

# Valley Forge

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National Historical Park



Baron von Steuben Drilling Troops at  
Valley Forge, by E. A. Abbey (c. 1904)

## Junior Ranger Activity Book

# Explore!

- 1** First, complete the National Park Arrowhead page.



- 2** Complete ONE military history page, ONE nature page, and ONE daily life page in this activity book.



Military



Nature



Daily Life



Find the **anvil** for activity instructions.

- 3** Complete 3 of the activities below:

1. Watch the park orientation film
2. Take a Trolley Tour
3. Talk with a Park Ranger
4. Visit Washington's Headquarters
5. Visit the huts and redoubt at Muhlenberg's Brigade
6. Walk a Trail
7. Attend a Ranger Program
8. Attend a Special Event
9. Other \_\_\_\_\_

- 4** Finally, bring your completed Junior Ranger book back to the Visitor Center to get your badge!

So that's 4 pages in the book and then 3 activities out in the park. This is a total of 7 things to do...Got it?...Let's go!



Park Ranger Rachel



# Symbolism

## History

The arrowhead is the official symbol of the **National Park Service**. The arrowhead shape and images represent the places and things that the National Park Service protects.



Draw a line from the words below to the images in the design of the Arrowhead.



Wildlife

Vegetation

Culture

Scenic views

## What's in a Name?

There were two iron forges situated on Valley Creek between Mount Joy and Mount Misery. The waterwheels inside each forge were powered by the water from Valley Creek. The iron was used to make many things ranging from tools and nails to cookware and door hinges.



Valley Creek + Iron Forge = \_\_\_\_\_

# Scavenger Hunt



## Joseph Plumb Martin

Joseph Plumb Martin was a young soldier during encampment at Valley Forge.



Find items in the museum cases that Joseph Plumb Martin needed to be a soldier in the Continental Army.

1. What tool could he use to write?

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2. What games could he play?

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3. What are three cooking tools could he use?

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4. What is a weapon he could use?

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5. How could he keep warm?

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## Muster Roll Kiosk

There is a kiosk in the visitor center where you can look up names of soldiers who were at Valley Forge during the encampment. This list of names is called a Muster Roll.



Visit the muster roll kiosk and look up Joseph Plumb Martin. Fill in his information below.

1. What state was he from?

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2. What was his rank?

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3. Who was his Brigade Commander?

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## Visitor Center Exhibit





# Valley Forge Bingo



Search Valley Forge to find the items in the boxes below. Connect four boxes horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.



