

Pere Marquette

Teacher Resource Packet for K-2nd Grade: Self-Guided and
Interpreter-Guided Field Trips

Time to Plan a
Field Trip!



Pere Marquette State Park Interpreter Guided Field Trip information

At Pere Marquette State Park, we offer engaging and educational field trip experiences designed to immerse students in the wonders of nature and history. Our interpreter-guided field trips provide hands-on activities, exciting exploration, and a day full of discovery tailored for your class's interests and grade level.

Sample Field Trip Schedule:

- **9:00 AM: Arrival and Welcome**
Begin your day with an introduction to the park, its history, and the activities planned for the day.
- **9:15–11:15 AM: Guided Activities**
 - **Hiking Adventures:** Explore the park's scenic trails with an interpreter, learning about native plants, animals, and the unique geology of the area.
 - **Educational Fishing Pond:** Practice fishing at our educational pond while learning about aquatic ecosystems and responsible fishing techniques.
 - **Nature Activities:** Participate in fun, hands-on activities such as leaf identification, birdwatching, or exploring animal tracks. Activities are customized to match the age and learning level of your students.
- **11:30 AM: Lunch Break**
Enjoy lunch at one of our picnic areas. Students can relax, refuel, and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.
- **12:15–1:00 PM: Wrap-Up Activity**
Conclude the day with a group activity, such as a scavenger hunt or a visit to our visitor center for a Q&A session with the park interpreter and or a presentation.
- **1:00–2:00 PM: Departure**
Field trips typically end between 1:00 and 2:00 PM, but timing can be adjusted to fit your group's needs.

Additional Information

For more details or if you have any questions, please contact Menachem (Lev) Smolianski, Natural Resource Coordinator, at menachem.smolianski@illinois.gov or by phone at 618-832-0295.

Booking Information

All details about how to book your field trip, including contact information and required forms, can be found on the next page. We recommend booking early to secure your preferred date.

We look forward to hosting your class for a day filled with learning and adventure at Pere Marquette State Park!

Pere Marquette State Park Field Trip



Thank you for your interest in Pere Marquette State Park. The following is a packet of materials intended to assist educators before, during, and after a visit to Pere Marquette State Park.

Steps for a Successful Field Trip!

1. Complete an Activity Permit

[Activity Permit](#)

- Required from all groups of 20 or more people.

2. Acquire Proof of Liability Insurance from School/Organization or Complete Release of Liability Form.

[Release of Liability Form](#)

- Required from all groups of 20 or more people.

3. Complete Program Request Form

[Program Request Form](#)

- Only when asking for an interpretive/educational hike from park staff.

4. Review the IDNR-Pere Marquette Webpage

<https://dnr.illinois.gov/parks/interpret/park.peremarquette.html>

- View trail suggestions, park history videos, maps, hours, rules and regulations before you head out for your visit.

5. Review IDNR Kids for Education Webpage and Reserve an IDNR Resource Trunk

www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/atoz.html

- Review website to view trunk materials and who to contact to reserve a trunk near your location.
-

Natural Resource Coordinator Suggestions:

- Birds of Illinois
- Field Trip Backpack
- Mammals of Illinois

6. Utilize the worksheets and tips included in the following Teacher Resource Packet!

Illinois State Standards

- SS.K-2.IS.3 • SS.1.H.2
- SS.K-2.IS.2 • SS.1.H.3
- SS.K.H.1 • SS.2.G.2
- SS.1.G.2 • SS.2.G.3
- SS.1.G.3 • SS.2.H.1

Next Generation Science Standards

- K-ESS3-1 • K-1-LS3-1
- ESS2-2 • K-2-LS4-1
- ESS3-3 • K-LS1-2-ESS1-
- 1 • K-2-ETS1-1 1 2-
- 1-LS1-1 ESS2-2

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Suggested Vocabulary for Students: Pere Marquette State Park

Amphibian-Amphibians are cold-blooded vertebrates (vertebrates have backbones) that don't have scales. They live part of their lives in water and part on land (frogs, toads, and salamanders)

Beaver-Beavers are animals known for their building skills. They use branches, stones, and mud to build structures called dams. A dam stretches across a stream and blocks the flow of water. This creates a large pond. Beavers build their homes in the still waters of these ponds rather than in rushing streams.

Bird- Birds are animals that have a skeleton, covered in feathers, have wings, and beaks. Most birds are able to fly, but some (like ostriches and penguins) cannot fly even though they still have wings.

Ravine- A ravine is a narrow, steep-sided valley that is often formed by water cutting through the land.

Culture-A culture is a group of people that live or lived in an area that shares the same things in common like the tools they use, ways of making things, art, design, language, homes, ideas, and history.

Earthworm-Earthworms are smooth-skinned worms, with a body made of many small segments. Each segment has stiff little hairs that help the worm move, sometimes the hairs are hard to see. They have no skeleton, but do have lots of muscles. They live in soil and under the ground.

Explorer-European explorers worked for countries like France, England, and Spain and explored the land we call the United States today. They met others who already lived on the land such as various Native American groups like the Illinois.

Fish-Animals with a backbone that live in water. Covered in scales, breathe through gills, and have no limbs but move by swimming with the use of fins.

Forest-A large area filled with many trees is called a forest. Forests grow in almost every part of the world.

French Voyageur-Voyageurs were men from France who came to Canada and had settled and began farming. Voyageurs helped haul trade goods such as animal furs from outpost to outpost along the Great Lakes and riverways in North America including what is today's state of Illinois. They used their job as a voyageur to earn extra money and expand their farms, which would bring their families more goods to sell and use for their livelihood.

Glacier-Glaciers are huge, thick sheets of ice. They form when lots of snow falls in one location for many years. Over time the snow on the bottom gets squished down by the weight of falling new snow. This packed snow becomes ice, forming a glacier.

