

# Effigy Mounds

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Monument  
Iowa



NPS/ Eaton Cote



## Junior Ranger Activity Booklet

Explore



Learn



Protect



## Welcome to Effigy Mounds National Monument!

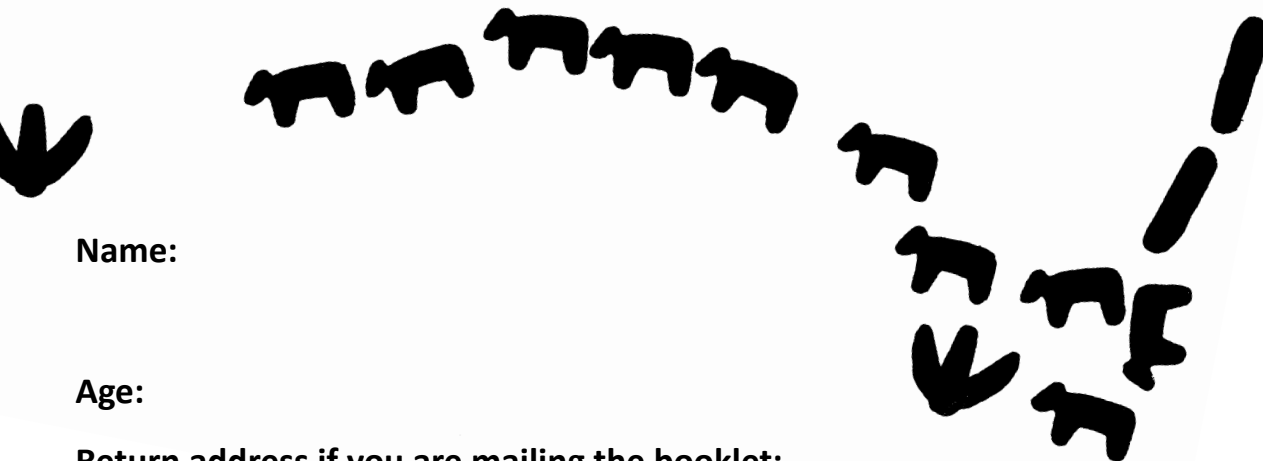
Being a Junior Ranger at Effigy Mounds National Monument is a special privilege and an honor.

As a junior ranger, you will:

- **LEARN** about Effigy Mounds National Monument, over 200 man-made mounds built long ago, and the early American Indian people who built the mounds.
- **EXPLORE** Effigy Mounds National Monument to understand and appreciate the natural environment here and in the Upper Mississippi River Valley.
- Understand that Effigy Mounds National Monument is an area that holds special significance to many people living today, many of whom may be descendants of those who built the mounds.
- Learn about the National Park Service's mission to **PROTECT** and preserve natural and cultural resources.

Once you complete the number of activities required for your age level, turn in your booklet at the visitor center or mail it to the following address:

Junior Ranger Program  
Effigy Mounds National Monument  
151 Hwy 76  
Harpers Ferry, IA 52146



Name:

Age:

Return address if you are mailing the booklet:

☐ **Little Bear**      **Ages 7 and under**

The smallest bear effigy in the monument, the Little Bear mound is 87 feet long and only about two feet high. This mound is the first effigy you see on Fire Point Trail. **Complete 5 activities in this booklet.**

☐ **Bird of Prey**      **Ages 8-10**

Some of the bird mounds have wings that are angled back like falcons, making them look like they are diving. Bird mounds are almost always facing water and might represent birds that we still see today along the Mississippi River. **Complete 7 activities in this booklet.**

☐ **Great Bear**      **Ages 11 and up**

At 137 feet long and over three feet high, the Great Bear mound is the largest bear effigy in the monument. While most bear mounds face downstream, Great Bear mysteriously faces a different direction! **Complete 8 activities in this booklet.**



## What's Right, What's Wrong?

In order to **PROTECT** our national monuments and preserve them for others to visit, we must take care of this special place. Circle the actions below that are okay to do!

Smell the flowers

Feed the wild animals

Pull a squirrel's tail

Throw rocks off of Fire Point

Say "HI!" to a park ranger

Use binoculars to look over the river

Keep dogs on a leash and on trail

Put litter in a trash can

Pick the flowers

Walk on the mounds

Touch a tree along the trail

Carve your name in a rock

Explain why you can't do at least one of these things.

