



Junior Ranger Handbook

An Activity Book for Children Ages 7 to 12

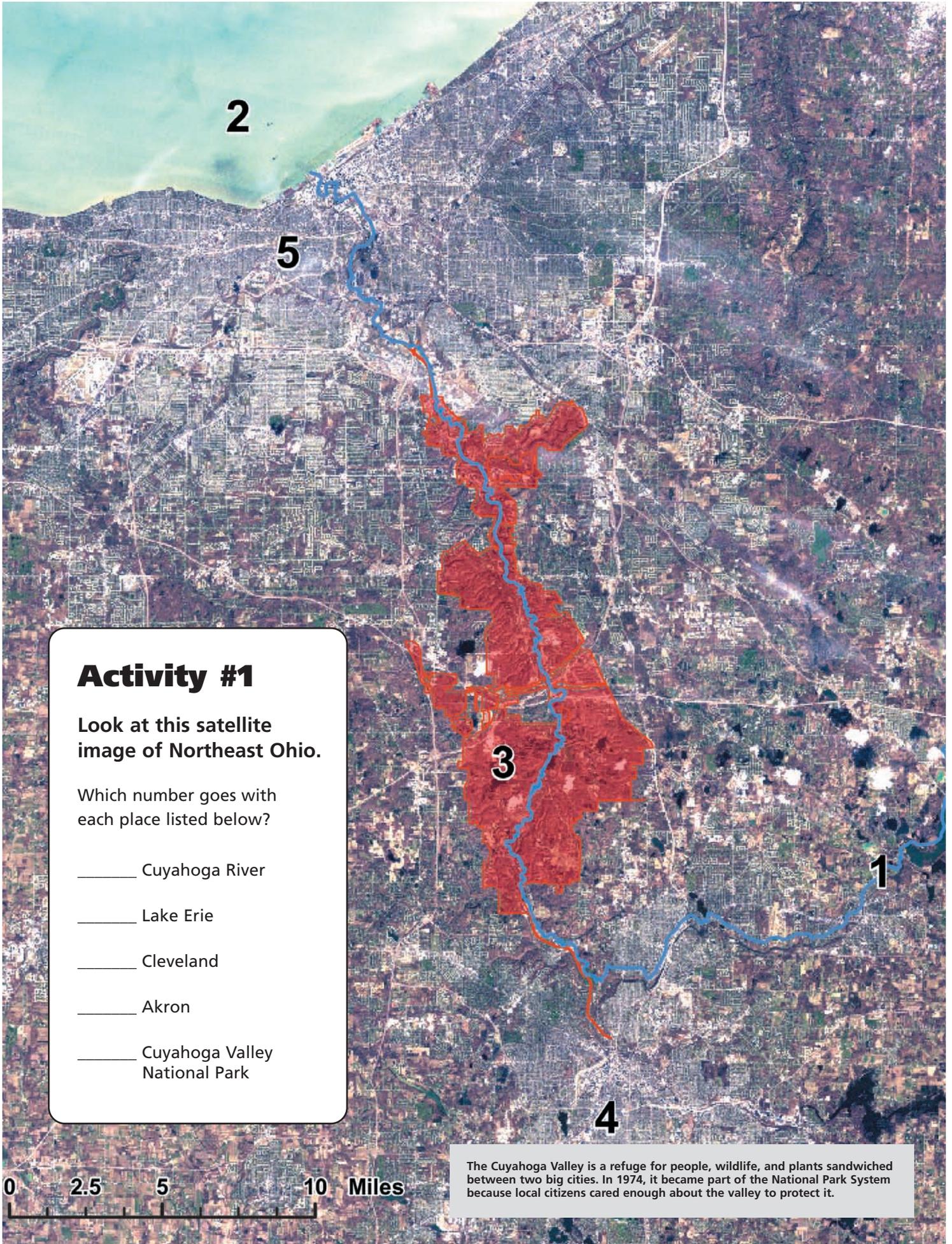


EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™



**Cuyahoga Valley
National Park**





Activity #1

Look at this satellite image of Northeast Ohio.

Which number goes with each place listed below?

- _____ Cuyahoga River
- _____ Lake Erie
- _____ Cleveland
- _____ Akron
- _____ Cuyahoga Valley National Park

The Cuyahoga Valley is a refuge for people, wildlife, and plants sandwiched between two big cities. In 1974, it became part of the National Park System because local citizens cared enough about the valley to protect it.