Bird



Hut



Arch



Washington's  
Headquarters



Covered Bridge



Cannon



Flag



Steuben Statue



Deer



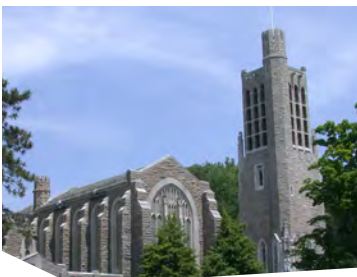
Evergreen Tree



Wayne Statue



Brigade Marker



Chapel



Park Ranger



Squirrel

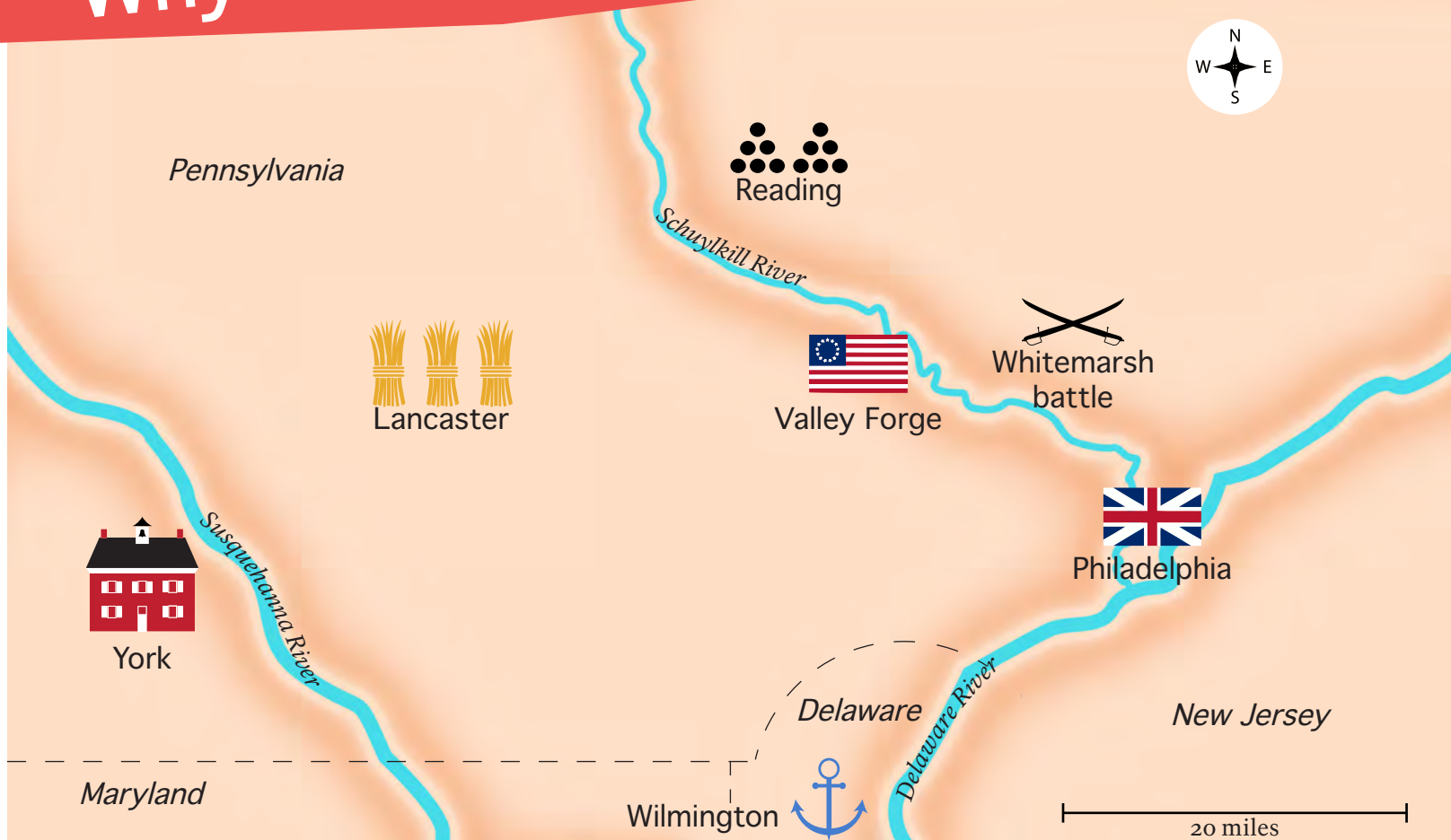


Pennsylvania  
Monument

Discover Valley Forge



# Why Valley Forge?



## Choose Your Ground

When General Washington was deciding on a good location for the winter encampment of 1777-78, he had several important things to consider:

1. He needed to camp close enough to the British army in Philadelphia to observe their movements, but not so close that the British could launch a surprise attack on his camp.

2. He also needed to protect the farmland in Lancaster, which produced food that could feed his army.

3. Finally, Washington had to protect the Continental Congress in York. Washington needed to make sure his army was in between the British in Philadelphia and the Congress in York.

## Choices to Make

While at Whitmarsh, Washington considered possible locations for his encampment: Reading, Wilmington, and Valley Forge.



Circle Yes or No in the activity below to discover why Washington chose Valley Forge.

Possible Locations	Close to Philadelphia to observe the British?	At least 20 miles away from the British to prevent a surprise attack?	Between Philadelphia and Lancaster to protect food?	Between Philadelphia and York to protect Congress?
Reading	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No
Wilmington	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No
Valley Forge	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No
Whitemarsh	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No

## What is a Redoubt?

Once Washington selected Valley Forge for his winter encampment, he needed to construct the defenses. One type of defensive structure is called a redoubt. A redoubt is an earthen fort which can be manned with infantry and artillery, creating strong points in the defense of a camp.