What is something **YOU** did (or would do) while visiting Effigy Mounds National Monument! Write about your actions or draw a picture of it!

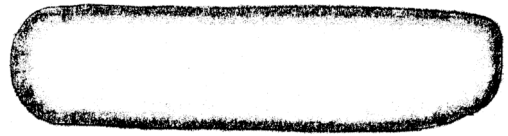
# Match the Mounds



**LEARN** about the different types of mounds that American Indians built here. Then draw a line between the mound's description and the correct shape.

## Effigy Mounds

The term effigy refers to mounds built in the shape of something. Here at Effigy Mounds National Monument, we have effigy mounds in the shape of bears and birds.



## Conical Mounds

Round, dome-shaped mounds three to ten feet high and approximately ten feet across. Some can be bigger, some can be smaller.



## Linear Mounds

Long, smooth-shaped mounds ranging from 50 to 300 feet long and up to 10 feet wide.



## Compound Mounds

Conical mounds connected by linear mounds. Most consist of three conical mounds and two linear mounds, but there is one at Effigy Mounds National Monument that has seven conicals and is 300 feet long.





# Cultural Currents in a River of Time

**BP** refers to Years  
Before Present

## 12,000 Before Present

Small bands of wandering  
hunters called

\_\_\_\_\_ passed through this region tracking large game animals. Specially fashioned spear throwers called atlatls enabled skilled hunters to hurl stone-tipped spears with speed and accuracy.

## 2300 Before Present

Centered in the Ohio River Valley, the \_\_\_\_\_ extended its powerful reach to the Mississippi. Artifacts made from copper, obsidian, and other exotic materials have been found in burials suggesting participation in a vast trade network.

## 1300 Before Present

Mounds of earth sculpted into the shapes of bears, birds, and reptiles are thought to reference the realms of earth, sky, and water. The builders belonged to the

\_\_\_\_\_ and were the last purely hunter/gatherers to live in the region.

12,000 BP Paleo-Indians
3,000 BP Archaic Tradition
2,300 BP Hopewell Tradition
1700 BP Cultural Transition
1300 BP Effigy Mound Tradition
700 BP Oneota Tradition

**Ways of life along the Mississippi River have evolved for more than 12,000 years. Archeologists organize artifacts that mark these changes by date and assign cultural names that describe them.**

**Your task in this activity is to read the description and fill in the missing name OR the missing date. Names and dates for the cultural traditions found at Effigy Mounds are in the box below.**

## \_\_\_\_\_ Before Present

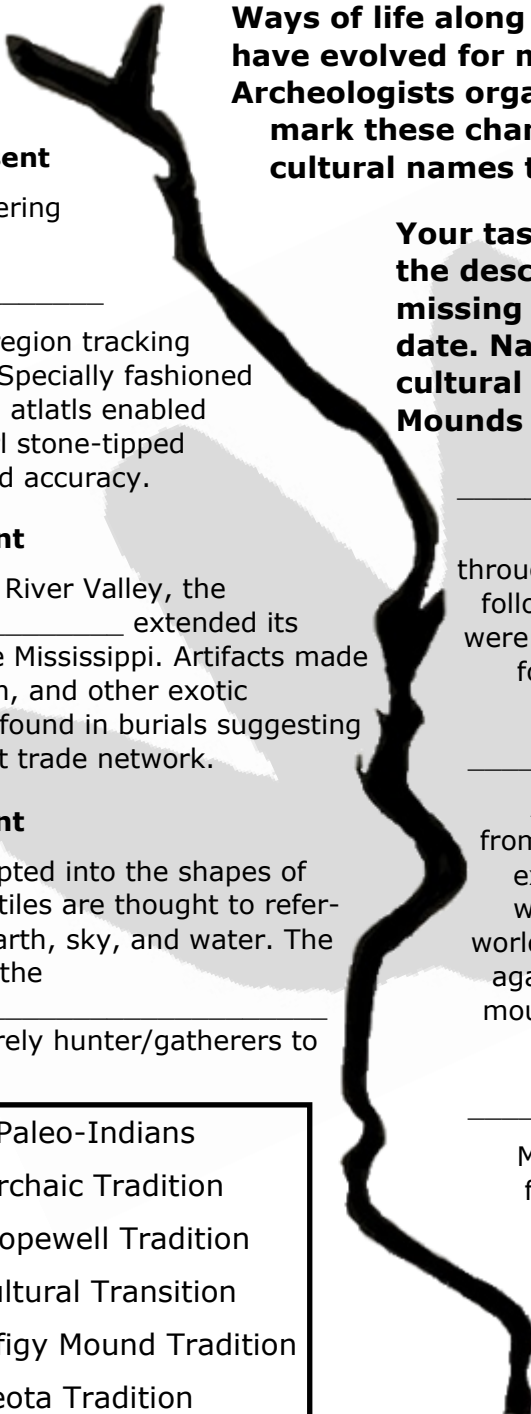
Early American Indians throughout the Eastern Woodlands followed Archaic Traditions. They were experts at skillfully using the forest environment to survive.