Welcome!

National Parks are places that are special to everyone in the nation—so special that everyone owns them together. Cuyahoga Valley National Park is one of the places that all United States citizens own. As you complete the activities in this book, you will learn about some of the places and stories that make this park unique.



What is a Junior Ranger?

Someone like you—a young person between the ages of 7 and 12 who completes Junior Ranger activities and promises to help care for and learn more about their national park. It's an important job!

How do I become a Junior Ranger?

If you are ages 7 to 9, complete at least 7 activities.
If you are ages 10 to 12, complete at least 9 of them.
Everyone must complete Activity #1 and Activity #15.

You may also attend a park program or volunteer event and count that as one of your activities. A schedule of park activities is available at all visitor centers or online at www.dayinthevalley.com and www.nps.gov/cuva.

Have fun exploring the Cuyahoga Valley and welcome to the national park family!

Activity Checklist

- Activity #1 – Welcome!
- Activity #2 – Cuyahoga Valley Bingo
- Activity #3 – If I Were a Park Ranger
- Activity #4 – Canal History Mystery*
- Activity #5 – Canal History Mystery*
- Activity #6 – My Nature Journal
- Activity #7 – Breaking News
- Activity #8 – Valley Sounds
- Activity #9 – Recreation Match-Up
- Activity #10 – How Clean is Our River?***
- Activity #11 – How Clean is Our River?***
- Activity #12 – What's Wrong With This Picture?
- Activity #13 – Just Ask
- Activity #14 – Scrapbook Snaps
- Activity #15 – I Remember

Attended park program on

____/____/____

Participated in park volunteer activity on

____/____/____

Your Name _____

Your Age _____

*Go to Canal Visitor Center. Challenging!

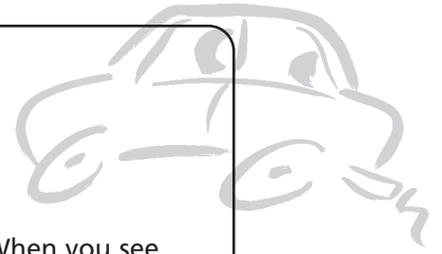
**Go to the Cuyahoga River.

Cuyahoga Valley Bingo

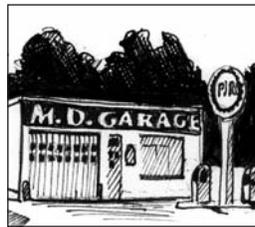
Activity #2

As you cruise through Cuyahoga Valley National Park, take a close look at the landscape.

What natural places are being protected? How are people using the land? When you see something in a square, check it off! Check five squares in a row and you'll have BINGO!



Farm



Gas Station



Train Tracks



Pond



Metro Park Sign



Canal Visitor Center



Ledges



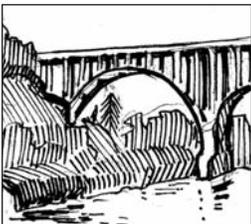
Brandywine Falls



Happy Days



Cuyahoga River



Bridge



Private Home



Free Space



Forest



Ski Area



Boston Store



Wetland



Hiking Trail



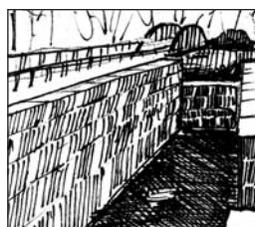
Towpath



Golf Course



Shop



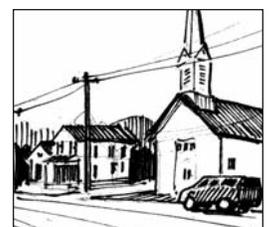
Lock



Frazee House



Meadow



Town

If I Were a Park Ranger

Activity #3

If you were a Park Ranger, what would you do and how would you feel?

Draw a picture of yourself as a Park Ranger and tell us!

I would care for the park by...

I would get upset when...

I would enjoy...

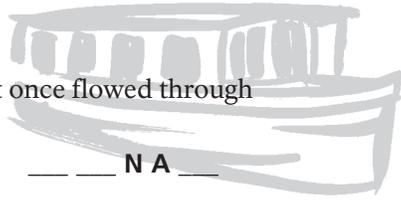
I would like to learn more about...