Habitat-A habitat is the place where living things naturally live and grow. Habitats provide them with the food, water and shelter they need to live.



Pere Marquette Visitor Center- White Oak (Leaf) state Tree of Illinois.

Illinois Confederation-A group of 12 tribes that shared the same language, culture, and religion who lived throughout Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Arkansas.

Insect-Insects are creatures that have bodies with three segments that are protected by a hard shell called an exoskeleton. They have three pairs of legs and a pair of antennae (ants, butterflies, mantids, bees, wasps, and beetles).

Mound-A mound is a small hill built by Native Americans long ago, often used for special ceremonies, honoring important people, burials, or as a place to live.

Mammal-An animal that has fur or hair, drinks milk from the mother, warm-blooded (creates its own body heat), and has a skeleton/backbone.

Native American-Individuals that can trace their heritage/ancestry to the earliest tribes that have lived in the North America for thousands of years. Native Americans are also known as American Indians, First Americans, and Indigenous Americans. Tribes such as the Illini lived in the area we now call Pere Marquette State Park.

Opossum-Opossums are marsupials, or animals that carry their young in a pouch. The Virginia, or common, opossum is the only marsupial found in North America. They are excellent climbers and have a big toe on each foot that looks like a thumb and is used for grasping. This is called an opposable thumb.

Owl-Owls are birds of prey, meaning that they hunt and eat animals. Unlike most other birds of prey, owls are active at night. Common types of owls in Illinois include barred and great horned owls. The barred owl lives in forests by water.

Plant-Plants are living things that grow from the soil and turn light from the Sun into food. Plants can be big giant trees or small, tiny patches of moss.

Pond-Ponds are small bodies of still, or not moving, fresh water that are surrounded by land. Fresh water means that there is no salt in the water like there is in the ocean.

Prairie-A prairie is a type of habitat with mostly grasses, but also flowering plants and occasional shrubs or isolated trees.

Raccoon-A small animal that is gray with a black-eyed mask, and bushy ringed tail, lives chiefly in trees, and is active at night eating insects, eggs, frogs, clams, berries, and more.

Reptile-Any group of cold-blooded air-breathing animals with a skeleton (as snakes, lizards, turtles, and alligators) that usually lay eggs and have skin covered with scales or bony plates.

Sandstone-Sandstone is made when sand is laid down in layers. Over time, these layers are squashed under more and more layers. Eventually, the layers are turned to rock. The sandstone at Pere Marquette State Park was laid down from a sea 460 million years ago that once covered most of Illinois.

Limestone-Limestone forms when tiny pieces of shells, coral, and minerals settle at the bottom of oceans or lakes. Over time, these layers are pressed together under more and more weight, eventually turning into rock. The limestone at Pere Marquette State Park was formed millions of years ago when a warm, shallow sea covered much of Illinois.

Soil-Soil is a mixture of minerals and organic material that covers much of Earth's surface. Minerals are bits of rock, and organic material is the remains of living things that have died. Soil is not as solid as rock. It has many small spaces, called pores, that hold water and air.

Squirrel-Squirrels are rodents that have long bushy tails. They are excellent climbers and feast on acorns, hickory nuts, insects, bird eggs, and more. The squirrel family also includes groundhogs, prairie dogs, and chipmunks.

White-Tailed Deer-A deer is a large wild animal with hooves that eats grass, nuts, and leaves. A male deer usually has large, branching antlers.

Classroom Reading Suggestions:

Illinois Native American, by Carole Marsh

What's Your Habitat? By Sarah Leidhold

Big Tracks, Little Tracks, by Millicent Selsam

Can You Track It? By Maggie Felsch

Trees, Leaves, and Bark, by Diane Burns

McAdams Peak—White-Tailed Deer, state mammal of Illinois.



Pere Marquette State Park Wildlife

(Signs Of Wildlife)

Where are all of the animals? When visiting Pere Marquette State Park with students you may get this question once or twice. The park has a variety of wildlife from fish, turtles, snakes, birds, foxes, skunks, raccoons and more. Some animals sleep during the day and are active at night while others are active during the day but may be well hidden from our site. Animals are busy hunting for food, eating food for energy, building homes such as nests, caring for young, or protecting themselves from danger. You can find signs or evidence (clues) that animals are living in the area.

Activity

- While on a hike with students ask them to use their senses to look for wildlife.
 - Sense of smell.** Can they smell wildlife in the area? Some wildlife like mammals that have hair or fur will give off a musky smell to mark their territory, attract a mate, or protect themselves like the spray of a skunk.
 - Sense of sight.** Ask students to look up, down, and all around as they are hiking for clues of animal activity like pieces of fur, dropped feathers, holes in trees made by woodpeckers, birds flying in the sky, a chipmunk or squirrel scurrying on the forest floor, animal tracks, or a bee buzzing by.
 - Sense of hearing.** Students should keep their ears wide open while on the trail for the sounds of nature such as bird calls, barks from squirrels or chipmunks, clucks from turkeys, and the splash of a beaver or fish in the river.
- Print off the following page for students to help them learn the different classes of animals in the animal kingdom.

School group atop Mcadams peak—White oak, state tree of Illinois.



What are we? Match the group of animals to their animal class.



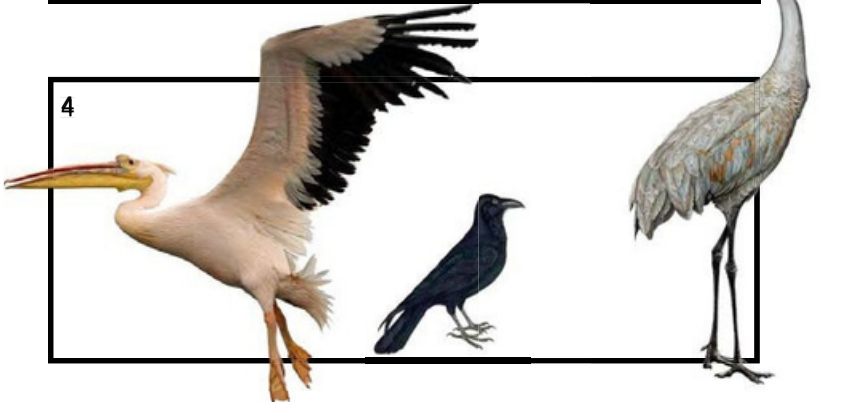
1 BIRDS: Feathers, beaks, some can fly with wings.



