



Junior Ranger Pledge

As a junior ranger,
I watch for danger.
I protect the Natchez Trace,
every wing, leaf, and space.
At national parks,
I know how to have fun,
and share what I've learned
with everyone!

Historic American Indians

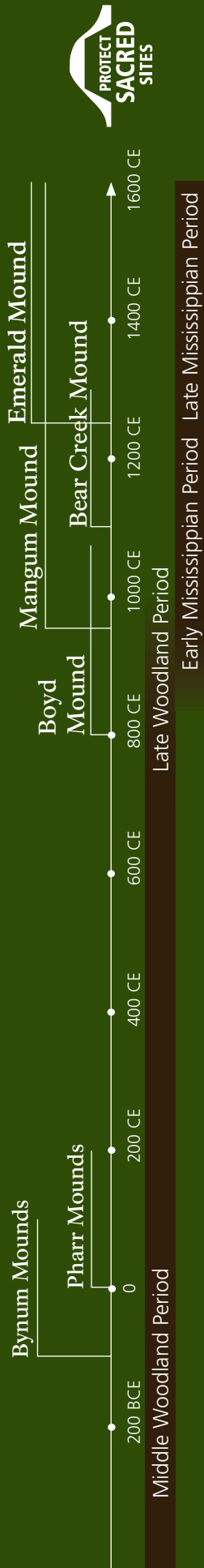
After people from Europe moved into this area, many American Indians like the Chickasaw and Choctaw adopted European tools and customs. Many of the stands along the Old Trace were operated by Chickasaw and Choctaw people. In the 1830s most of this area's American Indians were forced to move west. They did not want to leave their homeland.

Directions: Now, imagine yourself in this painting, and compare and contrast the lifestyles of the prehistoric and historic American Indians.

Busy with activity, Buzzard Roost Spring at milepost 320.3 was an inn, or stand, operated by the Chickasaw people. It was a prosperous plantation, and it also provided food and shelter for travelers on the Old Natchez Trace.



Mounds Along the Natchez Trace Parkway | BCE: Before Common Era CE: Common Era



Sacred Places

The mounds along the Natchez Trace Parkway were built many years ago by American Indians; some took hundreds of years to build. The mounds served multiple purposes and no two mounds are the same. They were burial grounds, homes for leaders, religious and ceremonial centers, and community-gathering spaces. American Indians make pilgrimages to these sacred places.

Directions: Visit and explore one of the six mound sites along the Parkway. Remember to be respectful! The mounds are very old and are sacred structures! Sketch the mound(s) you see and then circle the time period when the mound was built to see how long it has been standing.

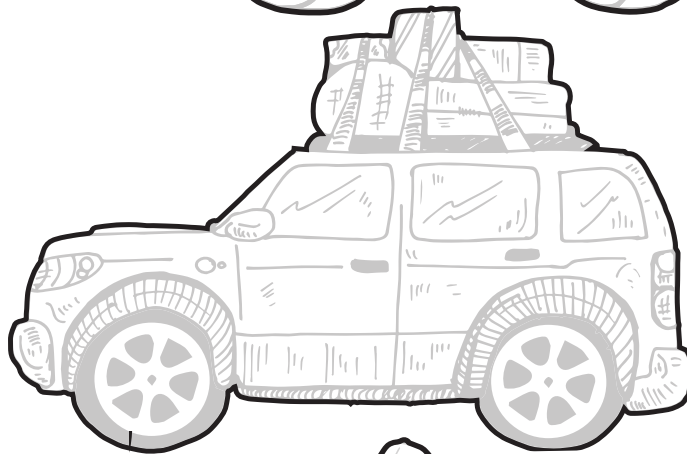
Talk about it!

What places are sacred to you, and why?

Kaintuck Camping

Between the mid-1700s and mid-1800s, boatmen, also known as Kaintucks, from the Ohio River Valley walked home on the Old Natchez Trace after selling their goods in Natchez, Mississippi. The walk from Natchez to Nashville took the average boatman 30 days. They had to make sure to pack everything they needed to survive along the trail. If they didn't pack smart, they might not make it home.

Directions: Fill in the different types of transportation with the items you would pack for a 30-day camping trip. As space for your gear becomes smaller, consider what you need to survive. What will you give up to make sure that you have room for the items you need?



Talk about it!

