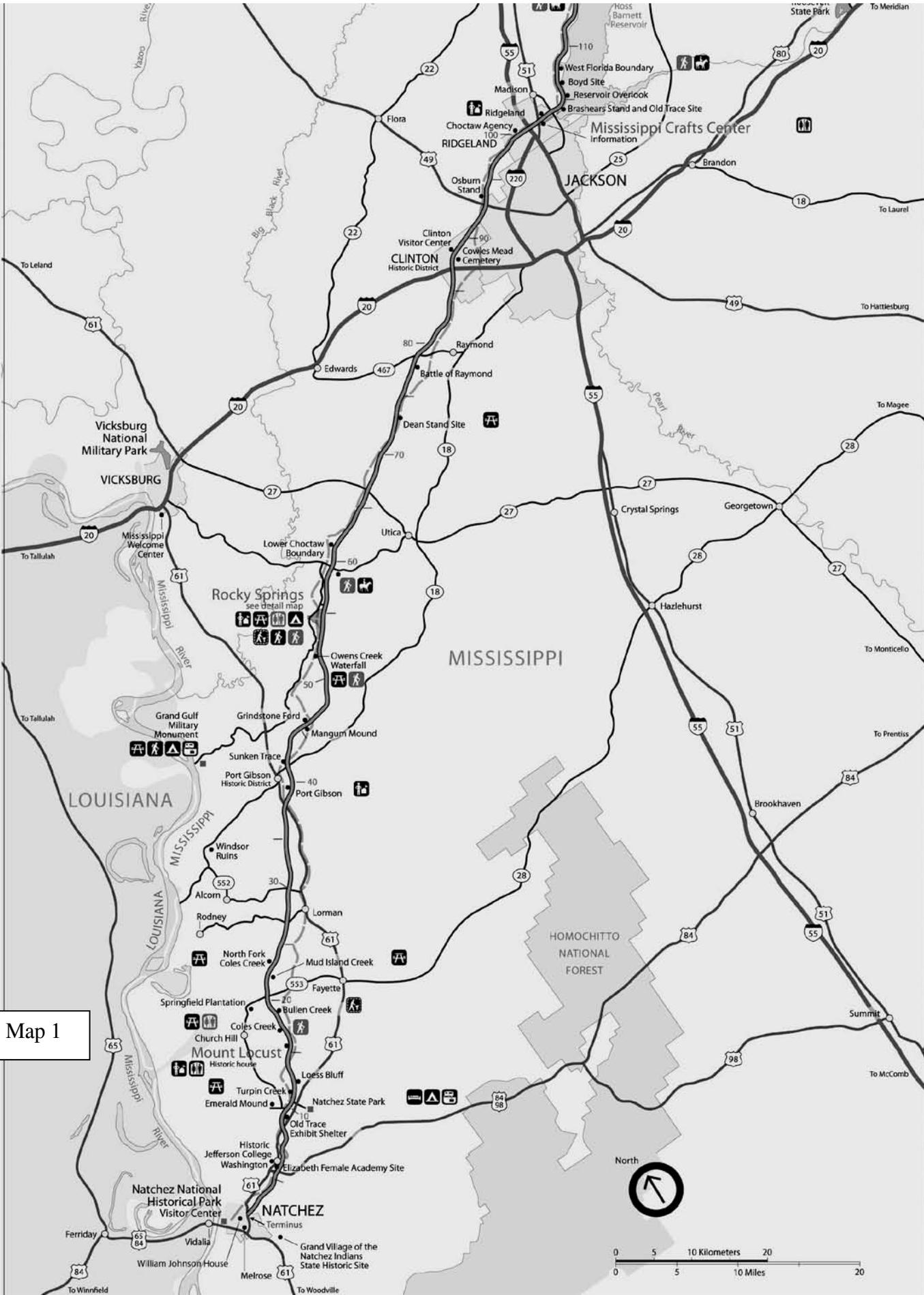
Horse Riding Trip:

Starting at the Natchez Terminus, you will map a horseback trip along the Natchez Trace. You may ride no more than 35 miles per day. You may ride less than 35 miles. You will need to stop and spend the night at a town or campground. On your tracking sheet, write the name of the stop and the mileage you traveled that day. When you are done, count the number of stops you made. This is how many nights you spent on the Natchez Trace. (you may not need to use all of the lines on the tracking sheet)

