

# Pere Marquette State Park

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](mailto: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](http://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!

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# Pere Marquette State Park

Pere Marquette State Park is known for its scenic bluffs, wooded trails, and breathtaking views of the Illinois River in southwestern Illinois. Over 12 miles of hiking trails take visitors through diverse landscapes, including oak-hickory forests, scenic overlooks, and limestone formations. Popular trails like Goat Cliff, Hickory South, Fern Hollow, and Dogwood offer unique experiences for hikers of all skill levels. Notable overlooks such as McAdams Peak and Twin Mounds provide stunning panoramic views of the river valley and surrounding areas. Visit the IDNR website to download trail maps and explore suggested routes for your visit to the park at [Pere Marquette State Park](#).



**Goat Cliff**



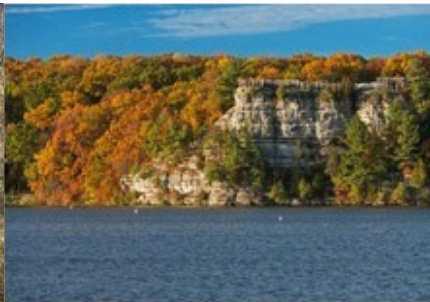
**Cap-au-Gres fault**



**Waterfall**



**Limestone Bluff**



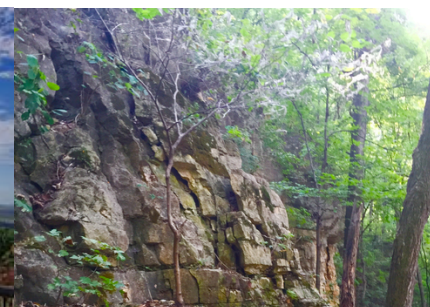
**Overlook**



**Rock Shelter**



**Eagles Roost Over Look**



**Limestone Cliff**



**McAdams Peak Overlook**



**Twin Springs**

## Suggested Geology Vocabulary for Students

**Bluff**-A bluff is a small, rounded cliff that usually overlooks a body of water, or where a body of water once stood.

**Canyon**-A canyon or gorge is a deep ravine between cliffs often carved from the landscape by water such as a river.

**Equator**-The Equator is an imaginary circle around Earth. It divides Earth into two equal parts: the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere. It runs east and west halfway between the North and South poles.

**Geology**-Geology is the study of rocks, and how the earth formed. Scientists who work in geology are called geologists.

**Glacier**-A glacier is a large area of thick ice that remains frozen from one year to the next. Glaciers also slowly flow over the land. Thousands of years ago, large parts of the world were covered with glaciers. At times glaciers covered about 30 percent of Earth's surface.

**River**-A river is a large natural stream of water that flows over land.

**Sandstone**-Sandstone is a sedimentary rock. It is a rock made of compacted sand. Sand is small grains of rocks and minerals (such as quartz and feldspar). These are the most common minerals in the Earth's crust.

**Sedimentary**-Sedimentary rocks are formed from small pieces of rocks and sand, which are called sediments.

**Torrent**-A torrent is a large amount of water that is moving very fast. It can be a heavy flow of water with a strong current, such as a rushing stream, a flood, or a heavy rainfall.

## Geology Prep and Visit

### Pre-Visit

- Discuss the vocabulary list.
- Watch video series:
  - Illinois State Museum
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BlKrsksfu70&t=227s>
    - <https://sites.google.com/illinoisstatemuseum.org/educatorspage/exploring-geology>
- Have fun with the glacier activity on page 8.

### Visit

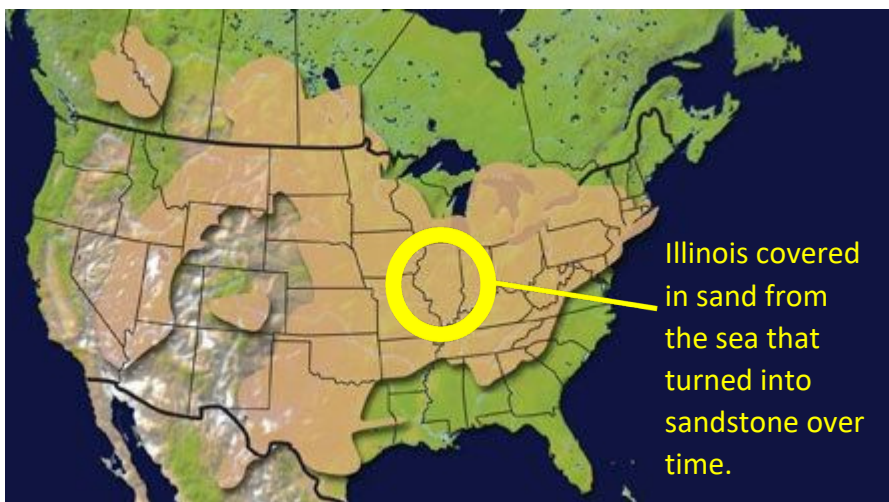
- Plan a hike into the Pere Marquette State Park trail system where the geological processes can be seen in the sandstone and limestone walls.
  - Closest to the Visitor Center and main parking lot.
    - Goat Cliff Trail
    - Ravine Trail
- Watch a movie at the Pere Marquette Visitor Center.
- Go on a guided hike with the park's Natural Resource Coordinator.

# Pere Marquette State Park

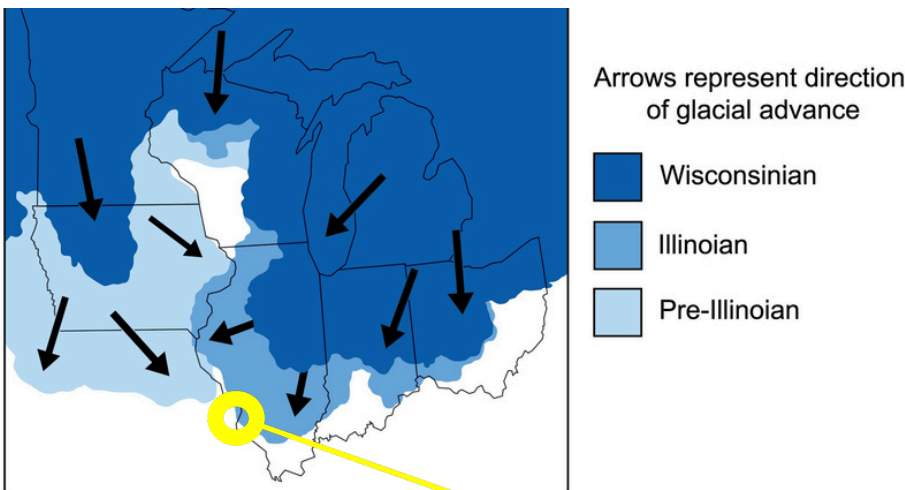
## Geology



When you think of sand you think of the beach near a large body of water, right? Pere Marquette State Park is quite far from a sandy beach along the ocean or a large lake like Lake Michigan. So where did all of the sand come from and how did it turn into stone? To answer this question scientists called geologists who study the Earth and what it is made of found that Illinois was once located south of the equator and covered in a shallow sea around 460 million years ago.



As rocky material was broken into tiny bits through the movement of waves in the sea, sand was deposited on the sea floor and washed upon the shore. Over thousands and millions of years, the sand hardened under pressure from layer after layer and formed sedimentary rock called sandstone.



Fast forward 445 million years to just 16,000 years ago. Illinois is no longer south of the equator, but now located in its present day location and covered in a sheet of ice a mile thick. The rock that once laid over the top of the sandstone was scraped away by previous glaciers and ice ages. Warming temperatures around 10,000 years ago began to melt the glacial ice sheets and floods of water such as the Kankakee Torrent swept through this region. The sandstone was easily carved away by the rushing waters and created the Illinois Valley, present day Illinois River bed, and the sandstone cliffs that visitors see at the park today.

Location of Pere Marquette

# Pere Marquette State Park

## Geology Activity

Fill a cup about half full with water. Add blue food coloring until you achieve the shade of blue you want. Mix the food coloring and water with a spoon or by shaking the cup gently without spilling it.