2 REPTILES: Covered in scales, they use the sun to warm their bodies, some lay eggs.



3 MAMMALS: Have hair or fur, babies drink milk from their mothers, make their own body heat.



4 FISH: Live in water, breathe through gills, have no limbs. Swim with fins.



5 AMPHIBIANS: Do not have scales. Live part of their lives in water and part on land. Can breathe through their skin.

Pere Marquette State Park Wildlife

(Habitats)

What is a habitat? A habitat is a home for a plant or animal. Wildlife or animals that live in the wild have habitat needs such as food, water, shelter, and space to raise their young. Animals that are pets have those items provided for them by their human owners. There are several habitats found throughout Pere Marquette State Park including an oak-hickory forest, the Illinois River, floodplains and wetlands along the river, sandstone canyons and bluffs, and a tallgrass prairie.

Activity

- Hike along the trails with your students to view the different habitats found at the park. Look for nests in trees, holes in trees, holes in the ground, turn over a log next to the trail, holes in canyon walls, fish jumping in the river, etc.
- Remember to respect wildlife and their homes by staying on marked trails and observe wildlife in action from a distance.
- Pay a visit to the park's visitor center to view the various animal mounts, furs, skulls, tracks, and scat or reserve the IDNR Mammal Resource Trunk for the classroom.
- Print off the student activity worksheet on the following page-Habitat Match Up.

*Goat Cliff Trail—Painted Turtle,
state reptile of Illinois.*



Draw a line from the habitat on left to the animal that lives in that habitat on the right.



1

Forest



2

Pond



3

Soil



4

Prairie

a

Beaver



b

Earthworm



c

Honeybee



d

Barred Owl



Answer Key: 1d, 2a, 3b, 4c

Answer Key: 1d, 2a, 3b, 4c

Pere Marquette Park Wildlife

(Discovering Animal Activity)



Some animals come out only at night and are called nocturnal while other animals are active during the day and are called diurnal. Some like to come out right before the sunrises and right before the sun sets and are called crepuscular. How do we know if an animal has been out and about if we don't see the animal with our own eyes? We look for animal signs such as animal tracks in the snow, mud, or sand at Pere Marquette State Park. Animal homes such as holes, dens, hollows in trees, and nests in branches are also signs of animal activity at the park.

Activity

- Look for animal tracks along the trails while hiking at Pere Marquette but remember to keep your distance and be respectful of all wildlife you encounter.
- Print off the following student activity sheet on animal tracks.

White-Tailed Deer: hoof like tracks in the shape of an upside down heart.

Raccoon: small handprints with five fingers and tiny claw prints at the tips.

Gray Squirrel: Tiny handprints in front of larger footprints. Long fingers and toes with claw prints at the end.

North American Beaver: Webbed feet where the toes are connected by skin to help the beaver swim. Front paws will look like small handprints with five fingers.

Virginia Opossum: Handprints with five fingers and footprints with an extended big toe that looks more like a thumb to help it climb and grasp on to branches.

Eagles Roost Over Look-Eastern Tiger Salamander, state amphibian of Illinois.



Match the animal to its name, then match the name to the animal's track.



1

f. Raccoon

a



2

g. Beaver

b



3

h. White Tailed Deer

c



4

i. Opossum

d



5

j. Squirrel

e



Answer Key: 1hb, 2fc, 3je, 4ga, 5id

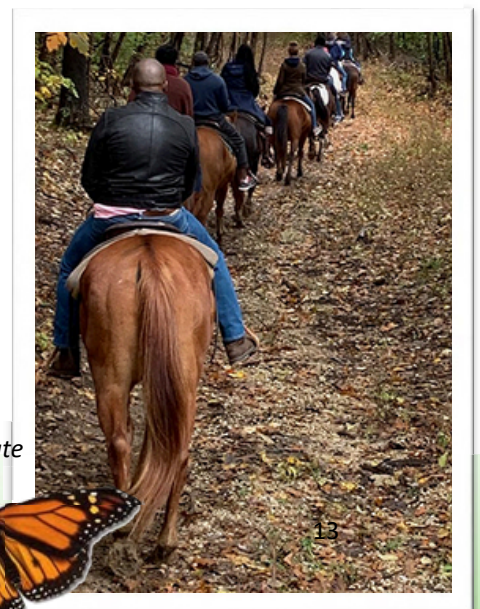
Pere Marquette State Park Plants and Trees

Many types of plants, flowers, and trees grow at Pere Marquette State Park. Plants, trees, and wildlife were important to the Native American Indians that once lived in the area. The Cahokian people were a Native American Peoples that belonged to a larger group called the Illinois People. The city of Cahokia was a grand urban center that once existed about 30 miles down the river from where Pere Marquette State Park sits today. Cahokia Mounds is a special place where a large Native American city once stood over 1,000 years ago, full of big mounds built by hand for homes, ceremonies, and gatherings. We don't know what the Cahokian people actually called themselves because they left no written records of their name.

Large grocery stores didn't exist in the 1600s when the Cahokia lived along the Illinois river. The woods, wetlands, river, and prairie were their grocery store. They found food from nuts, berries, roots of plants, and wildlife. They made medicine from plants too. Shells from the river tied to sticks made spoons and clay from the earth made bowls and pots while rocks were turned into arrowheads, axes, and knives.