Which of the items you had to give up is the hardest to live without and why?

Meriwether Lewis Site (Milepost 385.9)

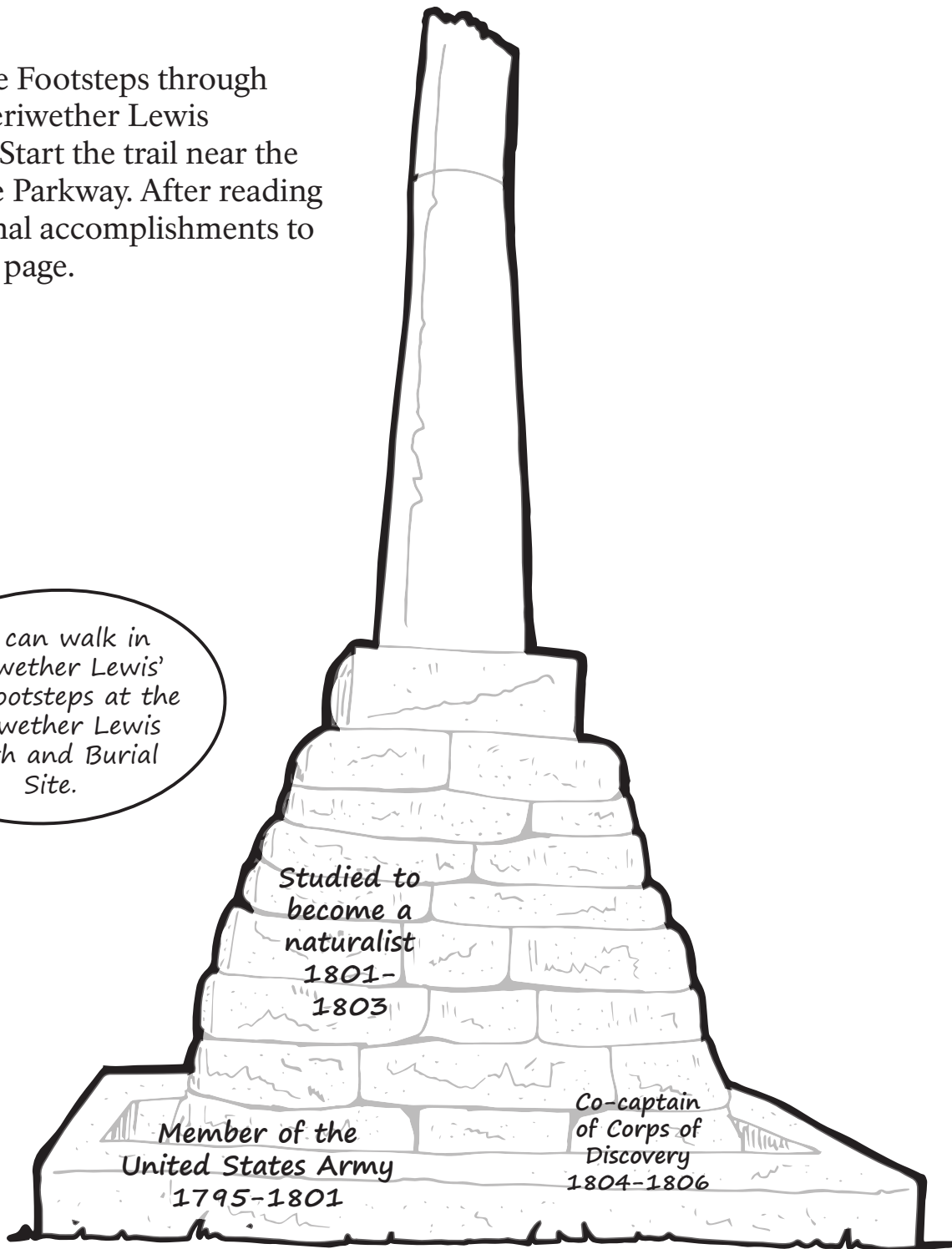
Meriwether Lewis was an American hero who died on the Old Natchez Trace on October 11, 1809 at the age of 35. Although he was still relatively young, Lewis had many accomplishments in his lifetime.

He is best known for serving with William Clark as co-captain of the Corps of Discovery. He was away from home for over three years exploring the western part of North America. Exploration of the West was extremely dangerous and required great courage, discipline and a mastery of survival skills.