Fill the cup the rest of the way with sand, gravel, or dirt. Mix the contents with a spoon. Place the cup in the freezer overnight; the mixture of water, dye, and dirt will turn into a glacier.

Remove the frozen mixture of sand and water from the freezer. Allowing the cup to sit for a short while will make it easier to extract your glacier from the cup.

Set a baking sheet on the table and spray the surface with cooking spray. Sprinkle 2 cups of flour over the baking sheet, distributing it as evenly as you can manage.

Tip the cup upside down to dislodge the glacier onto one end of the cooking sheet. Push the glacier from one side of the sheet to the other and study the striations and moraines it creates.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuAx\\_UBHwjM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuAx_UBHwjM)

### Things You'll Need

- Paper or plastic cup
- Blue food coloring
- Water
- Spoon
- Sand, gravel, and dirt
- Freezer
- Baking sheet
- Cooking spray
- 2 cups of flour

There are 3 types of rock that make up our planet. You just learned about sandstone which makes up many of the bluffs at Pere Marquette State Park.

**Sedimentary**=Sedimentary rock is formed when rocks or even shells from sea creatures are worn away by rain, wind, and time. Those tiny rock particles are then compressed together over time and form sedimentary rocks like sandstone and limestone. Starved Rock State Park 's canyons are made from St. Peter Sandstone which is a sedimentary rock.

**Metamorphic**= Metamorphic rocks that are formed when other rocks are affected by great temperatures and pressures. Metamorphic rock can be formed from sedimentary or igneous rocks. Marble is a type of metamorphic rock.

**Igneous**=Igneous rock is formed from magma. Magma is (melted) rock. Geologists call them squished rocks. It is formed inside Earth, where the temperatures are very hot. When magma cools down it returns to a solid state and becomes igneous rock. Lava is on the surface, magma is underground. Most of Earth's crust is made up of igneous rock. Examples of this type of rock include granite and basalt.

[www.preschoolplayandlearn.com/types-of-rocks-activities](http://www.preschoolplayandlearn.com/types-of-rocks-activities)



## Suggested Ecology Vocabulary for Students

**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.

**Bird**-Birds are warm-blooded vertebrates (vertebrates have backbones) and are the only animals with feathers. Although all birds have wings, a few species can't fly.

**Carnivore**-A carnivore is an animal which eats only meat.

**Consumer**-Every food web includes consumers—animals that get their energy by eating plants or other animals.

**Decomposer**-Decomposers are organisms that feed on decaying organic matter, such as dead plants and animals, and break it down into simpler substances. This process is crucial for the recycling of nutrients, as decomposers release carbon, nitrogen, and other elements back into the environment.

**Ecology**-Ecology is the study of the relationships between living things and their surroundings, or environment. Scientists who work in ecology are called ecologists. Ecologists examine how living things depend on one another for survival. They also study how living things use such natural resources as air, soil, and water to stay alive.

**Ecosystem**-An ecosystem is made up of all of the living and nonliving things in an area. This includes all of the plants, animals, and other living things that make up the communities of life in an area.

**Fish**-Fish are vertebrates (vertebrates have backbones) that live in water. They breathe using special organs called gills.

**Food Chain**-The food chain describes who eats whom in the wild. Every living thing—from one-celled algae to giant blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*)—needs food to survive.

**Food Web**-A food web is similar to a food chain but larger, and it is a diagram that combines many food chains into one picture. Food webs show how plants and animals are connected in many ways to help them all survive, unlike food chains that just follow one path.

**Forest**-A large area filled with many trees is called a forest. Forests grow in almost every part of the world. The only places bare of forests are deserts, some prairies and mountaintops, and the North and South poles.

**Habitat**-A habitat is the home of an animal or a plant. Almost every place on Earth—from the hottest desert to the coldest ice pack—is a habitat for some kinds of animals and plants. Most habitats include a community of animals and plants along with water, oxygen, soil or sand, and rocks.

**Herbivore**-Herbivores are animals that only eat plants.

**Insect**-An insect is a small animal whose body is divided into three parts. Insects also have three pairs of legs and usually one or two pairs of wings. Insects are arthropods. Bees, ants, butterflies, beetles, and flies are kinds of insects.

**Insectivore**-An insectivore is an animal or insect that eats mostly insects for food.

**Mammal**-A mammal is an animal that breathes air, has a backbone, and grows hair at some point during its life. In addition, all female mammals have glands that can produce milk.

**Nature**-The words nature and natural are used for all the things that are normally not made by humans. The word Nature includes many things like weather, organisms, landforms, and celestial bodies. Scientists study the way the parts of nature work.

**Nutrients**- Nutrients build up, in the environment. Nutrient-rich soil or water contains large amounts of nitrogen, carbon, phosphorus, sulfur, and potassium. These nutrients can come from natural sources, like plant and animal remains. As plants and animals die, they decompose. Decomposition releases nutrients into the environment.

**Omnivore**-An omnivore is an animal that eats both plants and animals.

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

**Predator**-A predator is an animal that hunts, catches and eats other animals.

**Prey**-Prey is the term used for an animal that is eaten by another animal. Predators hunt their prey for food. An example of this is a fox hunting a rabbit.

**Producer**-A producer is an organism that makes its own food. Most food chains start with a green plant, because plants make their own food by photosynthesis.

**Reptile**-Reptiles are cold-blooded vertebrates. (Vertebrates have backbones.) They have dry skin covered with scales or bony plates and usually lay soft-shelled eggs.

**Scavenger**-An animal that feeds on dead animals that it has not killed itself. Turkey vultures are scavengers and feed on dead animals (carrion).

# Pere Marquette State Park

## Ecology Prep and Visit

### Pre-Visit

- Discuss the vocabulary list.
- Watch educational videos:
  - Illinois Department of Natural Resources
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW4a7aBeIGQ>
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPsGgSLPBeA>
  - Illinois State Museum
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qXQ0i2B7yU>
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78Lfdpj2j-o>
    - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-c\\_SnARAV7M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-c_SnARAV7M)
  - Moo Moo Math and Science-What is a Food Web?
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCQpE8xV9wU>
- Utilize the worksheets listed on pages 12-15. • Check out the IDNR Educational Trunks from the Pere Marquette Visitor Center.
  - Mammals
  - Insects
  - Pollinators
  - Prairie
  - Trees
  - Aquatic

### Visit

- Plan a hike to Pere Marquette State Park.

The hillside prairie at Pere Marquette State Park can be accessed via the Goat Cliff Trail or from the Eagles Roost parking area. Parking is available at both locations. While the trail that passes the prairie is self-guided, visitors can arrange a guided hike with one of the seasonal park naturalists or the Natural Resource Coordinator to explore the unique flora and history of the hillside prairie in greater detail.
- The oak-hickory forest can be experience along any trail at Pere Marquette State Park The best trails to experience the forest are the Hickories trails at Pere Marquette State Park.
- Request the movie “On the Wings of the Wind” about bald eagles at Pere Marquette State Park.
- Go on a guided hike with the park’s Natural Resource Coordinator.

# Pere Marquette State Park

## Mammalian Ecology

An ecosystem is made up of all of the living and nonliving things in an area. This includes all of the plants, animals, and other living things that make up the communities of life in an area. An ecosystem also includes nonliving materials—for example, water, rocks, soil, and sand. Pere Marquette State Park is part of the Upper Mississippi River and the Illinois River Bottomlands Division of Illinois, showcasing the unique ecological diversity of this region.

A habitat is the home of an animal or a plant. Almost every place on Earth—from the hottest desert to the coldest ice pack—is a habitat for some kinds of animals and plants. Most habitats include a community of animals and plants along with water, oxygen, soil or sand, and rocks. Habitats at Pere Marquette State Park include hillside prairies, oak-hickory forests, the Illinois River, forested wetlands, and limestone bluffs.