Activity

- Hike along the trail with your students and collect different shapes of leaves using the pictures below.
- Discuss the importance of trees: wildlife homes, food for wildlife, used by humans to build homes, burn in campfires or fireplaces for warmth, paper, toilet paper, furniture, pencils, baseball bats etc.
- Ask students to design the perfect tree by using the space on the following page. Ask them to think about the wildlife living in the tree (under the roots, inside the trunk, on the branches). Ask them to create their own leaf shape, berries, flowers, and nuts or pinecones on the tree.
- Print off the following 6 leaf shapes for students to color and use as a fun scavenger hunt along the park trails during your visit.

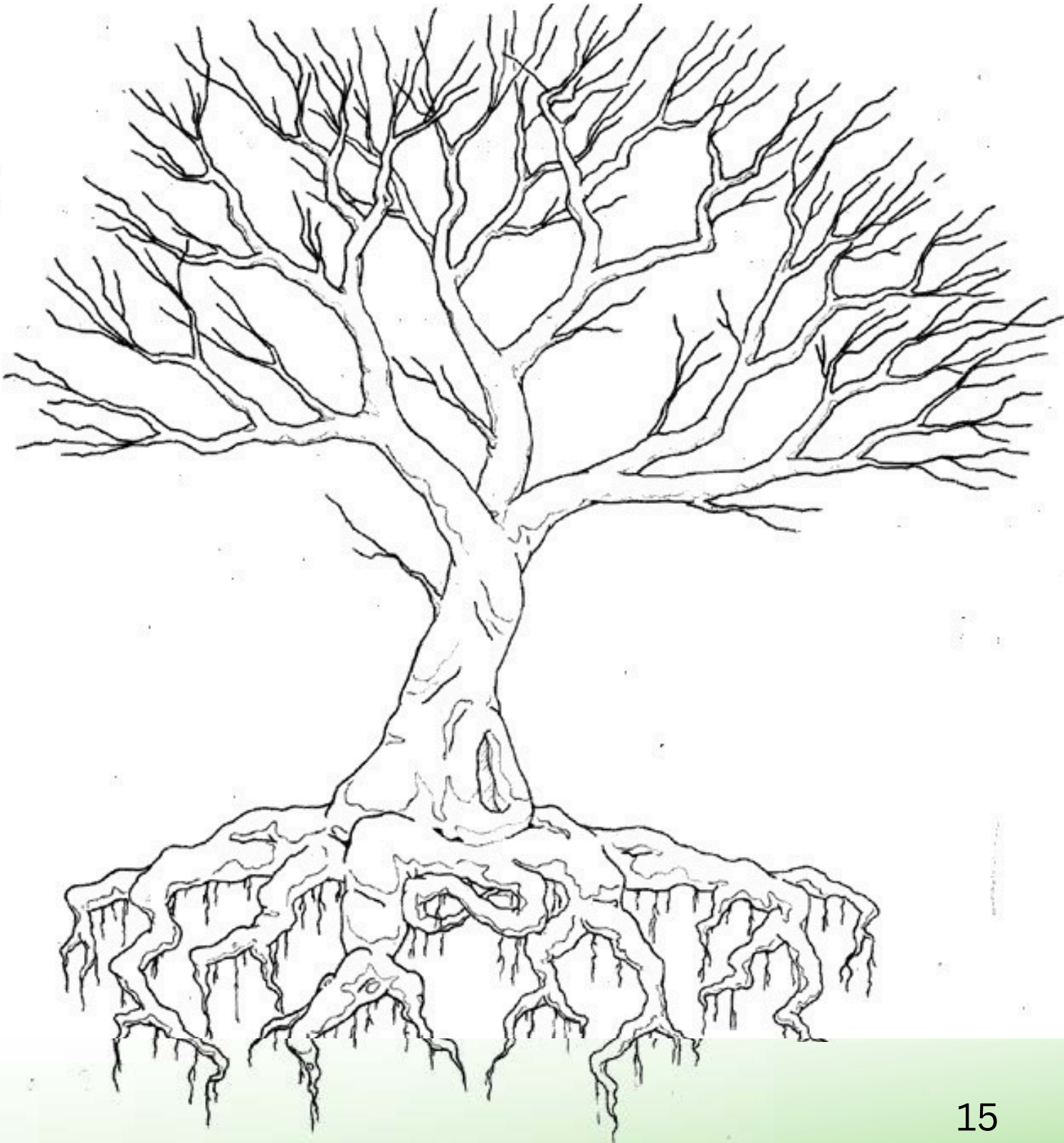


Horse Trail-Monarch Butterfly, state insect of Illinois.

My Tree!

Draw and color your own tree. Make your own leaf shapes on the branches. Add wildlife living inside the tree, on the branches, or under the roots. Does your tree have berries, flowers, nuts, pinecones, or seeds?