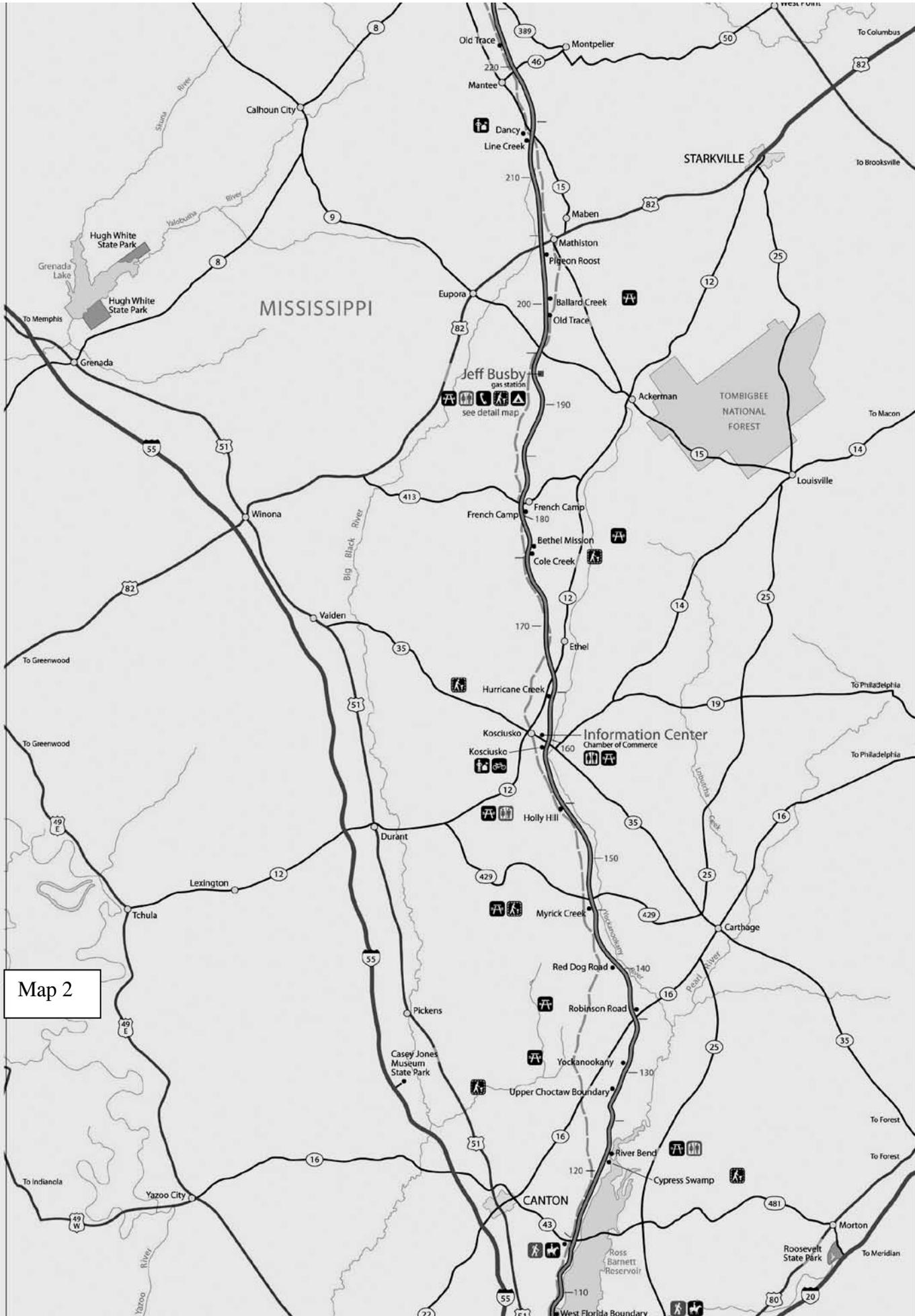
	How many miles traveled this day	Where I stopped
1.		
2.		
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Starting at the Natchez Terminus, you will map a car or motorcycle trip along the Natchez Trace. You may drive no more than 50 miles per hour. You may drive less than 50 miles per hour. You will need to stop and spend the night at a town or campground. On your tracking sheet, write the name of the stop and the mileage you traveled that day. When you are done, count the number of stops you made. This is how many nights you spent on the Natchez Trace. (you may not need to use all of the lines on the tracking sheet)