Go inside a redoubt. What do you see that makes a redoubt a good defensive location?

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# Tolerably Comfortable

## Building the Huts

12,000 soldiers marched into Valley Forge on December 19, 1777.

Huts were constructed from trees and each housed 12 enlisted men.

Trees were cut from up to five miles away to build the huts.



Find out how many trees were needed to build all of the huts at Valley Forge. Complete the math problems below to get your answer.

Find a hut in the park. Count the number of logs used to construct the hut.

A  
(Logs)

How many huts were there at Valley Forge?\*

$$\begin{array}{r} 12,000 \\ \text{(Soldiers)} \end{array} \div \begin{array}{r} 12 \\ \text{(Men per hut)} \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} B \\ \text{(Huts)} \end{array}$$

How many trees did soldiers need to build all the huts at Valley Forge?

$$\begin{array}{r} A \\ \text{(Logs)} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{r} B \\ \text{(Huts)} \end{array} = \boxed{\begin{array}{r} C \\ \text{(Trees)} \end{array}}$$

## Living in a Hut

 Go inside one of the huts. What worries or concerns would you have living in one of these huts?

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What would you bring from home if you had to stay in a hut?

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\*The exact number of huts at Valley Forge is unknown. Estimates range from 900-1700.

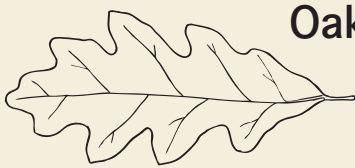


# Look, Observe & Discover

We have learned that trees were a resource for the army, but trees also provide food and shelter for wildlife.



 Use the leaf and seed images to find these trees in the park. Answer the numbered questions next to the images below.



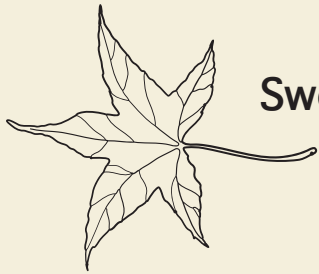
**Oak Tree**



**Oak Tree** - Produces acorns that feed animals.

1. Where did you find this tree?

2. What wildlife do you observe using this tree?



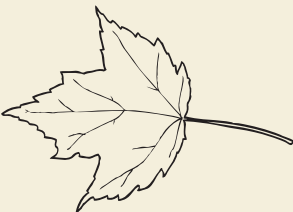
**Sweetgum**



**Sweetgum** - Grows quickly and helps establish new forests.

1. Where did you find this tree?

2. What wildlife do you observe using this tree?



**Maple**



**Maple** - Protects river banks from pollution and erosion.

1. Where did you find this tree?

2. What wildlife do you observe using this tree?

 How do trees benefit birds, insects, and other wildlife?




# Design Your Own Monument

## Remembering the Past

Valley Forge has many monuments that help us remember the events that took place and the people who were here. What kinds of things help you to remember the past?

NAKED AND STARVING AS THEY ARE  
WE CANNOT ENOUGH ADMIRE  
THE INCOMPARABLE PATIENCE AND FIDELITY  
OF THE SOLDIERY  
WASHINGTON AT VALLEY FORGE FEBRUARY 16, 1778

 Design and draw a monument in the space provided or write your own phrase or poem to help remember Valley Forge.





# General George Washington



Read Washington's letter to Congress.

*Valley Forge, December 23, 1777  
...I am now convinced, beyond a doubt  
that unless some great and capital change  
suddenly takes place...this Army must  
inevitably be reduced to one or other of these  
three things...starve, dissolve, or disperse...  
George Washington*



## Rise to the Challenge

One of the greatest challenges Washington faced was keeping his army together. He had a challenge and he worked hard to overcome it.



1. What is a challenge you face today? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Ask someone you are with, what is their biggest challenge? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_


3. Washington used leadership to overcome his challenges. How could you solve the challenges you identified above with good leadership? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Biodiversity

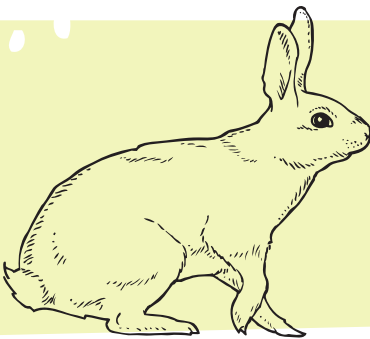
 An ecosystem contains many different plants and animals. This biological diversity is called biodiversity. Look out over a meadow in the park and identify the plants and animals that make up this biodiverse landscape.