Name your tree: _____

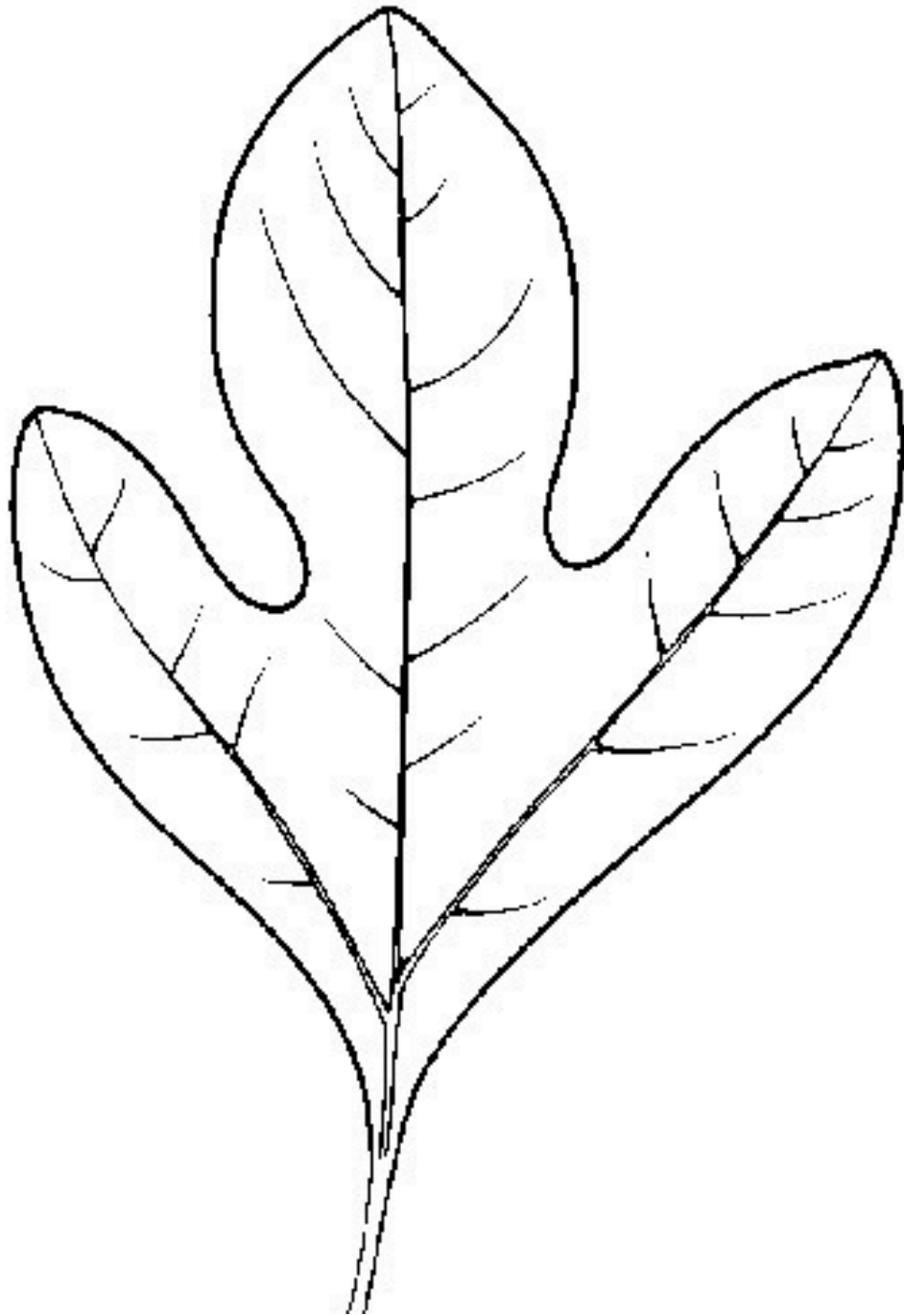




SYCAMORE

Fun Fact:

- Sycamores can easily live to 200 years old and grow up to 160 feet tall. A sycamore tree can grow 4 to 6 feet in a year! Look for their camouflaged and flaky bark in the creek bottoms of the park.



SASSAFRAS

Fun Fact:

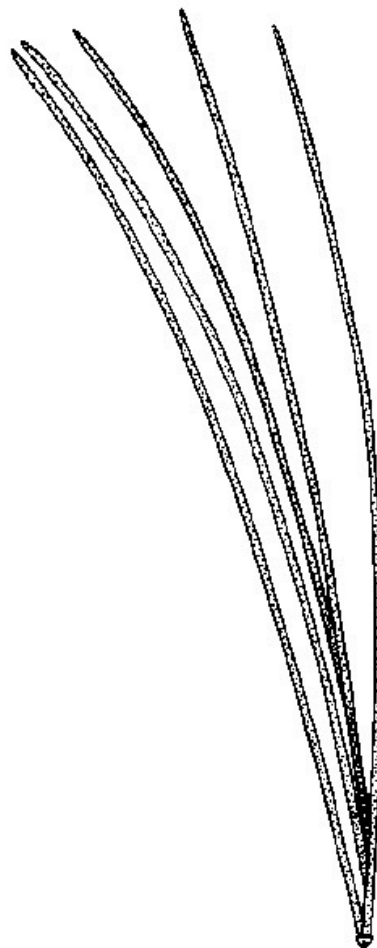
- Sassafras branches, roots, and leaves are edible. They are used to flavor various soups and dishes. Native Americans once used the tree to make medicine. 3 different leaf shapes:
- dinosaur track (above) oval, and a mitten. Find a leaf and tear it to smell the citrus and spice scent!



WHITE OAK

Fun Fact:

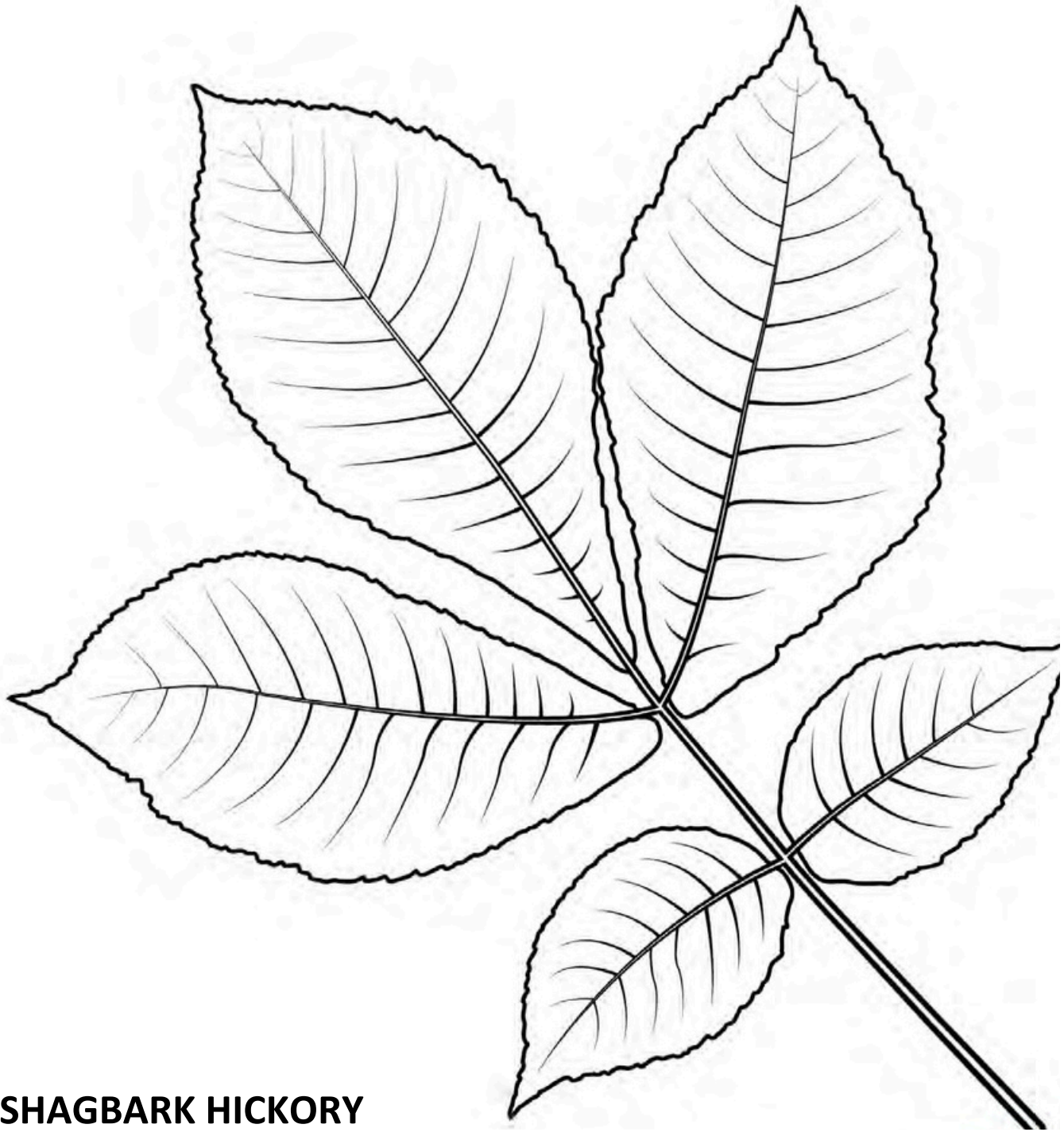
- Can grow up to 70 feet tall and 500 years old!
- Oaks are used for furniture and building materials as well as a valuable food source for wildlife.
- The White Oak is the state tree of Illinois.
- White oaks are found throughout the park and have large grey patches of bark on their trunks mixed in with the darker bark.



EASTERN WHITE PINE

Fun Fact:

- The largest pine tree in northeast America Leaves are needle like in shape, soft, flexible, and bluish-green.
- White Pines will have 5 needles in a bundle attached along the branch of the pine tree.
- Pinecones are a great source of food for wildlife. Two white pines are situated right outside the visitor center.



SHAGBARK HICKORY

Fun Fact:

- Can grow up to 100 feet tall and live to 350 years old! The tree is named for its shaggy
- looking bark that curls in large sections on the tree trunk. Hickory nuts are edible and are a
- great food source for wildlife. Shagbark hickory trees can be found in the wooded areas
- throughout the park.



EASTERN COTTONWOOD

Fun Fact:

- The tree is named for the white and fluffy seeds it produces in the late spring that float on the air.
- The leaves look like hearts.
- You can find cottonwood trees growing along the Illinois River at the park on the Goat Cliff Trail.

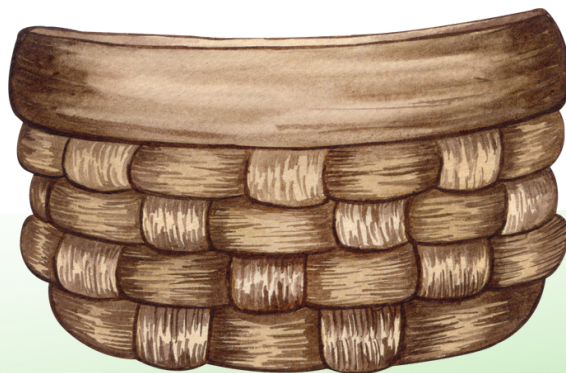
At Pere Marquette State Park, life for Native Americans who lived in this area, such as the Illiniwek tribes including the Kaskaskia, revolved around the natural resources provided by the land. These tribes built their homes near the Illinois River, relying on the fertile land, water, and forests to support their way of life. They lived in wigwams, which were dome-shaped homes constructed using tree branches, bark, and plants like reeds. These homes were sturdy and well-suited for the environment. The doors, blankets, and rugs were made from animal furs to keep families warm during the colder months.

The women of the tribe were the heart of daily life. They planted and tended crops like beans, corn, and squash, which were essential to their diet. Women also cared for their families, prepared meals, and crafted clothing from animal hides. They were even responsible for building the family's wigwam, skillfully using materials gathered from the surrounding forest.