A wide diversity of wildlife calls these habitats home. White pelicans migrate through every March and stay through November. They can be seen bobbing along the surface of the Illinois River searching for fish. Another large bird, the wild American turkey can be found roaming the woodlands in search of nuts and berries as it forages through the leaf litter. Song birds such as tanagers, warblers, cardinals, blue jays, and chickadees can be seen and heard through the spring and summer months.

Bald eagles are often sighted in the park, particularly during the coldest times of the year. The northern eagles' main flyway is the upper Mississippi River; however, when the temperature drops and the river freezes over, they go in search of open water.

Other animals include mammals like white-tailed deer, gray and red foxes, groundhogs, striped skunks, opossums, chipmunks, ground squirrels, voles, moles, beavers, and even river otters!

# Pere Marquette State Park

## Non-Mammalian Ecology

Amphibians can be found in the park's wetland areas, creeks, and along the shallow wide waters of the Illinois River. Amphibians like the tiger salamander, northern leopard frog, cricket frog, chorus frog, green frog, bullfrog, wood frog, grey tree frog, and the American toad can be found in these areas.

Reptiles like the common water snake, garter snake, rat snake, and little brown snake can be found sunning themselves along the rock outcrops or crawling through the leaf debris on the forest floor. Other reptiles like the snapping turtle and painted turtle can be seen along the Illinois River.

Fish such as the channel catfish, long-nosed gar, short-nosed gar, black spotted crappie, bluegill, sunfish, carp (and Non-native carp like Copi), sauger, muskie, and more swim the waters of the Illinois River at the park.

- Did you know that each frog species has a unique call, and scientists use these distinct sounds to identify them? Below is a link to the calls of four different frog species found at the park. Can you hear the differences?

**Cricket frog:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyg3w4iNNAc>

**Chorus frog:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbJvYhqIgfA>

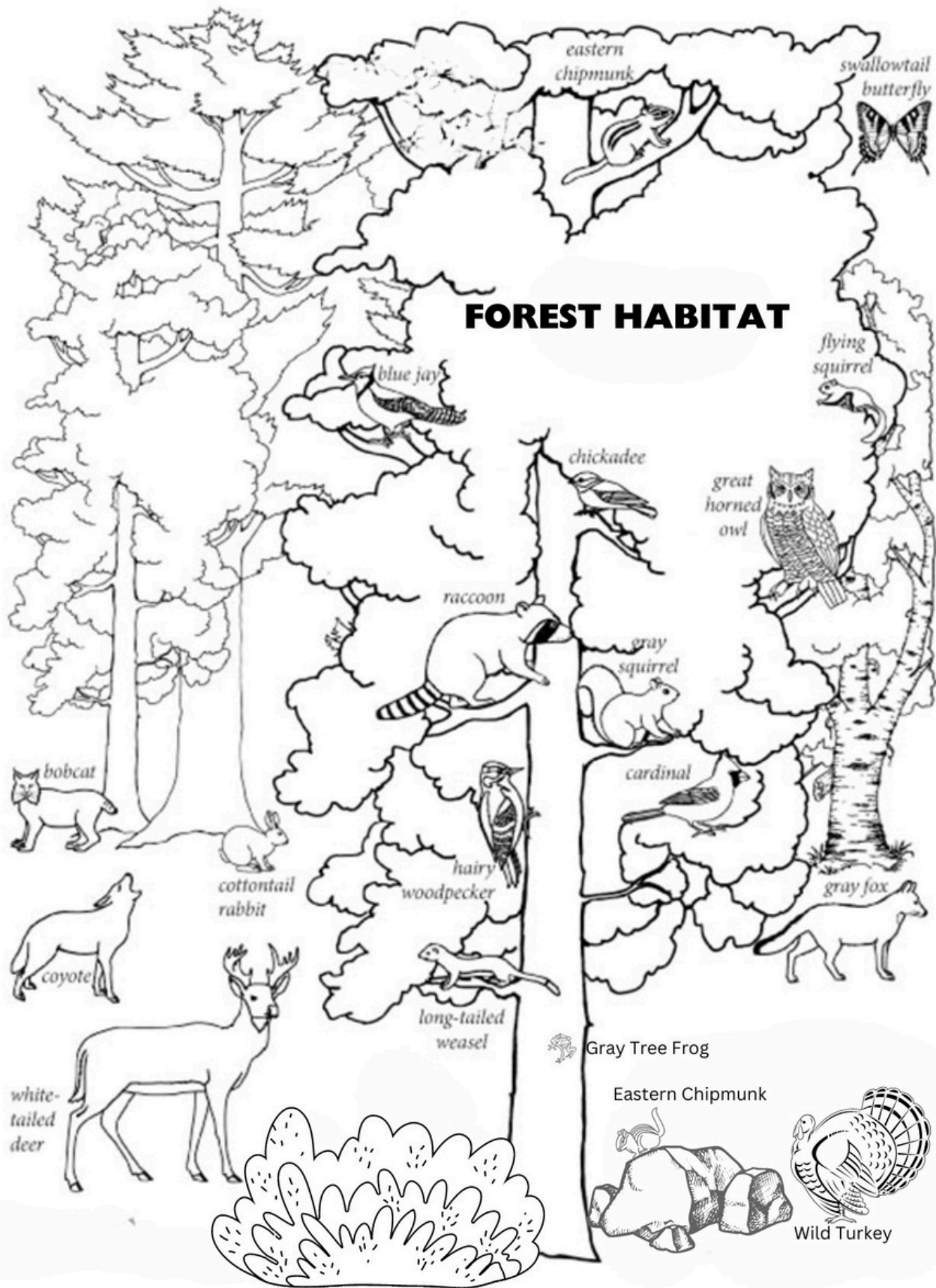
**Bullfrog:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwUZRqHeRB0>

**Northern leopard frog:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luXzpmcq3QM>



Bullfrog

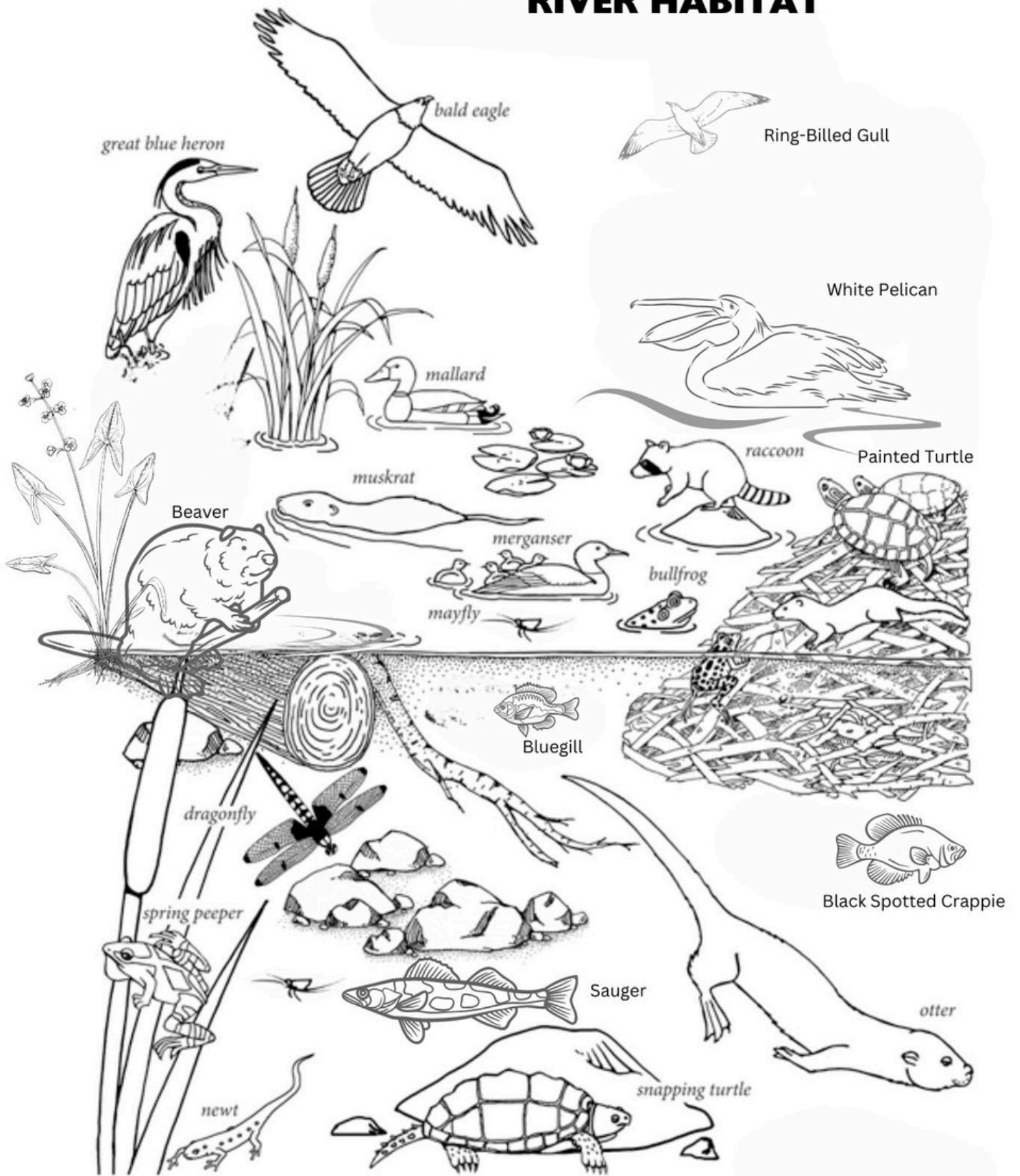
Take a moment to color in the following page of Park habitats before designing your own habitat on page 15.