Directions: Walk the Footsteps through History Trail at the Meriwether Lewis Death and Burial Site. Start the trail near the restroom closest to the Parkway. After reading each sign, add additional accomplishments to the monument on this page.



You can walk in Meriwether Lewis' final footsteps at the Meriwether Lewis Death and Burial Site.



Member of the
United States Army
1795-1801

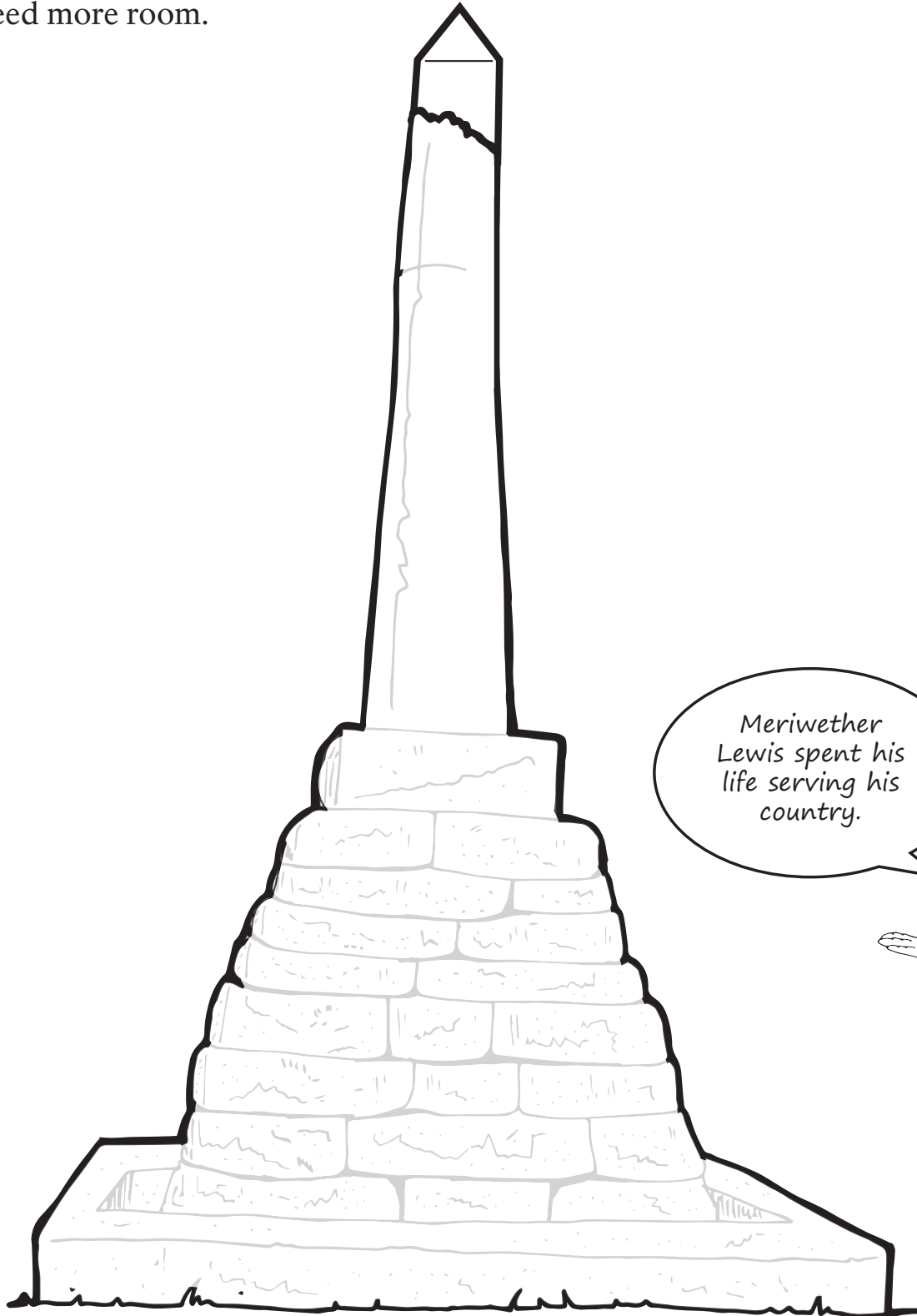
Studied to
become a
naturalist
1801-
1803

Co-captain
of Corps of
Discovery
1804-1806

A Full Life

In 1848, the State of Tennessee placed a monument above the grave of Meriwether Lewis as a tribute to his life. The monument is a broken column which symbolizes an amazing life cut short.