## \_\_\_\_\_ Before Present

After Hopewell traditions faded from the region, people living here experienced a cultural transition where harmony with the natural world became most important once again. Many compound and linear mounds were built during this era.

## \_\_\_\_\_ Before Present

Moving up the Mississippi River from what is now the St. Louis region, the Oneota Tradition introduced farming, extensive trade, and complex social organizations. During this era traditional mound building eventually disappears.



## Special Places



Place is a word used to describe a particular position or space. The area **PROTECTED** by Effigy Mounds National Monument was considered special by indigenous peoples for thousands of years, and continues to be a special place for many modern American Indian peoples.

If you were to choose a special place, what would it look like? Draw or write about it below and then describe how you would like people to behave in your special place.

What would your special place look like or include? Draw or describe in words a place that would be special to you.

Write 3 ways you would like people to behave when they visited your special place.

1.

2.

3.



## Life a Thousand Years Ago

The people of the Woodland Period, like people today, needed shelter and food. Like people today, traditions, ceremonies, and art were also important aspects of their lives. Fill in the blanks below to **LEARN** more about the ways of life and practices of the people who built the mounds at Effigy Mounds National Monument. Choose your words from the list below. Each word can only be used once.

In the summer, people of the Woodland Period lived in villages along the \_\_\_\_\_ River. During winter, extended families moved up into the highland bluffs where they lived in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

In summer, they harvested \_\_\_\_\_ and fish from the river, gathered \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ from the forests, and collected plants and herbs that were used for \_\_\_\_\_. Clay was obtained from the rivers beds and fashioned into \_\_\_\_\_ and storage containers. People worked together to build the mounds and held \_\_\_\_\_ to honor their ancestors. Their \_\_\_\_\_ were buried so that they could return to the earth.

During winter, \_\_\_\_\_, rabbits, and other game were hunted. Winter was the time for stories about their history and ancestors, as this land was home to many \_\_\_\_\_ of their people.