# PRAIRIE HABITAT



# RIVER HABITAT



**Illustrate/Draw your habitat (plants, animals, sky, and ground.)**

**What is the name of your habitat?**

**Name the animals that live in your habitat.....**

**What is an interesting fact about your habitat?**



# Pere Marquette State Park

## Food Chains

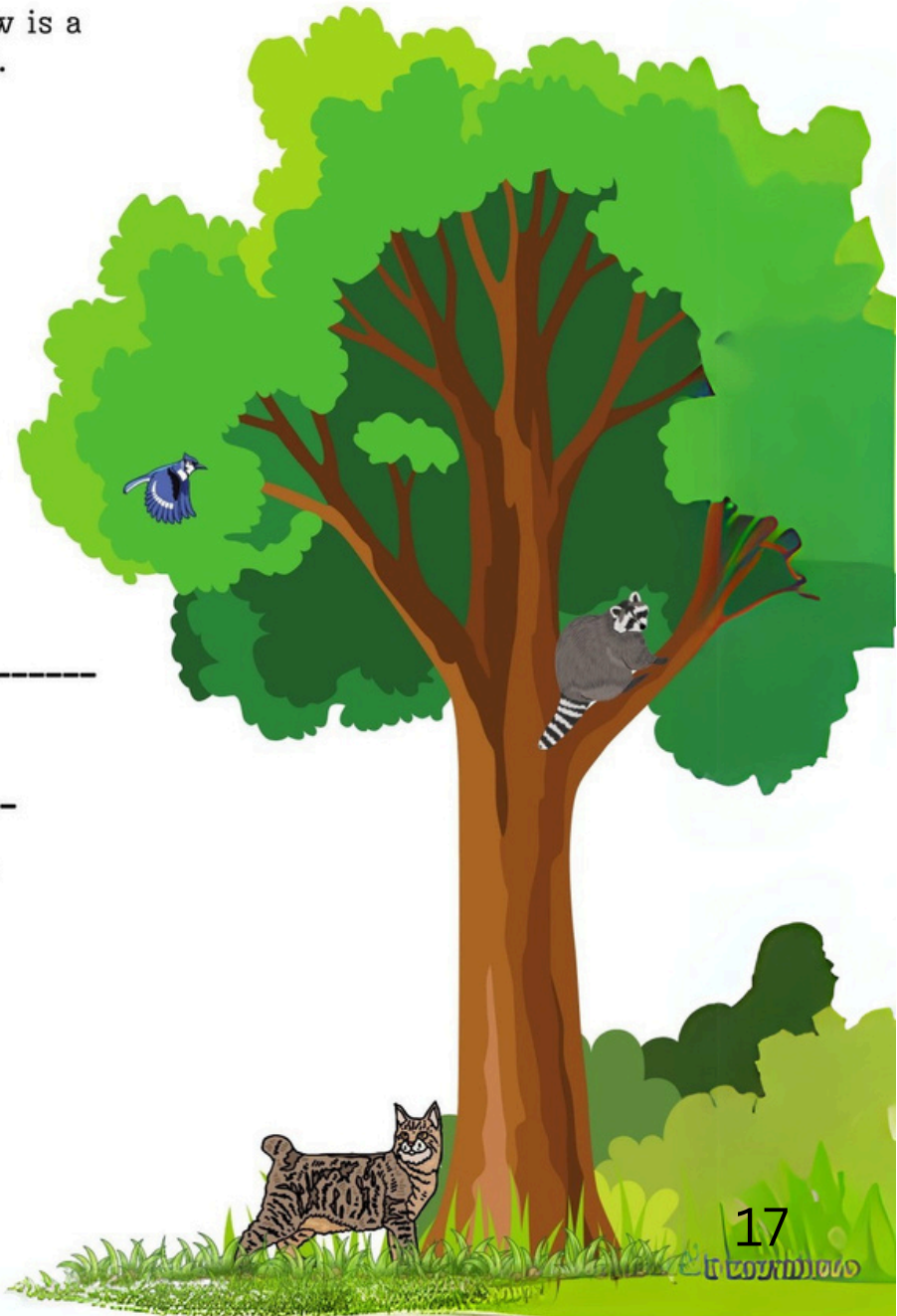
A **producer** is a living thing that makes its own food from sunlight, air, and soil. Green plants are producers who make food in their leaves.

A **consumer** is a living thing that cannot make its own food. Consumers get their energy by eating food. All animals are consumers.

A **decomposer** is a living thing that gets energy by breaking down dead plants and animals. Fungi and bacteria are the most common decomposers.

Tell whether each living thing below is a producer, consumer, or decomposer.

- a. oak tree \_\_\_\_\_
- b. mushroom \_\_\_\_\_
- c. dragonfly \_\_\_\_\_
- d. bobcat \_\_\_\_\_
- e. fern \_\_\_\_\_
- f. water snake \_\_\_\_\_
- g. owl \_\_\_\_\_
- h. acorn \_\_\_\_\_
- i. wild raspberries \_\_\_\_\_
- j. bacteria \_\_\_\_\_
- k. blue jay \_\_\_\_\_
- l. catfish \_\_\_\_\_





**Cut out the animal pictures above and glue them to the circle located in the layer of the forest where they live on the next page.**

**There are several layers of the forest where wildlife lives, eat and raise their young.**

**Canopy:** The canopy is the top layer of the forest filled with branches, leaves, and twigs. This area receives light and warmth from the sun and is filled with diverse life such as birds and insects.

**Understory:** Young trees, short trees, shrubs, and vines make up the forest's understory. Those plants and animals in this forest layer do not need as much sunlight as those in the canopy. Animals like squirrels, raccoons, opossums, chipmunks, birds, insects, amphibians like tree frogs, and more live in this layer.

**Forest Floor:** The forest floor is the lowest layer of the forest. It is covered in dead leaves, twigs, fallen trees, animal scat, moss, mushrooms, grasses, flowers, and more. Decomposers like fungi, insects, bacteria, and earthworms live here and their job is to reuse and recycle dead plants, dead animals, animal scat, into soil so the forest can keep growing and producing new plants and trees. Animals like deer, foxes, snakes, and turkey look for food and shelter in this layer of the forest.

# Layers of Life in the Forest

There are 4,832,549 acres of forested land in the state of Illinois!

## Bald Eagle

I live along rivers and eat fish. I build large nests in tall trees like the white pine.