Canal History Mystery

What is the name of the canal that once flowed through the Cuyahoga Valley?

1 ___ O & 2 ___ R ___ N A ___



Look at the map of Ohio on the wall.

What two bodies of water did the Ohio & Erie Canal connect?

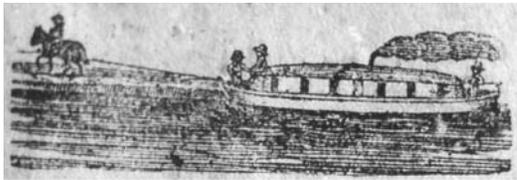
3 ___ K ___ E and 4 ___ I ___ I ___ R

What were the three types of boats used on the Ohio & Erie Canal?

5 ___ T ___ E M ___ N C ___

6 ___ R ___ or F ___ E ___

7 ___ P ___ N G ___



What object hangs from the ceiling above the canal lock model? 8 ___ K ___

What animals pulled a canal boat? 9 ___ L ___

What could people do on the canal during the winter? 10 ___ E ___ T ___

During the summertime, what could someone do to cool off in the canal? 11 ___ M ___

If a group of people wanted to celebrate, what might they have on a canal boat?

12 ___ R ___

I sift through layers of soil looking for artifacts that people of the past left behind. Who am I?

13 ___ A ___ E ___ G ___

Artifacts found near this building were coins, pipes, glass tumblers, and 14 ___ T ___ S.

What type of tool would you need to complete post-and-beam construction? 15 ___ Z ___

Activity #4

Are you ready to become a history detective?
There is a mystery here!

Over time, many people have forgotten why the Ohio & Erie Canal was important to the nation and we need your help! Clues are scattered



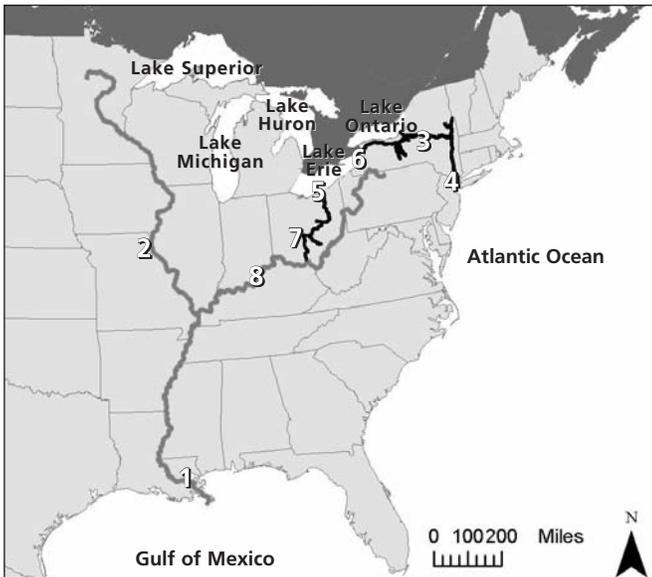
throughout the main floor of Canal Visitor Center. Signs, photographs, and artifacts will help you to answer the questions and solve the mystery in Activity #5.



Activity #5

Now that you gathered the clues, it is time to solve the canal history mystery.

Begin by completing the geography match-up. Which number on the map goes with each place listed? Next, solve the mystery by filling in the missing letters using the Activity #4 clues.



Geography Match-Up

- _____ Mississippi River
- _____ Buffalo, NY
- _____ Ohio & Erie Canal
- _____ New Orleans, LA
- _____ Cleveland, OH
- _____ Ohio River
- _____ Erie Canal
- _____ New York, NY



Now fill in the numbers from the clues on the previous page to solve the mystery!

As you see in the map above, the 1 16 17 1 & 2 10 17 2 Canal

connected the state of Ohio with major port cities like 5 2 14 15 1 10 13 and

5 2 14 1 10 18 2 3 5 9. With the help of other 10 17 4 2 10 9 and

waterways, people and 11 10 1 19 12 7 6 9 could flow across America

and to other parts of the 14 1 10 18 19. Goods made here in Ohio were also

6 10 3 5 9 11 1 10 6 2 19 throughout the 12 5 17 6 2 19 9 6 3 6 2 9 and

beyond. This helped our young nation 8 10 1 14 and 11 10 1 9 11 2 10.