### Word Bank

Mississippi

nuts

berries

ceremonies

caves

ancestors

deer

clams

generations

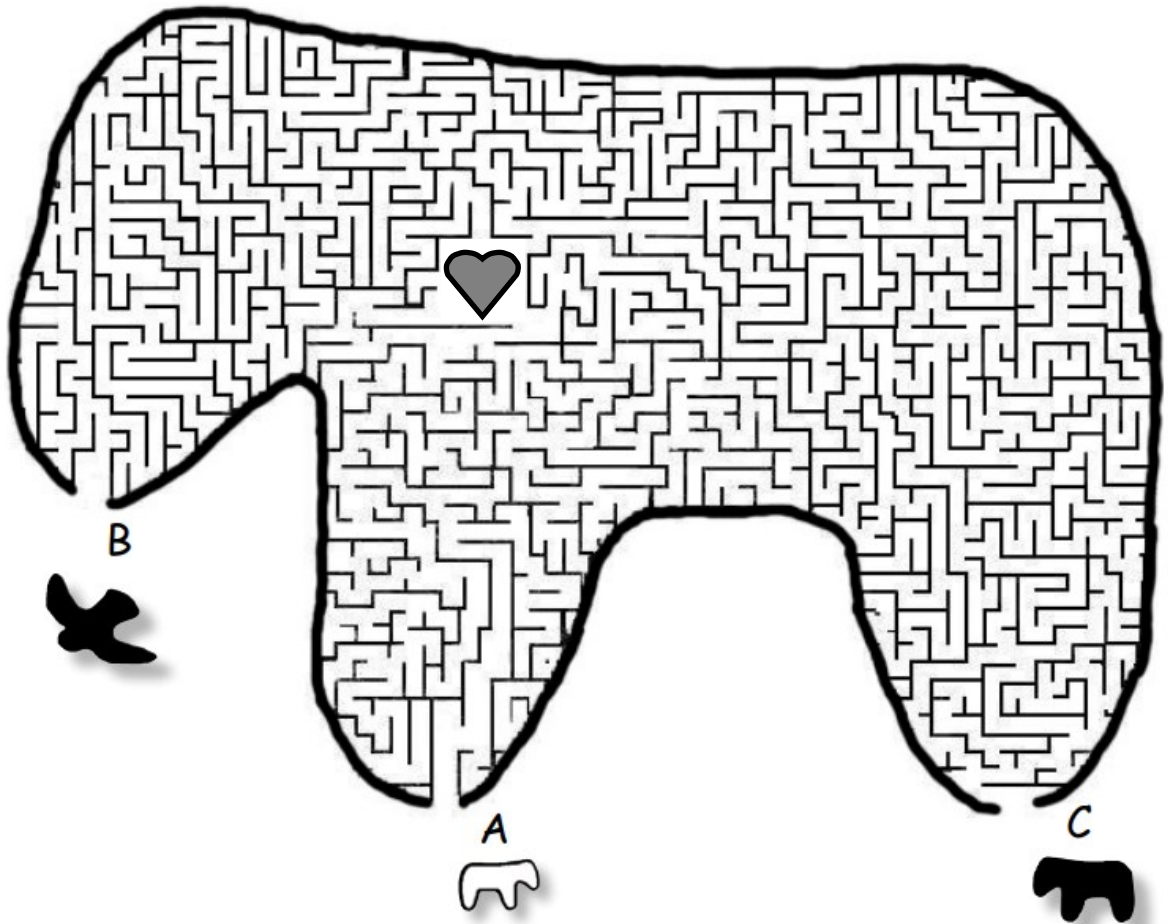
medicine

rock shelters

cooking pots



## Bear Maze



While you are **EXPLORING** Effigy Mounds National Monument, you will see many mounds. The word effigy means “in the shape of”, and many of our mounds are in the shape of bears and birds. This national monument was created to protect all of the mounds. We **PROTECT** them by not walking on or over them, and we ask you to help us protect them for future generations.

Find your way to the heart of the bear! Little Bears start at A, Birds of Prey start at B, and Great Bears start at C.



## Explore with Your Senses

Experiencing a special place is better if you use as many of your senses as is possible and safe! As you walk the trails of the park, use your senses to think about Effigy Mounds National Monument in different ways. **WARNING:** Never taste something you find in the wild without adult permission.



### Sense #1: Sight

A. Look at a mound for one minute. In the space below, describe the shape of the mounds using words. Consider how the mound fits into its surroundings.

B. In the box to the left, draw a picture of the mounds .

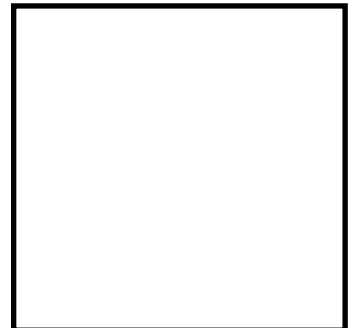
### Sense #2: Touch

Find a tree at the edge of the trail. Feel its bark. Is it rough or smooth?

What are two other words you could use to describe how the bark feels?

### Sense #3: Hearing









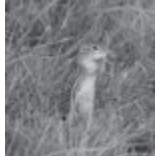



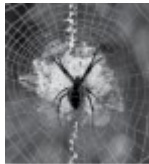







The bluffs over the Mississippi River AND the wetlands along the Yellow River are very noisy places! Find a comfortable spot to sit down. Close your eyes and listen to all the sounds around you. After one or two minutes, describe or draw what you heard.