## CANOPY

### Great Horned Owl

I am a large nocturnal bird that nests in trees.

### Pileated Woodpecker

I eat insect larvae that live in the bark of trees.

### Raccoon

I am a mammal that lives in tree cavities. I hunt at night and eat both plants and animals making me an omnivore.

### Gray Squirrel

I am an excellent climber. I will hop from tree to tree and along the forest floor in search of seeds, nuts, insects, and even bird eggs to eat.

### Gray Tree Frog

I am an amphibian. I live in trees and shrubs and feast on insects.

## UNDERSTORY

### White Tailed Deer

I am an herbivore who is diurnal or active during the day. I eat nuts from trees like the oak and hickory and berries from the bushes.

### Grasshopper

I have 6 legs which makes me an insect. I am an herbivore which means I eat plants.

### Eastern Fox Snake

I am a reptile. I am also a carnivore which means I eat other animals.

## FOREST FLOOR

## Suggested Plant Vocabulary for Students

**Coniferous**-Conifers are a group of trees and shrubs that produce cones. The cones carry their seeds. Most conifers are evergreens, or trees that keep their leaves year-round. Their thin leaves are usually called needles.

**Deciduous**-Deciduous trees have leaves that drop off each year. Oaks and maples are deciduous trees, but pines keep their needles.

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

**Fungi**-A fungus is a simple organism, or living thing, that is neither a plant nor an animal. When there is more than one fungus they are called fungi. Some familiar fungi are mushrooms, molds, mildews, truffles, and yeasts.

**Photosynthesis**-Photosynthesis is the process in which green plants use sunlight to make their own food. Photosynthesis is necessary for life on Earth. Without it there would be no green plants, and without green plants there would be no animals.

**Plant**-One of a large group of living things that make their own food. Many use sunlight to make their own food. Most plants have leaves, stems, roots and either flowers or cones. Plants use a green pigment called chlorophyll to absorb energy from sunlight.

## Plant Prep and Visit

### Pre-Visit

- Practice vocabulary
- Watch educational videos:
  - Monster Math-What are Plants?
    - <https://youtu.be/BwYjVLMucX0>
  - Peekaboo Kidz-Parts of a Plant
    - <https://youtu.be/p3St51F4kE8>
  - Happy Learning-Photosynthesis
    - <https://youtu.be/UPBMG5EYydo>
  - Learn Bright-Trees for Kids
    - [https://youtu.be/uipjCTg\\_PqQ](https://youtu.be/uipjCTg_PqQ)
- Utilize the worksheets listed from page 21-23
- Check out the IDNR Educational Trunks from the Pere Marquette Visitor Center.
  - Prairie
  - Trees

### Visit

- Plan a hike to Pere Marquette State Park.
  - Try your hand and tree identification along the trails. Fall is one of the best times to visit the park and witness the foliage changing colors ! Print off the worksheet on page 23 and group students into pairs to see how many trees they can identify.
- Go on a guided hike with one the park's Natural Resource Coordinator

# Pere Marquette State Park

## Plants

Like animals, plants are a living group of organisms found on our planet. Most plants have leaves, stems, roots and either flowers or cones. Plants use a green pigment called chlorophyll to absorb energy from sunlight and change it to food to help the plant grow through a process called photosynthesis. Grasses, trees, vines, vegetables, cactuses, ferns and mosses are plants.

Non-flowering plants like ferns do not produce a flower but have spores that scatter in the air or ground and will produce new ferns. Flowering plants are the most visible to visitors along the trails such as trees like the Northern Catalpa and wildflowers like the Virginia bluebell. Flowering plants are pollinated by insects or even the wind and once pollinated will produce a seed that will grow into a new plant. Some plants produce cones like the northern white pine trees that cling to the sandstone canyon walls. Seeds grow inside of the cones and once the cones dry, open, or fall to the ground will produce a new tree.

Some plants like trees change their leaf color in fall when they approach the end of their growing season. The green of the leaves created by chlorophyll fades away when the chlorophyll shuts down as the sun moves further away as we approach winter. Colors such as gold, yellow, orange, red, and even purple emerge on fall leaves from other pigments in the plant that were hidden by the powerful green chlorophyll during the summer months.

Plants are an important source of food and shelter for many species of wildlife at Pere Marquette State Park. Hickory, walnut, and oak trees provide nuts and acorns for squirrels, wood ducks, deer, turkey, and chipmunks while wildflowers that bloom in the woodlands and prairies provide nectar and pollen for birds like the ruby-throated hummingbird and butterflies like the Illinois state insect the Monarch butterfly. Many bird species such as the black-capped chickadee line their nests with moss while the Eastern Bluebird picks grasses like the big bluestem from the prairie to line its nest.

Spring, summer, fall, or winter students will find plants of all shapes and sizes to admire, appreciate, and identify! Try taking students on a fun "I Spy" or "Color" hike at the park to find what is blooming in the spring or changing in the fall.

Virginia Bluebell

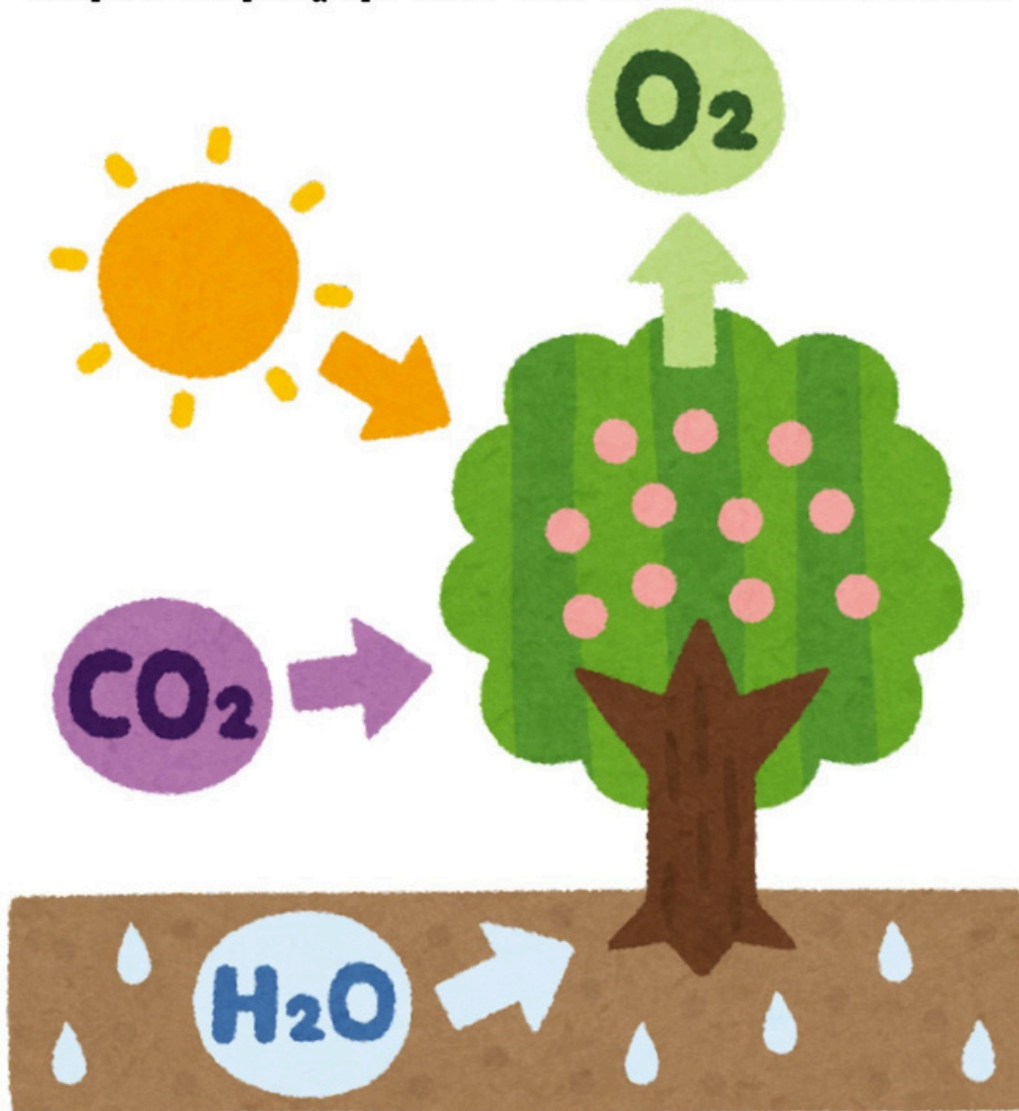


Eastern White Pine



# What is Photosynthesis?

Complete the paragraph below with words from the word box.