My Nature Journal

The Basic Facts

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____

Weather: _____

General Comments: _____



Activity #6

Find a quiet place and grab a pen or pencil.

Nature journals are a fantastic way to reflect and creatively enjoy your time at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Begin by recording some basic facts. Next, list five animals or their signs that you see. Last, look at the shapes making up the world around you. Sketch a plant or animal that is similar to each shape shown.

Animals or Animal Signs

1. _____ 3. _____ 5. _____

2. _____ 4. _____



Shapes in Nature

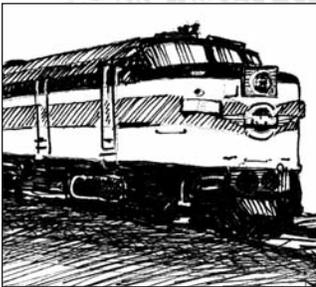


Valley Sounds

Activity #8

There's an orchestra of sound in the Cuyahoga Valley!

Find a nice spot to sit and listen for a while. Do the sounds come from in front of you or behind you? Close by or far away? Are they coming from a bird, the river, or maybe the wind? Use this page to create a map using pictures, words, or both to show the direction and describe the sounds you are hearing.



chuga-chuga-chuga



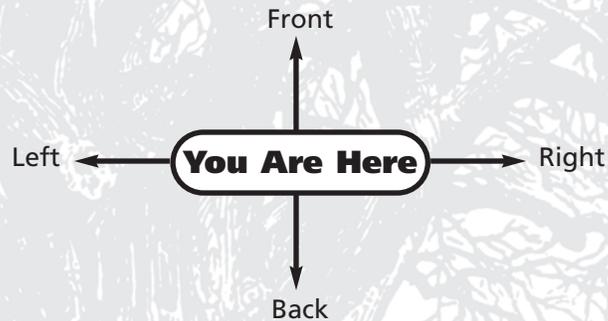
chshshshshsh



whoosh, whoosh, whoosh



what cheer, cheer, cheer



Recreation Match-Up

Activity #9

What can you do for fun in Cuyahoga Valley National Park?

First unscramble the words, then draw a line to match the activity to the correct symbol.



dgriin het nitar

gknhii

ihfgnis

wisghnnsooe

rcsso-noutycr iisnkgmte

nholildw kiisng

knigbi

gcnnkiipci



How Clean is Our River?



Activity #10

Write or draw your first impressions of the Cuyahoga River.

Just like your doctor gives you a check-up, scientists examine the Cuyahoga River to see how healthy it is. Your doctor starts by taking a good look at you. In the same way, scientists start by taking a good look at the river. Now it's your turn to be a scientist. Travel to the Cuyahoga River at either Station Road Bridge or Peninsula Depot Visitor Center to begin your study.

SAFETY ALERT!

Contact with river water is not safe because the water may contain harmful bacteria.

Our Burning River

Did you know that the Cuyahoga River caught fire more than once?

It's true! The first time was in 1868. The most famous fire happened in Cleveland on June 22, 1969. The river was so polluted that a spark ignited floating oil and debris. Our nation was horrified! This fire inspired Earth Day and new environmental protection laws like the Clean Water Act. Today, Cuyahoga Valley National Park protects 22 miles of river habitat, and other organizations along the 100-mile waterway also do their part. Wildlife is returning but the Cuyahoga River still needs our help to heal.

List Ways People Use the River

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

The Cuyahoga River is an American Heritage River and a State Scenic River.



Activity #11

Take a short walk to look for signs of the river's health.

Use this checklist to record your observations. Mark all choices that describe what you see and smell. More than one answer can be correct.

REMEMBER:

Do not collect or capture animals. They are protected in national parks.

Water Color

- Green
- Foamy
- Cloudy
- Muddy
- Milky
- Scummy
- Brown
- Clear
- Oily
- Red

Odors

- Swimming pool (chlorine)
- Rotten eggs (sulfur)
- Musty
- Fresh
- Flowery
- Woody

River Bottom

- Rock
- Sand
- Mud
- Gravel

River Bank

- Most of the soil is covered by plants, rocks, and logs
- Some of the soil is covered by plants, rocks, and logs
- None of the soil is covered

Shading Over Water

- A lot of overhanging trees
- A few overhanging trees
- No shading

Barriers to Fish Movement

- Waterfalls
- Beaver dams
- Human dams
- None

Hiding Places for Animals

- Wetlands
- Pools (deep water)
- Log piles
- Rocks
- Rapids
- Weeds

Diagnose the River's Health

After the doctor looks at you, can she or he REALLY make a diagnosis? No. The doctor must perform more tests to understand what is wrong with you. Scientists must also perform more tests to see if a river is healthy.