# Scavenger Hunt Bingo



As you **EXPLORE** the museum and trails of Effigy Mounds National Monument, you will see and hear many things. If you observe any of the items in the squares below, make an X through it. Get five in a row up, down, across, or diagonally and you have BINGO! Remember to check the exhibits in the visitor center and museum!

 <p>Eagle or Turkey Vulture</p>	 <p>Animal Track</p>	 <p>Boat on the Mississippi River</p>	<p>Leaf Chewed by an Insect</p> 	 <p>Bird Nest</p>
<p>Great Bear Mound</p>	<p>Bird Singing</p>	<p>Squirrel Leaf Nest</p> 	 <p>Bird Feather</p>	<p>Little Bear Mound</p> 
<p>Wild Mammal</p> 	<p>Maple Tree</p> 	<p>Piece of Litter (please pick it up!)</p>	<p>Frog Calling</p> 	<p>Conical Mound</p> 
<p>Fork in the Trail</p>	<p>Spider Web</p> 	<p>Dog on a Leash</p> 	<p>Mosquito</p> 	<p>Park Ranger</p> 
<p>Reptile or Amphibian</p> 	<p>Compound Mound</p> 	<p>A Fern</p> 	<p>Den Hole in a Tree</p>	<p>Mushroom or Fungi</p> 



## Animal Scramble and Match ?

Unscramble the letters below to discover what each animal is. Then **LEARN** about each animal by writing the number of the animal on the line after its description.

1. DLWI RKUTYE

2. REBVEA

3. DIPRES

4. AESKN

5. ETIALWIHT EERD

6. ULSERQIR

7. NORCACO

8. GNERIEPER CLANOF

- A. I have 8 legs and up to 8 eyes. I like to eat insects after spinning a web to trap them in. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. I am a large brownish mammal that many people think is beautiful. A male is called a buck and a female a doe. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. I am the mammal you are most likely to see while walking the trails at Effigy Mounds. I will ignore you if I am busy gathering nuts. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. I am a big bird, but you don't see me fly too often. Ben Franklin wanted me to be the national bird, but the eagle was chosen instead. Thanksgiving is a holiday I do not like. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. I am nocturnal, meaning I hunt for my food at night. I like to eat seeds, insects, and berries. If you are camping and leave food unattended, I might steal it. I guess that's why I'm a Masked Bandit. \_\_\_\_\_
- F. I am North America's largest rodent, growing up to 46 inches long, including my flat tail. My front teeth are sharp and help me cut trees down to build a dam or lodge. \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Don't jump, don't be scared! I'm just coiled up on this rock enjoying the sunshine. When I get hungry, I'll slither away and eat a mouse. \_\_\_\_\_
- H. I can reach speeds of 200 miles an hour when hunting prey. We couldn't live here for a while due to pesticide use, but we've now come back to the bluffs. We hatch our young in rock shelters called eyries. \_\_\_\_\_



### Word Bank

White-Tailed Deer	Raccoon	Snake
Wild Turkey	Beaver	Spider
Squirrel	Peregrine Falcon	

# My Effigy Mounds Poem



The beauty and bounty of the Upper Mississippi River Valley has inspired artists of all kinds for millennia. Become one of these artists today by writing a poem about your visit to Effigy Mounds National Monument and the Mississippi and Yellow River Valleys.

Think about what you would like to remember most from your visit and write a cinquain—an American form of poetry inspired by Japanese haiku.

Cinquain poems have five lines that follow this format:

Example

Line 1: One word that names the subject (noun)

Line 2: Two words that describe the subject (adjectives)

Line 3: Three action words that the subject does (verbs)

Line 4: A four word phrase that describes a feeling

Line 5: One new word to name the subject (a noun).

Effigy

Steadfast, resolute

Watching, protecting, keeping

Witnessing thousands of years

Mound

Now you give it a try!