Directions: Fill in the column with all the things you hope to accomplish in your lifetime. Then circle the items that provide a service to others. Use the space outside of the monument if you need more room.



Meriwether Lewis spent his life serving his country.

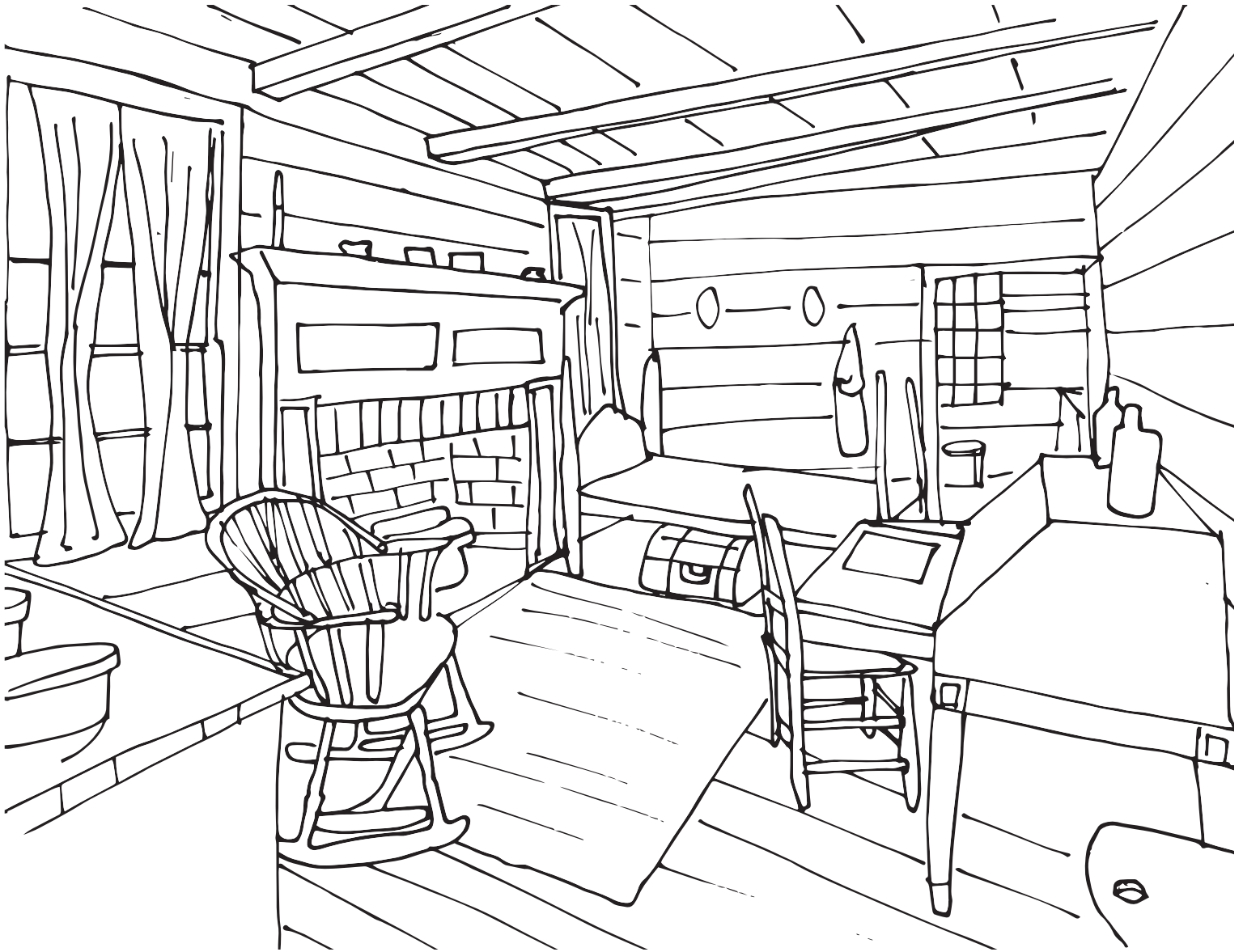


The Inn at Mount Locust (Milepost 15.5)

Travelers of the Old Natchez Trace stopped at stands, or inns, to purchase sleeping arrangements on the home's porches or grounds and a meal of corn mush. Mount Locust is the oldest remaining stand along the Parkway and is one of the oldest buildings in Mississippi.