River Animals

Some animals can only live in very clean water. If a scientist finds these animals, the river is healthy.

Fish Examination

If the fish are sick, the river is unhealthy. Scientists check the fish for signs of illness.

Chemical Testing

Scientists measure certain chemicals in the river. If there is too much or too little of these, the river may be unhealthy.



Bacterial Testing

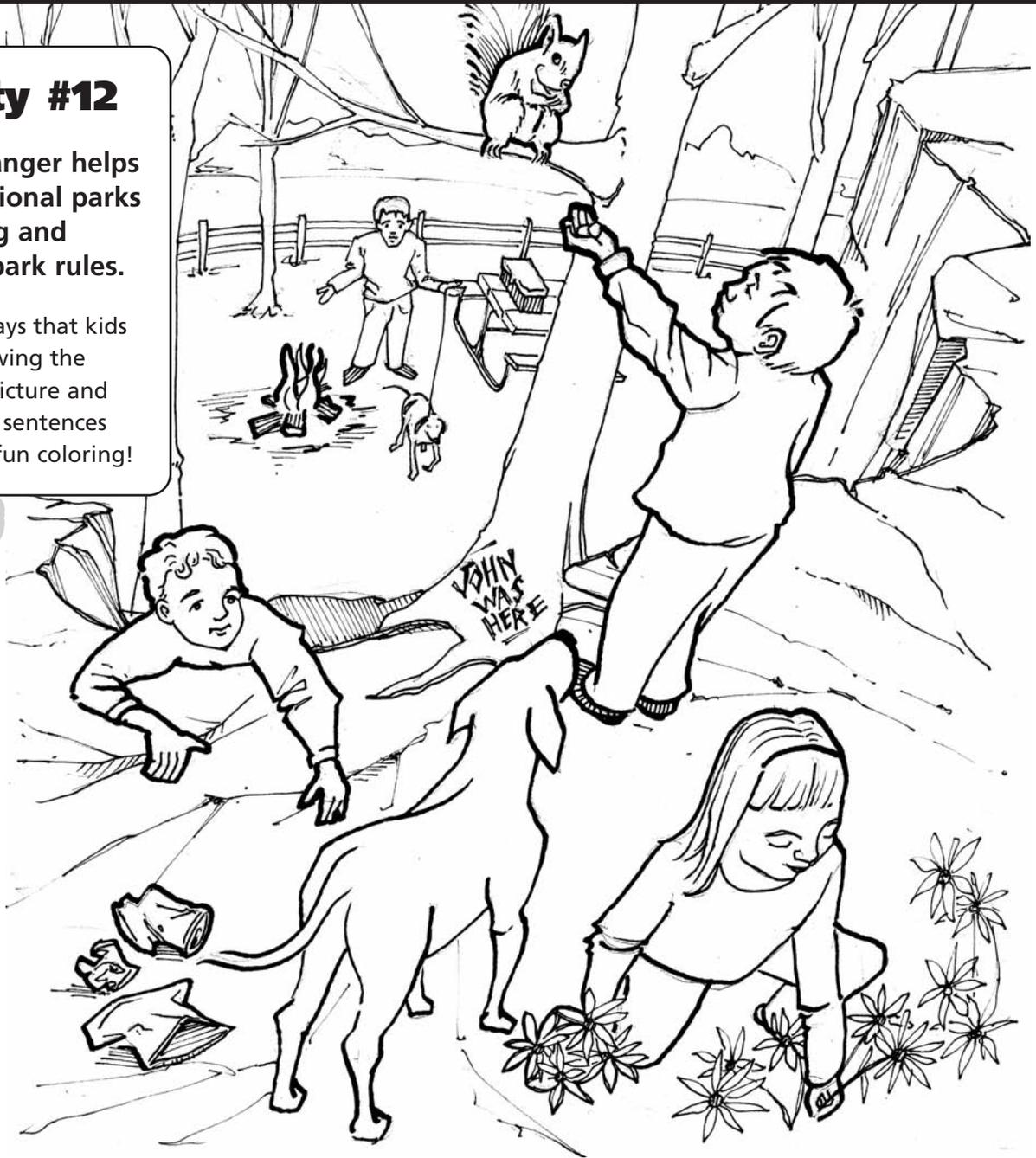
Scientists perform tests to see how many bacteria are in the water. *E. coli* bacteria indicate sewage pollution.

