



VINS Nature Center Quest

Difficulty: Moderate - Length: 45 minutes to 1 hour Created by the VINS Education Staff

Leave the nature store; you're on your way.
Have you tested your wings on "Flap" today?
Behold in front, a natural arc sculpture,
Which could represent the flight of a vulture.
Follow the path to the large white stone.
During your adventure, you won't be alone.

Find the third letter of the last name of the man honored on this stone. _____

Bear right at the fork, down the path from the stone.
Find the big sign displaying a skull and a bone,
That tells why birds are different from bears.
Believe me, it's more than just feathers and hairs.
Look at the bird, but don't be tempted to stay.
Bear right for the map that shows you the way!

Find the last letter of the name of the river on the big map. _____
Find the third letter of the biggest word on the big map. _____

Follow the path; you've nothing to fear.
Look to your left; there's an alien here!
This thorny invasive doesn't belong,
So stick to the path and move right along.
Around the bend, ask the pines if you may,
Slip between and head on your way.

These trees with needles grouped five all together,
Stay green on their branches, no matter the weather.
With sun and open land, white pines love to sow.
These pioneer species are the first to grow.
As you trek down the path take a look to your right,
For a pine you can't hug; try as you might!

Find the first letter of the name of the beaver's large front teeth. _____

Glance to your left, some holes you will spot.
Woodpeckers dined here on insects they caught!
Be on your way to find a special mark.
Beavers snacked here on a tree's inner bark!
Now take a rest with Jen Lingelbach,
And read her poem that's found in a rock.

Find the third letter of the month this bench was dedicated. _____

Continue left down the path, in summer it's key,
To listen for blackbirds' "Kon-Ka Ree!"
Countless creatures call this place home,
From turtles and frogs to deer that roam!
A bunch of small beeches lead your way down the trail.
When you find a wood bench you can rest your tail.

Walk slowly here and take in the views,
Of a wetland that can make one muse.
Ahead in the woods a shelter you'll see.
Make your way there, oh so quietly.
In the blind you will find many pictures that aid,
Seeing creatures that soar and others that wade.

Find the fourth letter of the first word in the Osprey's scientific name. _____
Find the fifth letter of the state where all these birds can be found. _____

Notice a nest box built for a duck.
You'll find it among all the reeds and the muck.
The cattails fill an important niche,
Like trees rooted in soil so rich.
Amble along toward the wall made of stone,
Full of places for chipmunks to make their home.

Seek out the rotting log so nice.
Inspect it for fungi, insects, and mice.
Once a towering sugar maple tree,
Many people got their syrup from me.
Stroll through the woods 'til on the hill high,
Where below lies a pool with no fish fry.

From the sign on the left, find the sixth letter of the word for the group of animals described on this sign. _____
From the sign on the right, find the last letter of the name of the nymphs illustrated. _____

Head out of the woods past the nest on your left.
It's the size of an eagle's; think of the heft!
Find the Quest Box near that bird's enclosure,
But only for now is your questing over.
Go visit our birds; your learning never ends.
Please come back soon to VINS with some friends!!!

*Now unscramble the letters you've been collecting.
To find one group that VINS is protecting.*

_____ S _____
_____ R _____