(noun) \_\_\_\_\_

(2 adjectives) \_\_\_\_\_

(3 verbs) \_\_\_\_\_

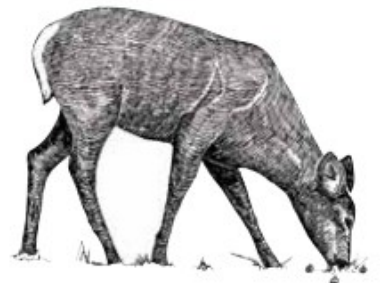
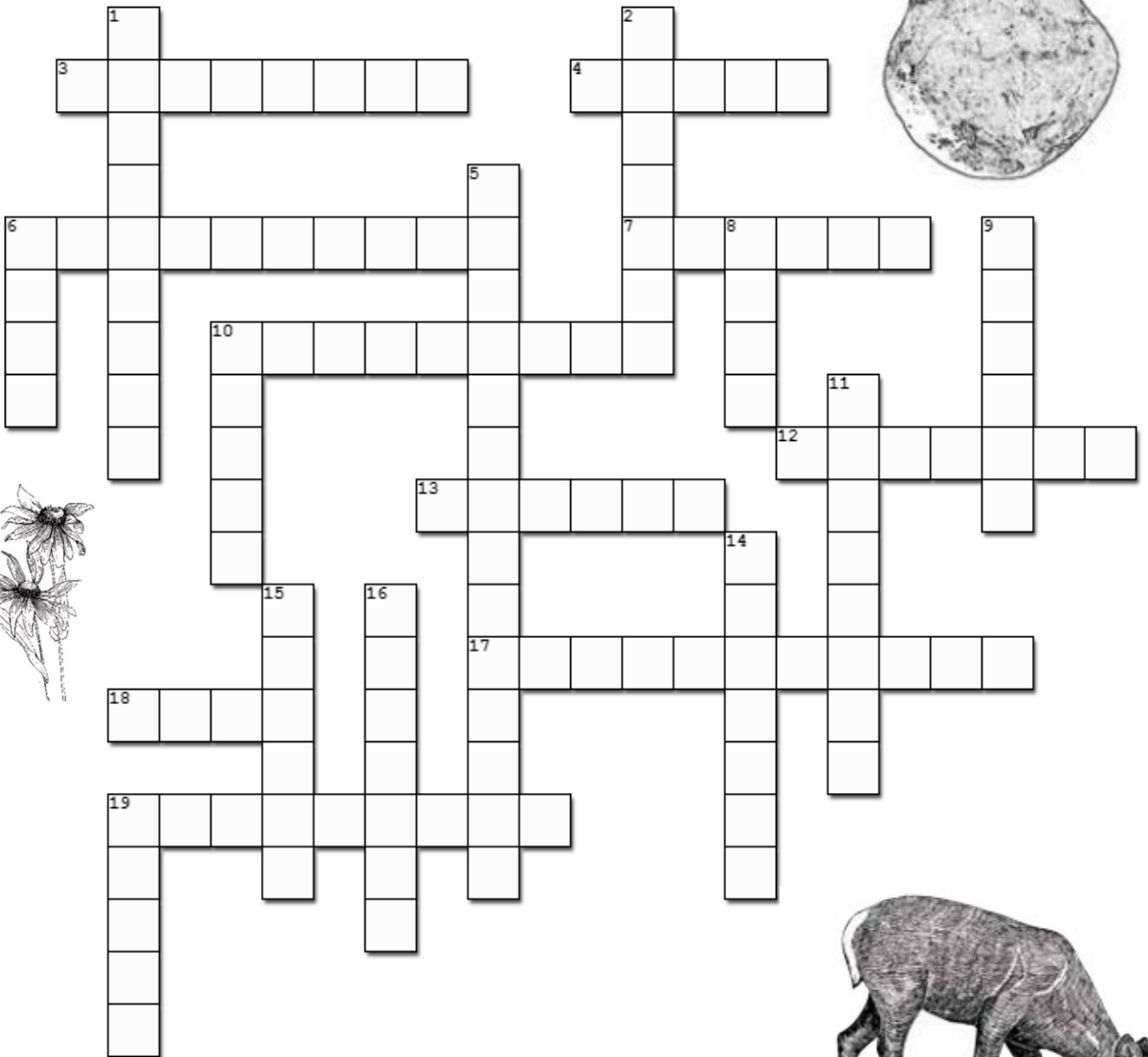
(4 words) \_\_\_\_\_

(noun) \_\_\_\_\_



# Effigy Mounds Crossword Puzzle

Read the park brochure, visit the museum, or speak to a ranger to fill in the crossword puzzle and test what you have **LEARNED!**