What's Wrong With This Picture?

Activity #12

A Junior Ranger helps protect national parks by knowing and following park rules.

Find seven ways that kids are not following the rules in this picture and complete the sentences below. Have fun coloring!



- Keep _____ wild by not _____ them.
- Protect _____ by not _____ them.
- Protect yourself and the land by not rock-_____.
- Keep wildlife and other visitors safe by keeping your _____ on a _____.
- Only make _____ in park _____ circles or picnic grills.
- Keep the park looking nice by not _____ on buildings, trees, or rocks.
- Put _____ in its place.

Just Ask



Activity #13

Use the questions below to interview an adult who is with you or just ask a Park Ranger.

What do you think is the best season to visit Cuyahoga Valley National Park? Why?

What is your favorite place to visit in this national park? Why?

What is your favorite local animal and why?

What do you care most about protecting in the park for future generations?



Scrapbook Snaps

A map of Cuyahoga Valley National Park showing various visitor centers and trails. The map includes a compass rose in the top left corner. A dashed line represents the Towpath Trail, a wavy line represents the Cuyahoga River, and a line with cross-ticks represents the Scenic Railroad. A thick double-line border indicates the Park Boundary. Several visitor centers are marked with house icons: Canal Visitor Center, Frazee House, Boston Store, Peninsula Depot Visitor Center, Happy Days Visitor Center, and Hunt Farm Visitor Information Center. There are three large photo boxes: one in the top left, one in the bottom left, and one in the bottom right. A small inset photo in the top right shows a boy holding a photo frame.

Activity #14

What are your favorite things to see and do at Cuyahoga Valley National Park?

Hike at the Ledges?
Picnic at Brandywine Falls?
Ride the train?

On this scrapbook page, draw three of your best memories in the photo boxes and mark approximately where they took place on the map. Also, color in each visitor center that you saw.