\_\_\_\_\_ is the process by which plants produce their own food in the presence of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Plants contain a green pigment named \_\_\_\_\_ that absorbs sunlight. Energy from the sun, carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and water absorbed by the roots react to produce \_\_\_\_\_ that plants need to survive. \_\_\_\_\_ us released into the environment for animals and humans to breathe.

oxygen

sunlight

glucose

water

photosynthesis

chlorophyll

carbon dioxide

# Pere Marquette State Park

## Plants Activity

1. Write the correct word underneath the picture. Use the words to help you.

cone

spore

seeds

moss

fern



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

2. Draw a line and match the word to the correct definition

### WORD

Flowering Plant

Non-Flowering Plant

Cone

Seed

Spore

### DEFINITION

plants that grow without flowers.

they grow seeds inside them.

are small cells that grow into a new plant.

flowering plants use these to make another plant grow.

plants that grow flowers and seeds.

# What Kind of Tree is It?

This is a dichotomy key which helps people decide what kind of tree they are looking at by identifying the leaf. Follow the key below to find out what kind of tree the leaf belongs too. Can you find examples of these leaves on trees in your backyard, school yard, or local park?

1. a. Needle like leaves. Go to #2.  
b. Non-needle like leaves. Go to # 3.
2. a. Needles are clustered in groups of 5. **White Pine**  
b. Needles are wrapped in clusters. **Eastern Red Cedar**
3. a. Simple leaf (single leaf). Go to #4.  
b. Compound leaf (more than one to a stem). Go to #7.
4. a. Leaf has a smooth edge. Go to #5.  
b. Leaf has a jagged edge like a saw blade. Go to #6.
5. a. Leaf edge is smooth. **Gray Dogwood**  
b. Leaf edge is lobed. **White Oak**
6. a. Leaf edge is small and tooth-like. **America Elm**  
b. Leaf edge is large and tooth-like **Cottonwood**
7. a. Leaflets attached at one single point. **Horse Chestnut**  
b. Leaflets each attached along the stem at different points. **Black Walnut**



5a



7a



6a



6b



2a



5b



7b



2b



# Pere Marquette State Park

## Suggested History Vocabulary for Students

**Explorer**-An explorer travels to places where their people have not been before or places that are unknown to them.

**Fur**-Fur is the soft thick hair that covers the bodies of certain animals such as the mink, cat, or fox.

**Illinois**- A confederation or group of small American Indian tribes, the Illinois originally lived in what is now the state of Illinois, southern Wisconsin, and parts of Missouri and Iowa. The best known of the Illinois tribes were the Cahokia, Kaskaskia, Michigamea, Peoria, and Tamaroa.

**Indigenous**- Indigenous People are the first people who lived in a place, before other people came and settled there. They are also known as First Peoples, First Nations, Aboriginal Peoples or Native Peoples. Indigenous People have their own cultures, languages, and traditions that are different from those who came later. They are part of the history and diversity of the world.

**Inoca**-The Inoca (Illinois) Confederacy traditionally includes these five principal nations: Cahokia Nation, Kaskaskia Nation, Michigamea Nation, Peoria Nation, and Tamaroa Nation.

**Kaskaskia**-The Kaskaskia were one of the Native American tribes of the Northeastern Woodlands. They were one of about a dozen tribes that made up the Illinois Confederation. They mostly lived in the Great Lakes region. The descendants of the Kaskaskia, along with the Wea and Piankeshaw, are in the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma. That means they are a federally recognized Tribe in Oklahoma.

**Legend**– A legend is a story or group of stories that have been handed down from a time long ago and that many people in a society know but cannot prove to be true or untrue.

**Pontiac**-Pontiac was a Native American chief of the Ottawa people. He is best known for leading a war to stop the British from taking control of the Great Lakes area.

**Voyageur**-A person hired by fur companies to transport goods and supplies between trading posts in North America during the 1600-1800s.

**Wigwam**-A hut or tent with a domed or conical roof made by fastening bark, hides, or reed mats over a framework of poles.

# Pere Marquette State Park

## History Prep and Visit

### Pre-Visit

- Discuss the vocabulary on page 24.
- Watch educational videos:
  - Illinois Department of Natural Resources
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FyFqU6dftSs>
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SkG-0MVRDc>
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwqF-JQbZPM>
  - Illinois State Museum
    - <https://sites.google.com/illinoisstatemuseum.org/educatorspage/indigenous-people>
- Utilize the activities and worksheets listed on pages 28-35.

### Visit

- Plan a hike to Mcadams Peak, the highest point of the park, a location where a large funerary mound once stood.
  - Request the movie “Pere Marquette: The Park by the River” at the Pere Marquette Visitor Center.
- View the various displays and exhibits on the Park’s history at the Pere Marquette Visitor Center.
- Go on a guided hike with the Parks Natural Resource Coordinator.
-

# Perre Marquette State Park

## Ancient History

Humans have occupied the area of Pere Marquette for over 15,000 years!

**10,000 to 20,000 years ago** — Paleo-Indians migrate to Illinois. They gather wild plants and hunt animals, including the giant bison, woolly mammoth and mastodon. During this time the area of Pere Marquette was covered in an ice sheet a mile thick as part of a large glacier during the last ice age.

**2,000 to 10,000 years ago** — During the Archaic Period, Illinois inhabitants cultivated plants and created specialized tools for hunting and fishing. The region underwent a climate change and the temperature warmed creating grasslands, rivers, creeks, and vast forests. Plants and animals also changed providing a diversity of different types of wildlife such as bison, deer, elk, wolf, bear, cougar, and more.

**1100 to 2,000 years ago** —The Woodland culture developed maize agriculture, built villages and burial mounds, developed the bow and arrow for hunting, and made pottery. The constant development and cultural advancements increased sophistication for the Woodland peoples, and provided the opportunity to develop permanent settlements.

**500 to 1100 years ago** — The Mississippian culture improved agricultural methods, built temple mounds and large fortified villages. Their works include Cahokia Mounds located just east of St. Louis along the Mississippi River. At the time, it was the largest North American city outside of Mexico. Most of the Mississippian settlements were abandoned prior to the arrival of European explorers.

**1673** — Frenchmen Jacques (Pere/Father)

Marquette a Jesuit priest and explorer Louis Jolliet traveled down the Mississippi River to Arkansas and returned to Lake Michigan by way of the Illinois River. They stopped at the Grand Village of the Kaskaskia. The Kaskaskia tribe were part of the Inoca, a Native American confederation consisting of Cahokia, Kaskaskia, Michigamie, Peoria and Tamaroa, who the French referred to as the “Illinois.”



# Pere Marquette State Park

## Colonial Era History

In **1673**, French explorers Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet were among the first Europeans to explore the area now known as Pere Marquette State Park. This region became significant due to its location near the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, serving as an important meeting place and trade hub for Indigenous Peoples and European settlers. While no fort was constructed here, the area's rich resources and strategic location made it vital for trade and cultural interactions, particularly in the fur trade era.



**1700-** The town of Kaskaskia near the Kaskaskia River is founded by the French.

**1718-** New Orleans is founded. The Illinois country which was once governed by Canada is now governed by New Orleans and the French Company of the Indies.