Name or draw an insect that you see or hear.



Name or draw a bird that you see or hear.



Name or draw an animal that you see or hear.



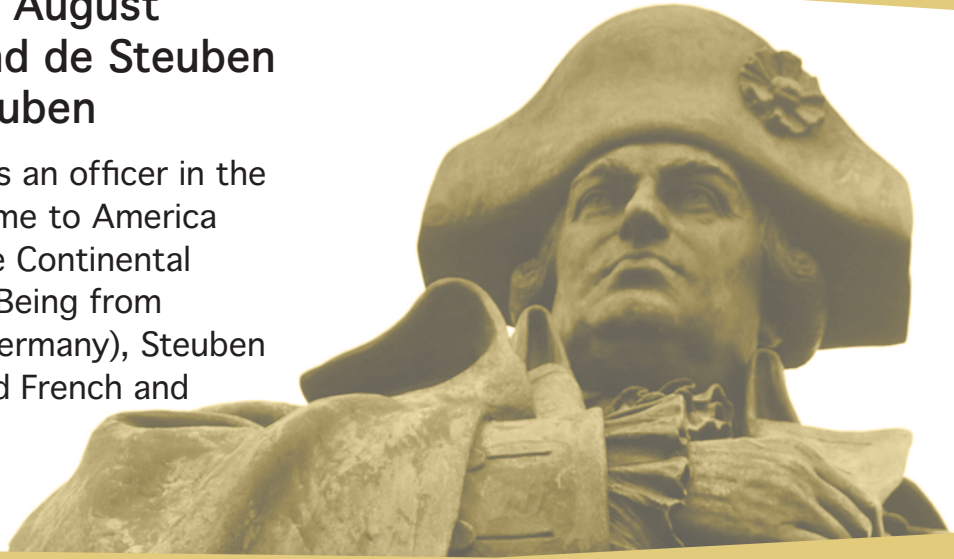
Name or draw a plant that you see.




# Drillmaster

## Friedrich Wilhelm August Heinrich Ferdinand de Steuben or Baron von Steuben

Baron von Steuben was an officer in the Prussian Army who came to America and helped to train the Continental Army at Valley Forge. Being from Prussia (modern day Germany), Steuben spoke only German and French and needed an interpreter.



 Use the German commands to drill your family or friends. You can't use English!

### German commands:

### English translation:

Links... um!

To the left face!

Rechts... um!

To the right about face!

Abteilung, kehrt!


About face!

Vorwärts marsch!

Forward march!

Angetreten!

Attention!

 Describe what it was like when you tried to get your family or friends to follow the commands in a foreign language. \_\_\_\_\_

What are some ways you can communicate when you don't speak the language?





# More Than Soldiers

## Armies are More Than Just Soldiers



Draw a line from group of people to the duty they could have performed at Valley Forge. Each of these jobs provided essential support to the army.

**Women**

Helped transport army baggage and supplies

**Children**

Crafted and repaired army supplies

**Farmers**

Sewed and washed clothes and nursed the sick

**Wagoneers**

Grew food to feed the army

**Craftsmen**

Gathered firewood and water for the army



What jobs do you do to help support your family?

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# Your Certificate!

## Junior Ranger Pledge

As a Junior Ranger, I promise to take care of Valley Forge National Historical Park. I will learn about other National Parks and help preserve them for the future.

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Junior Ranger Name



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Ranger/Official  
Signature

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Date



**Congratulations!**  
You are now an official  
Valley Forge  
Junior Ranger.

Stamp your certificate here with the  
Valley Forge and Schuylkill River stamps!



# Conserve-Protect-Preserve

*Leave No Trace: "Take only pictures, leave only footprints."*



How can YOU help conserve? (Example: Turn off lights)

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How can YOU help protect wildlife, plants, waterways and historic buildings?

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How can YOU help preserve our parks?

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

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