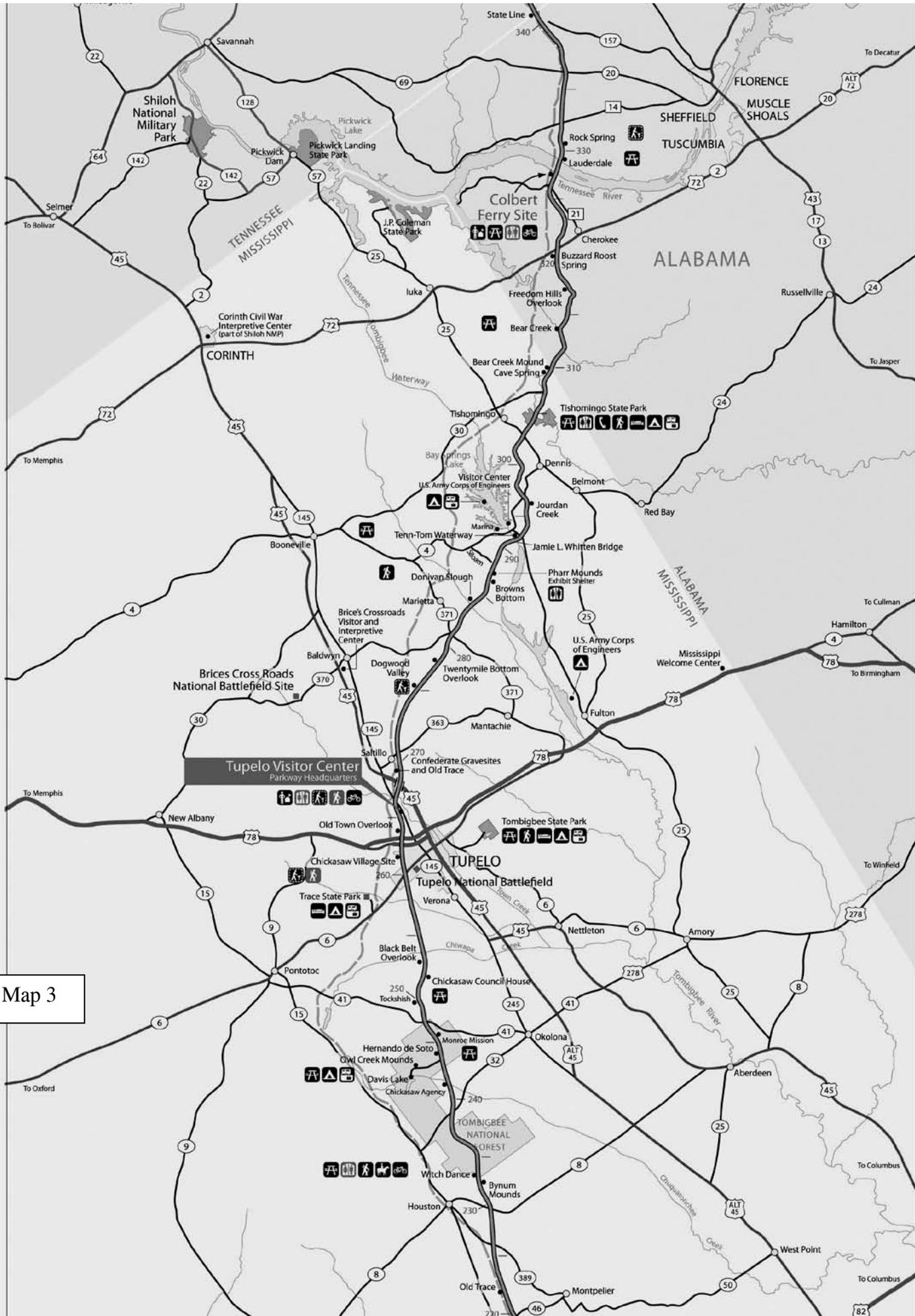
	How many miles traveled this day	Where I stopped
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
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10.		



Map 1



Map 2



Map 3

430 Natchez Trace Parkway & milepost
(Mileposts are shown every 5 miles and labeled every 10 miles on map.)

Historic route of the Trace

Tennessee Scenic Parkway

Minimum parkway bridge clearances are 14 feet, 6 inches.