## Across

3. Type of mound made up a conical and linear mounds.
4. Listen carefully and you might hear these amphibians calling near the water, especially at night.
6. A bird you might hear tapping at trees as its looks for insects.
7. This type of tree has an acorn that Native Americans ground up and used for food (2 words).
10. This huge bird can have a wingspan of 6.5 feet and has a white head when it is mature (2 words).
12. This was made out of clay to store food and cook in.
13. The river between the North and South Units of Effigy Mounds National Monument.
17. The grand river that can be seen from the overlooks on the monument's trails.
18. The state in which Effigy Mounds National Monument is located.
19. The view from this point on the trail includes the Mississippi River and Prairie du Chien, WI (2 words).

## Word Bank

- |         |             |                  |
|---------|-------------|------------------|
| Webs    | Compound    | Deer             |
| Pottery | Fire Point  | Red Oak          |
| Yellow  | Frogs       | Prairie          |
| Tugboat | Birds       | Great Bear Mound |
| Iowa    | Traded      | Poison Ivy       |
| Flint   | Mississippi | Ranger           |

## Down

1. Beware of this plant in the woods 'itching' to get you (2 words).
2. Tall grassy area that is sometimes set on fire to rejuvenate the plants.
5. The largest effigy mound in the North Unit (3 words).
6. Some spiders build these to trap insects.
8. A large animal often hunted by Native Americans for food, especially in winter.
9. A person in the park who can answer your questions, help you, or lead you in a hike.
10. At Effigy Mounds National Monument, there are effigy mounds in the shape of bears and \_\_\_\_\_.
11. You might encounter one of these pesky flying insects on your hike.
14. Places to look at and study artifacts and art of past cultures.
15. The people who built the mounds often \_\_\_\_\_ for items from other places such as copper, obsidian, mica, and ocean shells.
16. From an overlook or the Visitor Center, you may see one of these pushing barges upriver.
19. A type of stone used to make stone tools.

Woodpecker

Mosquito

Bald Eagle

Museums





## National Park Service Mission ?

The arrowhead patch is a symbol that you will see on every Park Ranger's uniform and on signs throughout the park. It is important because each part of the patch represents the natural resources and history the National Park Service works to **PROTECT** and preserve.

Instructions: Below is the outline of the arrowhead patch. After reading how parts of the patch represent different resources in the National Park Service, create a patch that uses resources found here in Effigy Mounds National Monument to make a patch unique to this park.



The bison represents all the different **animals** in all the different parks.

The sequoia tree represents all the different **plants**.

The mountains represent all the different **land formations**.

The lake represents all the different bodies of **water**.

The arrowhead shape represents the different **history** at every park.



# National Parks Word Search



There are currently over 400 areas in the national park system and the oldest is Yellowstone National Park, created in 1872. In Iowa, there are two, Herbert Hoover National Historic Site and Effigy Mounds National Monument.

A P A L T L A F G M T P O G D W F B X P M T W U K  
D P A P H J B H J L E C M R B A O I W Z W X T N E  
T E O I N D I A N A D U N E S E U G H I W B Y P W  
R O V S V U X T Q E W D C M C F J B I V I X R Q E  
T F B I T R H D S V Y O S E M I T E T E N Q X P E  
D I L U L L Z E Y G O P E B T Q U N E F D C H D N  
A H R A I S E E R P V Y G C G F P D S F C J O H A  
Q K O V S A T I V B O B A A H S V Z A I A T P F W  
H F K R B S O O S E E H M G B A M P N G V U E O D  
Y E X G A T E Z W L R R E F E X C W D Y E R W R E  
R R S W D S Y N H E A G T S J U M O S M B G E T N  
R C G D L F B G V M R N L H E H R R C O A I L D A  
G O A O A T Y I A O A G D A O T X S C U W D L A L  
S E Z Z N B K W U P L A Q S D O Q I H N L I A V I  
H A T M D B T A O E C C Q M I E V F C D M T V I A  
E V E T S X Q U C I F L A T C S S E G S O Z U S N  
N U D V Y T J C K M S R S N B S C Q R M R Z X R Z  
A T J O N S O A X P F N K R I G F M C Z S M Y Y E  
N P G L C Q B C A R L S B A D C A V E R N S H M X  
D L F H B M E U F T G E L M X R D A N Y R T A U K  
O S Q N O Z U A R D Q H Z Y E L L O W S T O N E H  
A Z U O C U W L E G I G N A Y I S L E R O Y A L E  
H V L F A O C U G O X X S A R C Z X Z I O N N D C  
R R C I C R K T O E I W R O Q V P N X G O Q A J E  
P I P E S T O N E K E V U T N V H W Q J T M G Q R