**1719-** Fort de Chartres is built and becomes the center of French colonial government in Illinois.

**1730-** French and Indian allies attack the Fox Indians who had threatened the French settlements in central Illinois.

# Pere Marquette State Park

## Colonial Era History Continued

**1731-** Illinois becomes a royal province, governed directly by the French crown.

**1754-** Marks the beginning of the French and Indian War between various Tribes, the French, and the British.

**1763-** Jesuits in Illinois were expelled from the region after the French crown disbanded their religious order.

**1763-** The French and Indian War comes to an end. The Illinois country is now under the rule of Great Britain.

**1769-** Chief Pontiac of the Odawa Tribe is murdered by an Illinois Indian at a trading post near Cahokia, Illinois.

### The Legend of The Piasa Bird

*The name "Piasa Bird" comes from a legendary tale rooted in Native American folklore. According to the legend, the Piasa Bird was a fearsome creature that terrorized the region along the Mississippi River near present-day Pere Marquette State Park. Described as a giant birdlike being with reptilian features, sharp claws, and a menacing beak, the Piasa Bird was said to prey on local tribes.*

*The story tells of Illini warriors, led by Chief Ouatoga, who devised a plan to defeat the creature. Using himself as bait, the chief lured the Piasa Bird into an ambush, where his warriors attacked it with arrows, ultimately killing the beast. The creature's image was later painted on the limestone bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River, serving as both a warning and a tribute to the bravery of those who defeated it.*

*This enduring legend continues to capture the imagination of visitors to the area.*

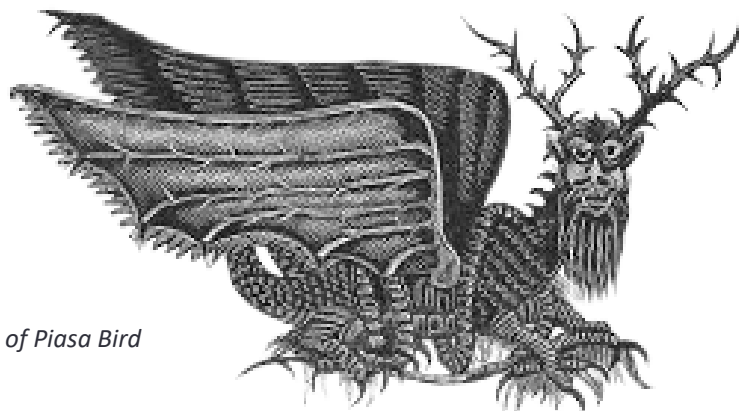


Photo of Piasa Bird

PIASA BIRD

# Pere Marquette State Park

## Colonial Era History Continued

**1775-** Paul Revere warns colonists about a British attack. The "shot heard round the world" occurred on April 19, 1775, which marked the official beginning of the Revolution with an American victory.

**1776-** Thomas Jefferson's draft of the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4th, declaring a separation of America from Britain.

**1778-** George Rogers Clark and his American troops arrived to claim the Illinois country, which became a county of Virginia. **1783-** The Treaty of Paris is signed on September 3, 1783 officially ending the Revolutionary war and British rule over America.

**1785-** Now part of the Northwest territory, Illinois is divided into townships, with land set aside for public schools. Slavery is abolished by law, but still persists in the region.

**1800-** Congress creates the Indiana Territory which includes Illinois.

**1803--**The Kaskaskia ceded their remaining lands and territory but for 1600 acres to the United States.

**1803-** Congress organizes the Illinois territory, with Kaskaskia as the capital.

**1818--** Treaty of Edwardsville forces all Peoria from their lands in Illinois to Missouri. Illinois becomes the 21st state in the United States.

**1819-** The Kickapoo Tribe moves west of the Mississippi River, relinquishing most claims to central Illinois.

**1820-** Vandalia becomes the state capitol of Illinois.

**1832--** The Kaskaskia united with the Peoria and exchanged their remaining lands for a reservation in Kansas.

*Painting of a Kaskaskia Chief.*



# Pere Marquette State Park

## Colonial Era History Continued

**1830s**— The land that would later become Pere Marquette State Park was among the parcels acquired by settlers as the region opened for private ownership. While specific individuals who initially owned the land are not well-documented, much of the area was eventually developed for agriculture before being designated as a state park in 1932 to preserve its natural and cultural heritage.

**1839**- The Cherokee Indians pass through southern Illinois on the “Trail of Tears” to Oklahoma. Springfield becomes the new capital of Illinois.

**1848**- The Illinois and Michigan Canal is completed connecting the Chicago River with the Illinois River.

**1854**-The Kaskaskia and Peoria joined with the Wea and Piankashaw in forming the Confederated Peoria tribe, which was assigned a new home in northeast Indian Territory (present Ottawa County, Oklahoma) in 1867.



*Pere Marquette Lodge Fireplace  
built by the CCC.*

**1931-1941**– President Franklin Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps also known as the CCC to help give men jobs. There were 3 companies stationed at Starved Rock State Park who helped build trails, bridges, cabins, and more.

**1939** – The Lock and Dam on the Illinois River near Pere Marquette State Park were completed. The lock and dam system facilitated the transportation of goods along the Illinois River, boosting trade and commerce in the region. The Pere Marquette Lodge, built in 1939 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), also became a key part of the area's development. Its construction added to the park's appeal as a popular destination for visitors seeking both recreation and relaxation, and it continues to be an iconic feature of the park today.

The Illinois Alliance, also known as Inoca, was a group of 12–14 Native American subtribes. One of these subtribes were the Kaskaskia who lived near the Illinois River across and upstream from today's Starved Rock State Park. At the time of European contact in the 17th century, the Illinois numbered about 10,000 people. They occupied a territory that spread from modern-day Iowa to near the shores of Lake Michigan, and north into today's Wisconsin.

Much of what we know today about the Illinois comes from reports written by Jesuit missionaries from France who sometimes traveled with French Explorers during the 1600's and 1700's. One place named for one of the Illinois subtribe, the Peoria, was used as the name for a French settlement, now the City of Peoria, Illinois. By the mid to late 1700's the Illinois' numbers had dwindled to only four subtribes. Gradually, the Illinois migrated from their villages in the Illinois Valley and settled at sites near the Mississippi in southern Illinois. In 1832 the Illinois relinquished their Illinois and Missouri lands to the US government and settled along the Osage River in today's Kansas. In 1854, two Miami subtribes merged with the remaining Illinois and became the Consolidated Peoria Tribe. Then in 1868, the Peoria group moved to today's Miami, Oklahoma, in the northeast part of the state where they became the Peoria Indian Tribe of Oklahoma.

The Illinois moved from summer villages to winter hunting camps following the seasons. Their wigwams or summer "cabins," as the French called them, were constructed of reed mats that could be packed up and carried to new village sites. They planted maize (corn), beans, and squash, known as the "Three Sisters". They prepared dishes such as sagamite, a combination of vegetables that was oftentimes mixed with animal fat or meat. They also gathered wild foods such as nuts, fruit, roots, and tubers. During the summer, the Illinois participated in the summer bison hunt, which lasted between three to five weeks. Illinois men also hunted deer, elk, and bear. Illinois women used every part of the animals they hunted including jerky from the meat, animal skins or pelts for weapons, clothes, blankets, and tools.





# Pere Marquette State Park

## History Activity

### Wigwam Construction: STEAM

The Kaskaskia People lived in villages of small round houses called wigwams.

#### What you need:

- 6 for each student or pair of (buddy up)
- Square pieces of cardboard box for each student/pair
- Circle to trace/tree bark sheets

#### Instructions:

Have students trace the circle template onto their square piece of cardboard. The sample pictured uses only 6 pipe cleaners and is simplified for younger learners. Punch 2 pipe cleaners in at 12 o'clock (about 1 inch apart). Next punch the other end of the pipe cleaners at 6 o'clock on your traced circle. Do the same at 3 and 9 o'clock. Then create 2 hoops around the wigwam, leaving an opening for a door (see image). Once the base is constructed, have students glue on brown pieces of construction paper and tree bark.

#### Optional Extension Activity:

Ask your class to research what would have been used to cover the outside of the wigwam, and why do they think they would have used that material and what other materials might have worked?