Restroom

Wheelchair-accessible restroom

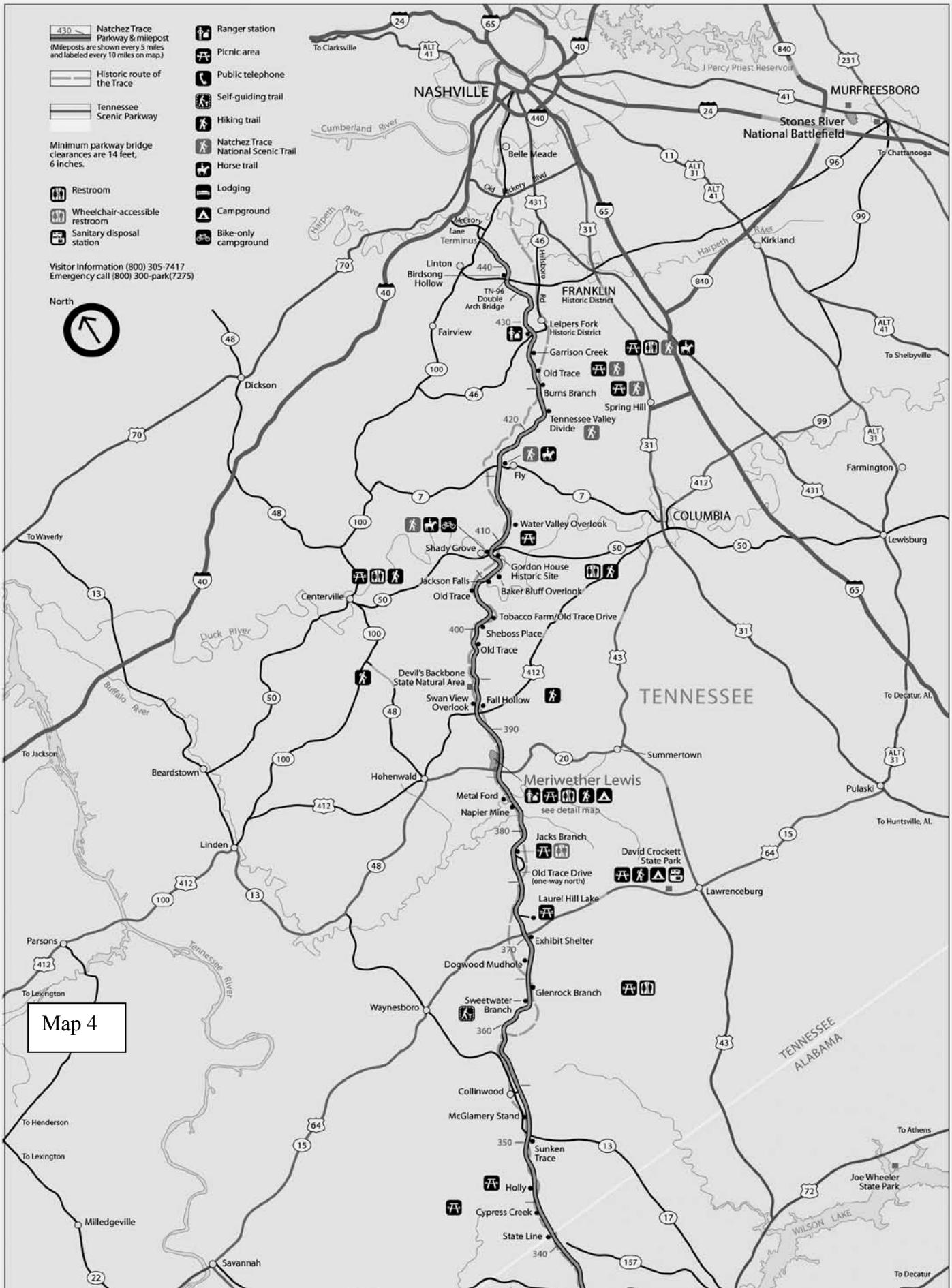
Sanitary disposal station

Visitor Information (800) 305-7417
Emergency call (800) 300-park(7275)

North



- Ranger station
- Picnic area
- Public telephone
- Self-guiding trail
- Hiking trail
- Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail
- Horse trail
- Lodging
- Campground
- Bike-only campground



Map 4