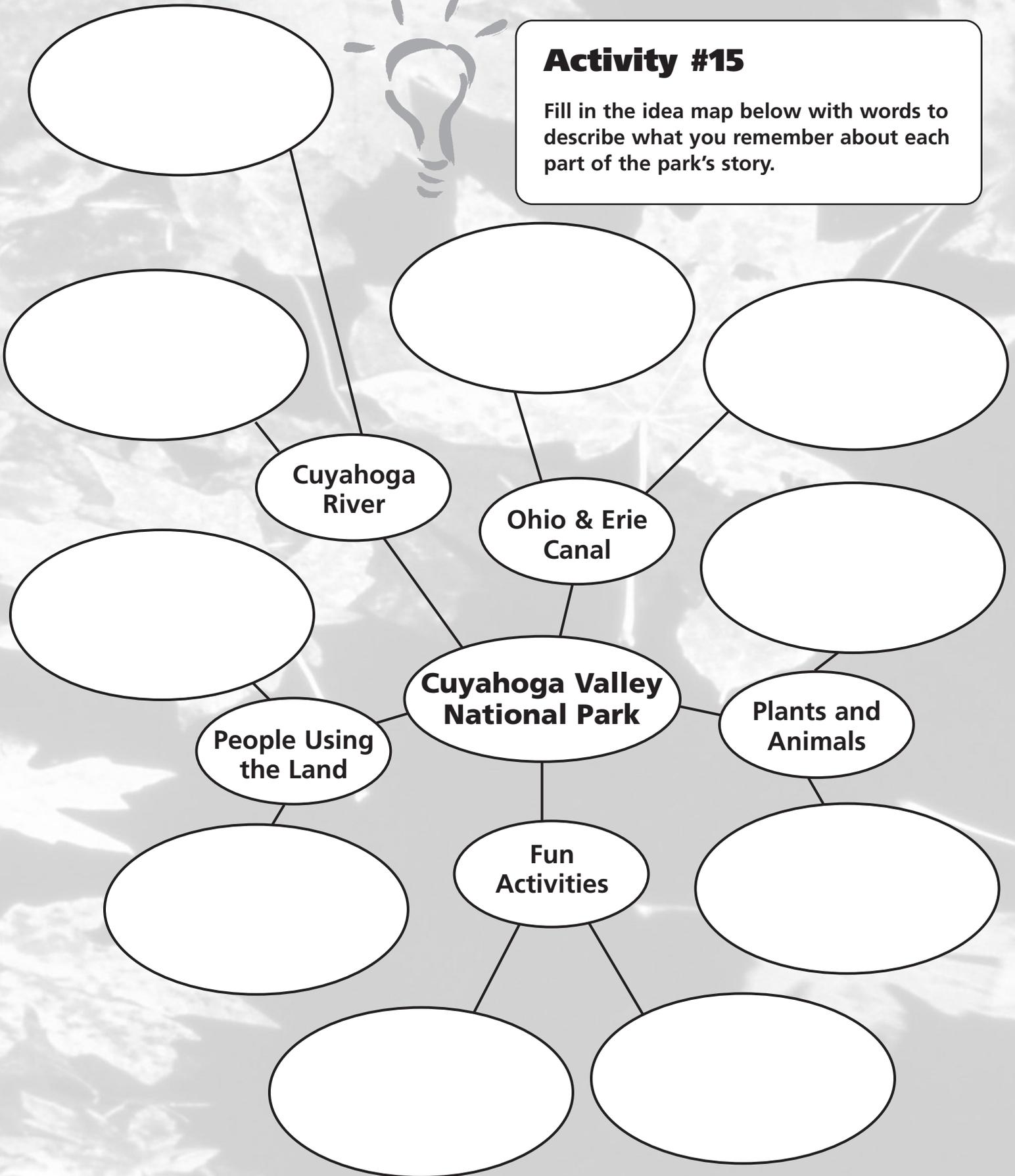
----- Towpath Trail
~~~~~ Cuyahoga River  
+ + + Scenic Railroad  
▭ Park Boundary

# I Remember



## Activity #15

Fill in the idea map below with words to describe what you remember about each part of the park's story.



# All Done!

Use the Activity Checklist on page 1 to track what you have completed.



**If you are ages 7 to 9,**  
do at least 7 activities.

**If you are ages 10 to 12,**  
finish at least 9 activities.

Remember that attending a park program and/or participating in a park volunteer event counts too.

**When you are done,**  
we want to say — Congratulations! Take this booklet to a visitor center and ask a Park Ranger to look at it. He or she will sign your certificate, say the Junior Ranger oath with you, and present your badge! If you cannot go to a visitor center, mail your booklet to us and we'll sign your certificate and mail it back to you with your badge.



## Our Address

Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
Environmental Education Center  
3675 Oak Hill Road  
Peninsula, Ohio 44264

Print your name and address here if you are mailing us your booklet:

Name .....

Address .....

City .....

State ..... Zip .....



Serving the Visitors to America's  
National Parks and Other Public Trusts

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The Basista Family  
The Buckley Family  
The Edwards Family  
The Gifford Family  
The Haluska Family  
The Henault Family  
The Norley Family  
The Schilstra Family  
The Schoeffler Family  
The Schuschu Family  
The Sorensen Family  
The Westover Family

**Piloting Support**  
Dee Brannan

# Cuyahoga Valley National Park



## Junior Ranger Pledge

As a Junior Ranger of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, I promise to keep learning more about the nature and history of the Cuyahoga Valley and help preserve the park for future generations.



*This certifies that*

*\_\_\_\_\_*  
*has successfully met the requirements of a*

## Junior Ranger



*on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_*



Park Ranger Signature \_\_\_\_\_



**Cuyahoga Valley National Park** (CVNP) encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. Visitors can hike, bike, bird-watch, golf, fish, ski, ride Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, explore the history of the Ohio & Erie Canal on a 20-mile section of the Towpath Trail, and attend national park ranger-guided programs, concerts, art exhibits, and more.



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™



For more information, call 216.524.1497 or 800.445.9667 or visit [www.nps.gov/cuva/](http://www.nps.gov/cuva/) or [www.dayinthevalley.com](http://www.dayinthevalley.com).

To learn about ways to support the park, visit [www.cvnpa.org](http://www.cvnpa.org).