Directions: Tour Mount Locust, then answer the questions below.

Are there any objects you see that you don't have at home? What do you think they are used for?



Are there items you have at home that aren't at Mount Locust? Could you live without them?

Talk about it!

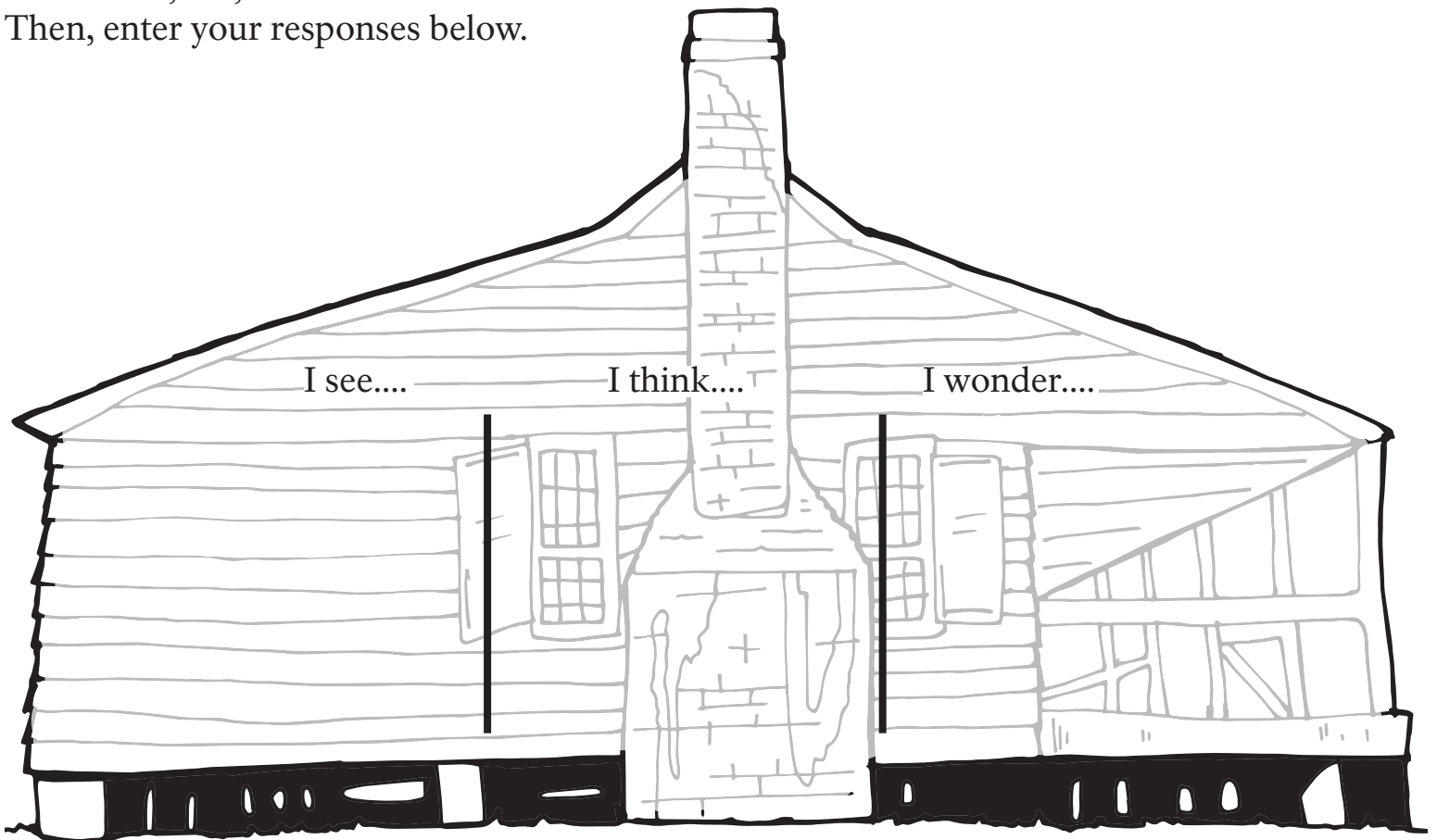
Name an object that you travel with that reminds you of home. Why is this object important to you?