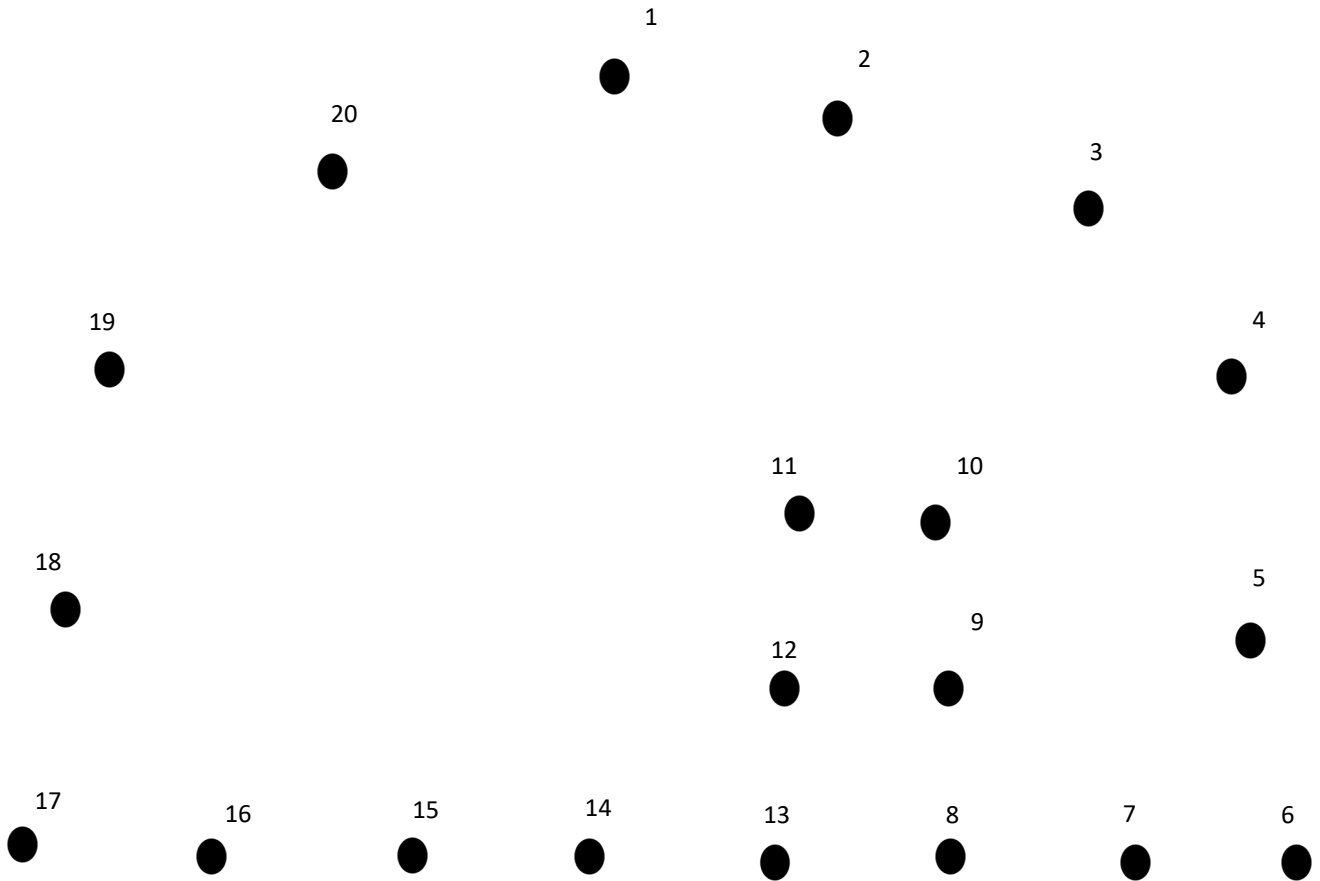
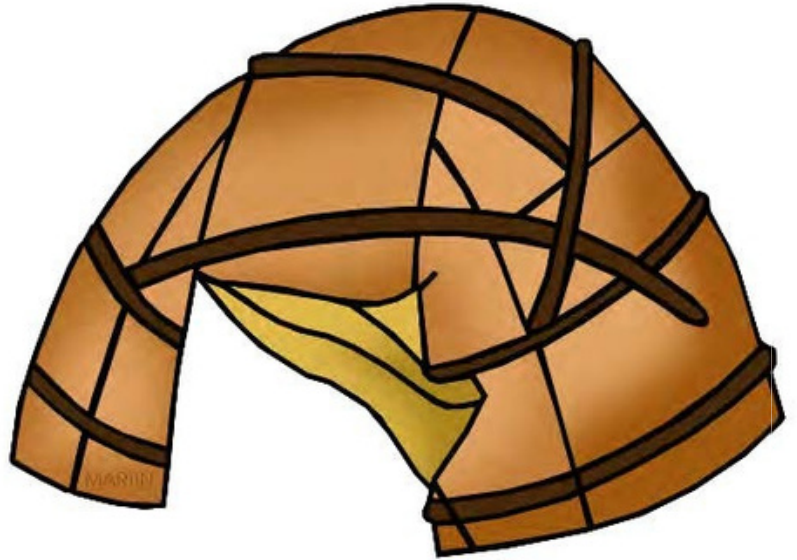
Men played a crucial role in providing food for the village. They were skilled hunters who embarked on long hunts during the summer to track bison, an important source of meat, hides, and other materials. In addition to bison, they hunted deer, elk, turkey, and smaller animals like beaver and otter. The rivers and streams provided fish, which were caught and shared among the community.

Children in the Kaskaskia tribe also had important responsibilities. They helped their families by gathering nuts, roots, berries, and other plants from the land. These tasks were vital for ensuring the family had enough food to last through the seasons. Through their chores, children learned valuable skills that they would need as adults, while also playing an active role in supporting their community.

Life for the Illiniwek tribes at Pere Marquette State Park was closely connected to nature and the changing seasons. Every member of the tribe had an important role to play, from planting crops to hunting, gathering, and building homes. What responsibilities do you have at home that help your family?



