



# Letterbox #5

## Weir Farm National Historic Site: One of Many

You are in one of the country's many national parks. These parks are for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of the people. This final Letterboxing activity will teach you about the National Park Service.

1. Walk across the grassy lawn through the green gate toward the visitor center. Face the main visitor center door—the one between the two large bushes and two large windows.
2. Look at the sign to the left of the door.

This sign is the symbol of the National Park Service (NPS). The job of the NPS is to protect the resources found in national parks, so that visitors can enjoy them year after year. National parks protect animals, plants, water, and geological formations. In the sign, there are four symbols that represent these resources. Fill in the blanks with the symbol that represents the following resources:

Animals:    i       n         Water:    a           
 Geology:    o             i         Plants:       e      

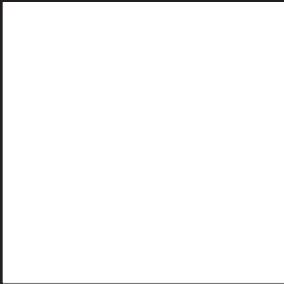
The NPS also protects cultural resources. This is represented by the shape of the sign. It is an object used by the Native Americans to hunt. This tool is called an    r             d.

3. Study the sign.  
How many trees does it have? Record the number here:
4. Walk through the green door into the visitor center. Most national parks have a visitor center where you can get maps and ask a park ranger questions.
5. At Weir Farm National Historic Site, the visitor center is filled with art! Choose a work of art and have a conversation about it with your family and friends.  
What is going on in the work of art? What type of art is it? What do you like or not like about it? Why? How is it different from the other artwork in the visitor center?
6. Step outside the visitor center and turn left. Turn left again and walk toward the Weir Farm National Historic Site sign. Look in the stone wall to your right to find the letterbox.
7. In the box, there is a map showing all of the national parks.

Weir Farm National Historic Site is just one of our country's many national parks! Did you know there are over 400?

How many of these have you been to?   

List a few national parks you have visited (use the map if you need help remembering!)  
    
  



# Letterbox #1

## Artists: Painting by Number

Weir Farm National Historic Site was home to three generations of artists, who have painted this landscape for over 125 years. In this Letterboxing activity, you will learn about these three artists, see examples of their artwork, and answer questions to crack a code.

1. Take a left out of the visitor center and follow the visitor path to the left. When you reach the pedestrian crosswalk, stop for a moment.

What is the road that intersects with Pelham Lane?   <sup>o</sup>              <sup>i</sup>              

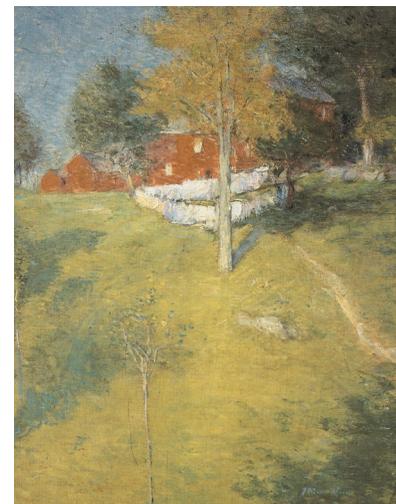


2. Cross Pelham Lane and walk through the gate. You should now be standing in front of the Weir House.

This is a photo of Julian Alden Weir—he's standing where you are! Mr. Weir was the first artist to live at the farm, beginning in 1882.

3. Turn left and walk past the front porch of the Weir House. Continue walking until you are downhill from the large double tree you passed on your left. Turn and face it.

Mr. Weir painted his wife and children here, sitting on the large rock you see before you. If you look closely at the painting you can see that there are two   <sup>e</sup>      <sup>e</sup>          <sup>u</sup>           on either side of Weir's family—they grew together to create the double Red Oak in front of you!



4. Continue downhill until you are near the edge of the wooded area. Look back up at the house.

On this spot, Mr. Weir painted the painting to the left. What did he call this painting? Hint: It's what's hanging out to dry! The   <sup>a</sup>      <sup>u</sup>                      

5. Turn to the left toward the two red buildings - these are the Weir and Young Studios. Head toward the building on the right. You are standing outside Mr. Weir's painting studio.

What are the three colors you notice on the studio?  
  <sup>r</sup>          <sup>w</sup>                   and  
  <sup>g</sup>