The Plantation at Mount Locust

For much of the 1800s, Mount Locust was a working plantation. At Mount Locust, enslaved African Americans were forced to work in the fields growing cotton. The enslaved people who lived at Mount Locust maintained family bonds and relationships when they could.

Except for a poorly-marked cemetery, little remains visible of the enslaved families who lived here. Visit both the Ferguson-Chamberlain cemetery and the enslaved person cemetery while you are at Mount Locust.

Directions: While visiting the cemeteries, see, think and wonder. Then, enter your responses below.



Talk about it!

Does it surprise you that there are two cemeteries? Why or why not?

Which Park Ranger are You?

Many people think a park ranger's job is to be outside and work with nature, but there are many different kinds of park rangers. Below is a fun quiz to help you determine which park ranger you might want to be when you grow up!

Directions: Answer the questions on the following page. Add up your total score. An A = 1, B = 2, C = 3, D = 4, E = 5 points each. Then, find the park ranger that matches your score. Circle your answer.



18-25: Interpretive Park Ranger. They are creative and like to be around people. Whether they give guided tours, education programs, or create park brochures and websites, they are the voice of the park. They also run the junior ranger program!



26-33: Resource Management Park Ranger. They try to see the best way to solve a problem long-term. These jobs range from being out in the field, finding plant and animal species, to managing fire, preserving cultural resources, and designing parks.



10-17: Administrative Park Ranger. They are organized and detail-oriented. Jobs in administration can be anything from working on the park budget, managing property, or leading the park as a superintendent.



34-41: Law Enforcement Park Ranger. Taking charge and being safe is important to them. Rescuing lost visitors, helping people who are hurt and protecting park resources are just a few of the jobs that are needed on backcountry trails and along park roads.

This activity is just for fun. Explore all the careers that sound interesting to you to find the right fit.



42-50: Maintenance Park Ranger. They like to work with their hands and build things. Their job can change depending on what is needed that day, but can include removing hazards, repairing buildings, mowing, and operating heavy equipment.

Talk About it!

Do you agree with your results? What do you want to be when you grow up?

What is your favorite color?

- a. White
- b. Yellow
- c. Green
- d. Red
- e. Blue

What is your favorite class in school?

- a. Math
- b. Art
- c. History
- d. Gym
- e. Science

I like to:

- a. put a puzzle together.
- b. play pretend.
- c. play tag outside.
- d. play video games.
- e. build with blocks.

When I play pretend, I play:

- a. an inventor.
- b. a teacher.
- c. a treasure hunter.
- d. an emergency rescuer.
- e. a construction worker.

When watching TV, I watch:

- a. sports.
- b. comedies.
- c. nature shows.
- d. action movies.
- e. competitions.

I would describe myself as:

- a. a planner.
- b. an artist.
- c. a problem solver.
- d. a thrill seeker.
- e. a hands-on person.

If my toy breaks into several pieces, I:

- a. see if I have enough money to buy another one.
- b. find a new way to use it; invent a new toy.
- c. take a look inside; how does it work?
- d. find out who broke it; make them replace it.
- e. try to fix it myself.

If I have a project, I:

- a. make a step-by-step plan.
- b. make a plan but keep room for flexibility.
- c. consider options; then pick the best one.
- d. quickly think about the best way to get to work
- e. get my hands dirty.

If I see two people having an argument, I:

- a. offer my opinion.
- b. tell a joke.
- c. help them understand one another.
- d. step in immediately and take charge.
- e. fix the problem and go on about the day.

The best way to help take care of national parks is to:

- a. make sure park rangers have everything they need to do their job.
- b. spread the word, parks are cool!
- c. preserve the history of the park.
- d. make sure people are following the rules.
- e. pick up trash, I have to keep my park clean.

My Parkway Journal

Use the space below to write about or draw your experience on the Natchez Trace Parkway. Consider using the questions throughout the booklet to complete your journal entry.



Natchez Trace Parkway

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Natchez Trace Parkway
Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee



This is to certify that

_____ has been awarded the title of

Junior Ranger

Natchez Trace Parkway

Mississippi - Alabama - Tennessee

Park Ranger

Date