Connect the dots to form the shape of a wigwam!





Jacques Marquette, a French explorer and Jesuit missionary, traveled with Louis Jolliet and their crew of voyageurs from Canada south through the Great Lakes, Mississippi River, and Illinois River in 1673—350 years ago! Traveling by canoe, Marquette and his companions explored the land, searching for resources like gold, silver, timber, and new trade routes, while also spreading Christianity and mapping the region for the country of France.

Jacques Marquette, a French explorer and Jesuit missionary, traveled through the Illinois region in 1673, including areas near what is now Pere Marquette State Park. While exploring the Illinois River, Marquette and his companions met local tribes like the Kaskaskia. The French traded animal furs such as beaver, elk, wolf, bear, and otter for metal goods like axes, pots, knives, guns, blankets, and arrowheads, which were more durable than traditional stone or clay tools.

Have you ever traded with a friend? Maybe you traded a sticker, snack, candy, card, or pencil. What did you give, and what did you get in return?

Activity

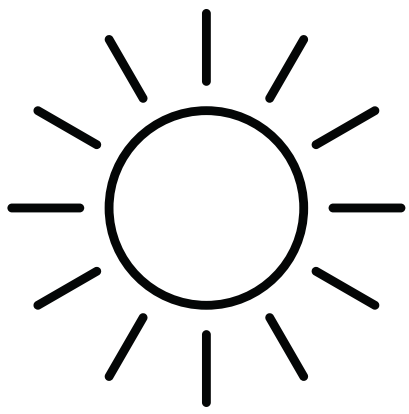
- View the exhibits inside the Visitor Center Father Jacque Marquette.

Hike to the top of Mcadams Peak



- Print off the coloring page to the left for students as a pre-visit or post-visit activity.
- Visit the Visitor Center where you can feel a real beaver pelt (ask at the front desk) They have two types of hair: a long guard hair that is waterproof since they live in and out of the water and a shorter, softer hair close to the skin to keep them warm in winter. The French wanted to trade for beaver pelts to turn them into warm winter coats and hats.





Pere Marquette State Park Bluffs

Sandstone is a type of rock formed from sand that has hardened over time. The bluffs, canyons, and overlooks at Pere Marquette State Park are made of a unique form of sandstone. This sandstone is fragile and can easily break apart.

Where did all of the sand come from? Over 460 million years ago what we know of as the State of Illinois was located south of the equator close to where South America is today. It was located next to a shallow sea and over millions of years the waves from the sea washed sand up onto the shore. The weight of each layer of sand over millions of years pressed down on the layer before it and the pressure of each layer of sand caused it to harden into a rock-sandstone.

Activity

- Take a hike out to one of the many bluffs at the park to take a closer look at the various levels of sandstone or the ancient shoreline from 460 million years ago! Ask to borrow the Field Trip Backpack that contains magnifying lenses so students can take a closer look at the sandstone particles.
- Ask students to gently touch the sandstone walls of a canyon.
- What colors do you see in the sandstone? Ask students to look and answer.
 - The orange color comes from the mineral iron as it travels through the sandstone in water. Once it reaches the surface the oxygen in the air makes it turn orange –iron oxide or rust!
 - Can students see any sparkles in the sandstone? That is another mineral called quartz.
 - The green color found in the sandstone comes from plant materials like moss.
- As students to draw a picture of a bluff after their field trip.
- Try the following sandstone experiment in the classroom before or after your scheduled park visit.

Pere Marquette State Park Bluffs



Making Sandstone Activity-45 minutes

Sedimentary rocks, including sandstone, are packed together in layers. Water containing minerals seeps in between the pieces and then evaporates. The minerals that are left behind cement the particles together into a larger rock.

You will need:

- paper cup
- cementing solution (2 parts water to one part Epsom salt)
- sand
- hand lens

Instructions:

- 1.Fill the paper cup half full of sand. Pack the sand with your hand.
- 2.Slowly add cementing solution until all of the sand is wet.
- 3.Put the cup in a warm place until the sand dries completely.
- 4.Carefully tear away the paper cup.
- 5.Observe the sand with the hand lens.



St. Peter Sandstone on brown marked Bluff above Goat Cliff Trail

Pere Marquette State Park Area Activities

Things to Do:

Visit the Visitor Center and watch a short film.

15 min. -In the Shadow of the Rock

(history, geology, and ecology of the park)

15 min-On the Wings of the Wind

(bald eagles)

9 min-Smokey the Bear and Friends

(cartoon for kids)

15 min-Civilian Conservation Corps

(1930s history at the park)



- View the exhibits in the Visitor Center that detail the park's history, geology, and ecology.
- Reserve an IDNR Resource Trunk ahead of time with the Natural Resource Coordinator (Menachem.smolianski@illinois.gov) and use the trunk materials in class before the visit or reserve the large pavilion located across the street from the Visitor Center near our marina for a classroom on-site and location for lunch.
- Ask for a Junior Ranger booklet at the front desk of the Visitor Center. Complete at least 5 out of the 9 activities by viewing the Visitor Center exhibits, maps, and hiking a trail and earn a Junior Ranger badge and prize. Schedule booklets ahead of time if you have a large group by contacting Lev Smolianski at Menachem.smolianski@illinois.gov

Things to See and Places to Visit:

- Visit the birds at Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge, located along the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Explore the scenic trails through the prairie and wetlands, offering stunning views of the river bluffs and a variety of bird species.
- Visit Grafton, Illinois, located at the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Enjoy scenic views of the rivers, explore the local trails, and take in the beauty of the surrounding bluffs and wetlands. Grafton is also a popular spot for birdwatching, offering a variety of species to observe throughout the year.
- View the historical Pere Marquette Lodge across the street from the Visitor Center. Hike the sidewalk around the Lodge to view the wood carvings and sculptures or play a game of oversized chess in the great hall!