# The Fur Trade Game



## The Fur Trade

The Native groups such as the Illinois (Peoria, Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Tamaroa) that traded with the French in the Pere Marquette region gained access to goods from Europe, but the fur traders sold many of the furs in Europe. There, wealthy people had a high demand for furs. They used beaver, fox, mink, and others. The Indigenous People often gave the settlers animal furs in exchange for metal tools, weapons, The fur trade was a booming business in North America from the 1500s through the 1800s. When Europeans first settled in Indigenous Tribes of the Midwest region during this time the Illinois' worked with the French at the beginning of the fur trade.



# FRENCH AND BRITISH FORTS



### Fur Trade Game Instructions

- **Objective:** Students will experience the fur trade by collecting beaver pelts to trade for European goods such as blankets, tools, and more.
- **Materials:** Beaver pelts (cards) Trade cards showing how many pelts are needed for goods  
Designated area (classroom or outdoors) with a makeshift French fort

### Setup:

- **Divide the Class:**
  - Hunters (3/4 of the class) will search for beaver pelts (cards) scattered around.
  - Voyageurs (1/4 of the class) will trade goods for pelts at the fort.

### How to Play:

- The Indigenous hunters will search for beaver pelts (cards) around the designated area.
- Once they collect their pelts, they will bring them to the French voyageurs stationed at Fort Saint Louis to trade.
- The French voyageurs will provide trade goods (such as blankets, metal tools, or textiles) based on how many pelts the hunters bring.
- At the end of the game, the student with the most trade goods accumulated from successful trades wins.

### Winner:

The student with the most goods at the end wins.

This game teaches about the fur trade and the interaction between Indigenous people and French settlers.





**BEAVER**



**BEAVER**



**BEAVER**



**BEAVER**



**BEAVER**



**BEAVER**



**BEAVER**



**BEAVER**



20 Fish

Hooks



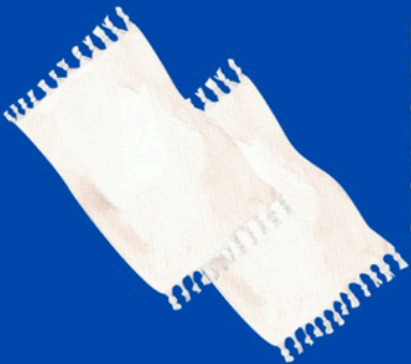
1 pair of pants



10 Buttons



2 Blankets



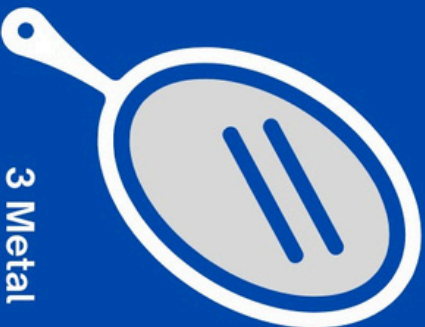
Set of Metal Utensils: spoon and bowl.



2 Combs



1 Mirror



3 Metal Knives



6 Thimbles



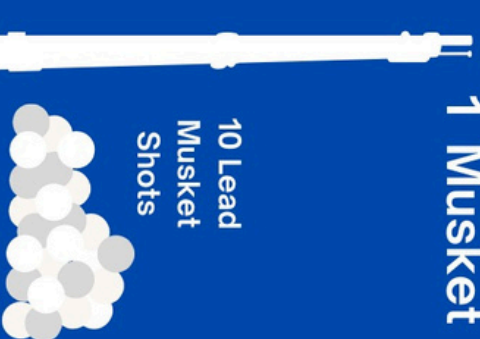
2 Cast Iron Pots



1 Metal axe



1 Musket



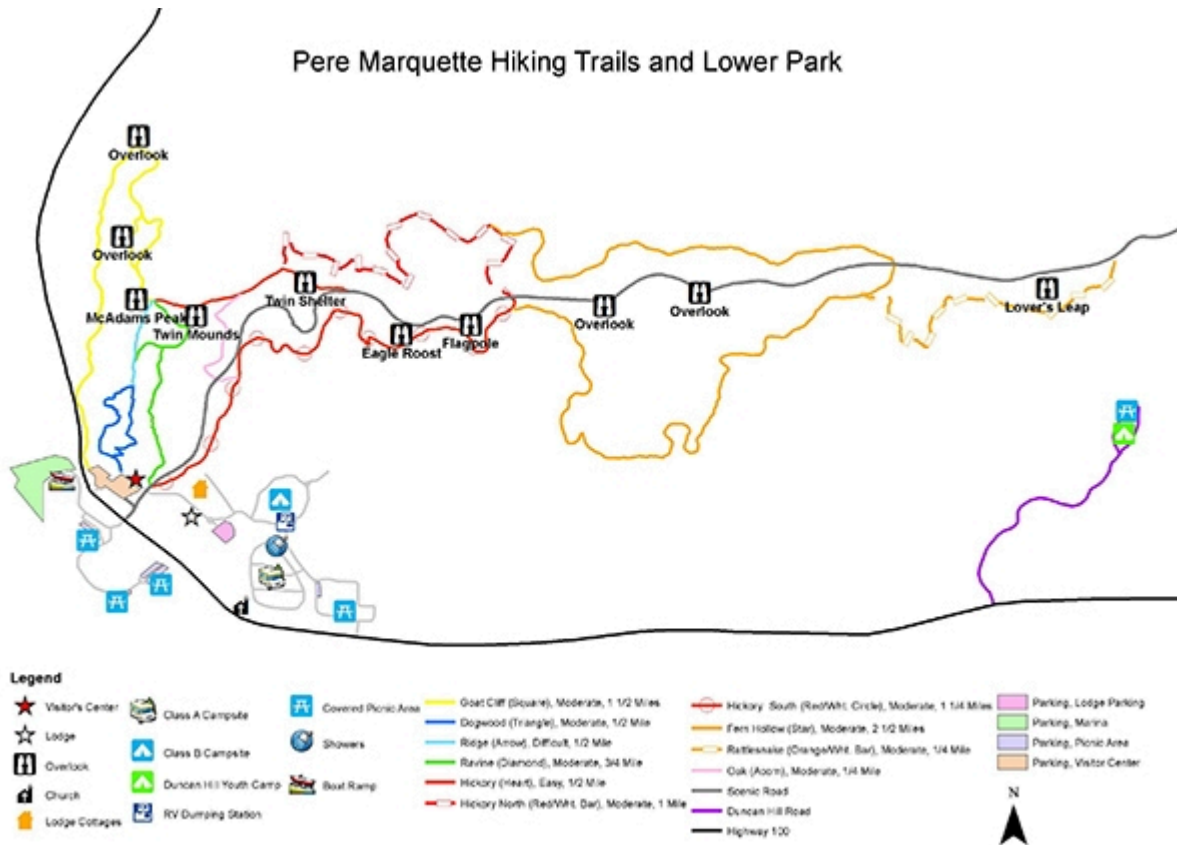
10 Lead Musket Shots



1 Canvas Tent



Visit [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov) to view state parks by region under the Parks and Recreation tab. Read over the trail maps, trail suggestions, rules and regulations (stay on marked trails), and head out with your group to explore and learn in nature! Here are some recommended trails for youth at Pere Marquette State Park. Please ensure you have at least 1 adult for every 5-8 children (ages up through high school). Happy Hikers=Happy Trails!





## 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!



# Pere Marquette State Park

## Educational Resources

[www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)

<https://inhs.illinois.edu/>

<https://earthathome.org/hoew/mw/glaciers/>

<https://exploringnature.org>

<https://peoriatribes.com/history/>

[www.preschoolplayandlearn.com/types-of-rocks-activities](http://www.preschoolplayandlearn.com/types-of-rocks-activities)

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/starburst-rock-cycle/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuAx\\_UBHwjM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FuAx_UBHwjM)

[www.justonly.com/physic/ps111/pdfs/geohistory\\_illinois.pdf](http://www.justonly.com/physic/ps111/pdfs/geohistory_illinois.pdf)