APOSTLE ISLANDS

HERBERT HOOVER

INDIANA DUNES

BADLANDS

CHACO CULTURE

EFFIGY MOUNDS

YELLOWSTONE

KEWEENAW

DENALI

FORT DAVIS

CARLSBAD CAVERNS

ZION

YOSEMITE

ISLE ROYALE

DEVILS TOWER

PIPESTONE

SHENANDOAH

BIG BEND

WHITE SANDS

VOYAGEURS

HOPEWELL

GETTYSBURG

WIND CAVE



## Adopt a Tree?

As you **EXPLORE** the trails at Effigy Mounds National Monument, you might encounter the tree that is “just right for you.” If so, you can adopt that tree! When you have found the perfect tree, answer the following questions. Then come back to Effigy Mounds National Monument time and time again to check on your tree, **PROTECT** your tree and give it a hug!

Where is your tree?

(Describe its location along the trail. Example: On the right side of the trail just before Little Bear Mound.)

What kind of tree is it?

What do you think this tree has seen over the years of its life?

Do you think this tree is older or younger than you? \_\_\_\_\_

Does anything use this tree as a home?

Give your tree a name:

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_  
has adopted above said tree by the name of  
\_\_\_\_\_ within the boundaries  
of Effigy Mounds National Monument. The  
above named person will treat this tree with  
respect and honor, including the environment  
in which the tree is found.

Certified this day \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

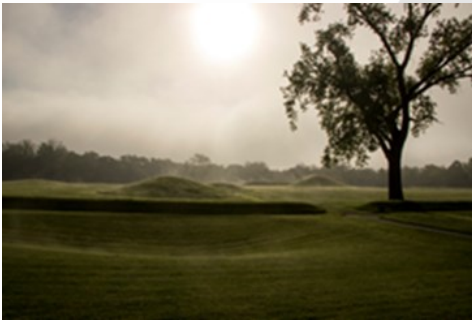
(Park Ranger)



## Match the National Park Site



DRAW A LINE THAT MATCHES THE PHOTO WITH THE CORRECT PARK



### Herbert Hoover National Historic Site

Iowa's other national park service site besides Effigy Mounds. Orphaned at age nine, Herbert Hoover left the town of West Branch. In later years, after his presidency, he returned to his humble birthplace to celebrate his long career of public service.

### Hopewell Culture National Historic Park

Nearly 2000 years ago, American Indians built dozens of monumental mounds and earthen enclosures in southern Ohio. These earthwork complexes were ceremonial landscapes used for feasts, funerals, rituals, and rites of passage associated with an American Indian religious movement that swept over half the continent for almost 400 years.

### Devil's Tower National Monument

The tower is an astounding geologic feature that protrudes out of the prairie surrounding the Black Hills in South Dakota and Wyoming. It is considered sacred by Northern Plains Indians and other peoples, who call it Bear's Lodge.

### Pipestone National Monument

For countless generations, American Indians have quarried the red pipestone found at this site. The grounds are sacred to many people because the pipestone quarried here is carved into pipes used for prayer. Many believe that the pipe's smoke carries one's prayer to the Great Spirit.



# JUNIOR RANGER

## Effigy Mounds National Monument

*This certifies that*

---

*Has successfully completed all the requirements to be granted the title JUNIOR RANGER for  
taking an active interest in Effigy Mounds National Monument.*

**Explore, Learn, Protect: Be a Junior Ranger**

**Junior Ranger Pledge:** I promise to discover all I can about  
Effigy Mounds National Monument and to share my discoveries  
with others. I pledge to conserve the natural resources of the  
Earth and show respect for nature and the historical events that  
happened before me.



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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Experience Your America

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so  
that all may experience our heritage.