



INDIANA STATE SYMBOLS

Many of Indiana's state symbols reflect the love that Hoosiers have for the outdoors. The newest state symbol is the official state snack – **Indiana-grown popcorn**. Popcorn is grown in field throughout Indiana. Several years ago, the **Say's firefly** became our state insect. Also known as lightning bugs, watching these insects blinking in yards and fields is a special part of a summer evening outdoors. A natural resource, **Indiana limestone** is dug out of the ground in southern Indiana and is used to build strong, beautiful buildings. Even before Statehood in 1816, the building in Corydon, which would be our first official Statehouse was built of Indiana limestone.



The Indiana Statehouse is built of Indiana limestone along with other statehouses, courthouses, libraries, schools, and homes throughout the United States. If you see a picture of the Empire State Building in New York City, you can feel proud. It is made from Indiana limestone.

When Indiana was a brand-new state, most of the land was covered with forests. One of the trees favored by the incoming settlers was the **Tulip Tree**, which is also known as the yellow poplar. The tall straight trunks were cut and used for buildings and furniture. This poplar gets its second name from the facts that its blooms look like tulips. They can usually be spotted late high on the branches in May and early June.

May is the best time to enjoy **Peonies** on bloom. These showy flowers are in neighborhood yards, parks, and public gardens. They are usually pink, white, or dark red and grow on stems that are two to three feet tall. They smell great and bees, who are coming out after their winter hibernation, think they have wonderfully tasty pollen.

Our state bird, the **Cardinal**, can be seen year-round throughout the state. The distinctive red coloring of the male cardinal makes it easy to see and identify. A fun part of any Indiana landscape, the native Miami people called this bird neehpiki-pihcit. If you put out a bird feeder, cardinals like sunflowers seeds the best.

The **Wabash River** makes two appearances in our state symbols. The river, which rises just inside Ohio, runs most of the way across northern Indiana before turning south and eventually becoming part of our western border. It is the largest northern tributary to joins its water flow with the Ohio River. Our state song celebrates this river and the sycamores along its shores in **On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away**.



INDIANA STATE SYMBOLS WORD SEARCH

A S D A O R S S O R C
T U L I P T R E E D F
B G E C G I M I A M I
W A B A S H R I V E R
H R L A N I D R A C E
J C F Y N O S I B K F
S R L N R O C P O P L
K E N O T S E M I L Y
N A R E I S O O H M R
A M O P E N G L I S H
B L U E A N D G O L D

Firefly (State Insect)

Miami (State Soil Type)

Tulip Tree (State Tree) **Sugar**

Cream (State Pie)

Peony (State Flower)

Cardinal (State Bird)

Bison (on the State Seal)

Limestone (State Stone)

Hoosier (State Nickname)

Crossroads (of America—State Slogan)

Popcorn (State Snack)

English (State Language)

Blue and Gold (State Colors)

Wabash River (State River)

(On the **Banks** (of the Wabash, Far Away—State Song))



THE INDIANA STATE BIRD

NORTHERN CARDINAL

The Cardinal was adopted as the state bird by the 1933 General Assembly. The cardinal is a mid-sized songbird. The male (shown above) is bright red; the female is brown with dull red crest, wings, and tail. They remain in Indiana year-round and nest in thickets of brambles or low saplings. The eggs, usually two to four, are bluish white with brown markings. The Cardinal is the state bird for 7 states, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, North Carolina, West Virginia, and Virginia. An interesting fact about these birds is that both male and female can sing.



Listen to the cardinal sing and compare the cardinal to other birds

<https://www.aastateofplay.com/50-bird-species-sounds-they-make/>

Birds live in many different types of habitats. The habitat must provide food, shelter, and a safe place to raise their young. Click here to explore the different bird habitats. [Exploring Birds: Bird Habitats](#)

Look out your window and look for birds. How many different types of birds can you see? Can you identify the birds? Click here for more information about Indiana birds. [Backyard Birds of Indiana – Indiana Audubon Society](#)



Thousands of birds migrate south to warmer weather during the winter months. Many birds stop in Indiana on their way to warmer climates.

One of the most interesting guests that stops in Indiana is the Sandhill Crane. The Sandhill Crane stops in Northern Indiana during their Spring and Fall Migration. Thousands of Sandhill Crane's visit the shallow marshes in Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife area.

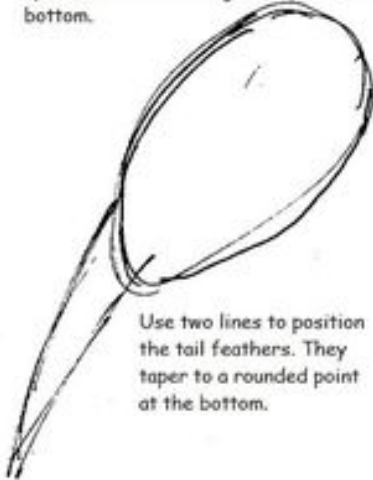
These elegant birds are known for their long legs, large wingspans, and graceful dance. Sandhill cranes are large birds, standing 3.2 to 3.9 ft tall, with a wingspan 5.9 to 6.5 ft. Males are slightly bigger than females, weighing an average of 8.3 lb. compared to the female's average of 7.2 lbs.

[Listen to Sandhill Cranes](#)

How to Draw A Cardinal Bird Worksheet

Start by drawing lightly so you can erase later.

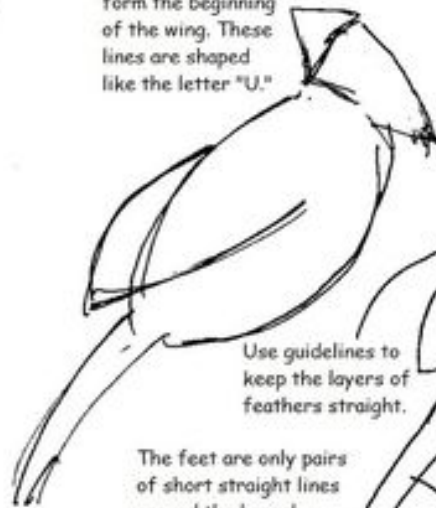
The body is like an oval or a teardrop shape upside down with a slight tilt to the left at the bottom.



Use two lines to position the tail feathers. They taper to a rounded point at the bottom.

The basic shape of the head and beak are like two triangles, one pointing forward and down and one pointing backward and up.

Use two lines to form the beginning of the wing. These lines are shaped like the letter "U."



The eye is in the middle, draw it first and use it as a reference to outline the black mask around it.

Use guidelines to keep the layers of feathers straight.

The feet are only pairs of short straight lines around the branch.



Erase the extra lines and add details like feathers.



Use short thin lines to give the feathers a soft look around the chest and waist. Use long lines for the feathers on the wing and tail.



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If you work in color this can be a beautiful picture; use red for the bird. Put blues and greens in the background.



INDIANA'S STATE INSECT: SAY'S FIREFLY

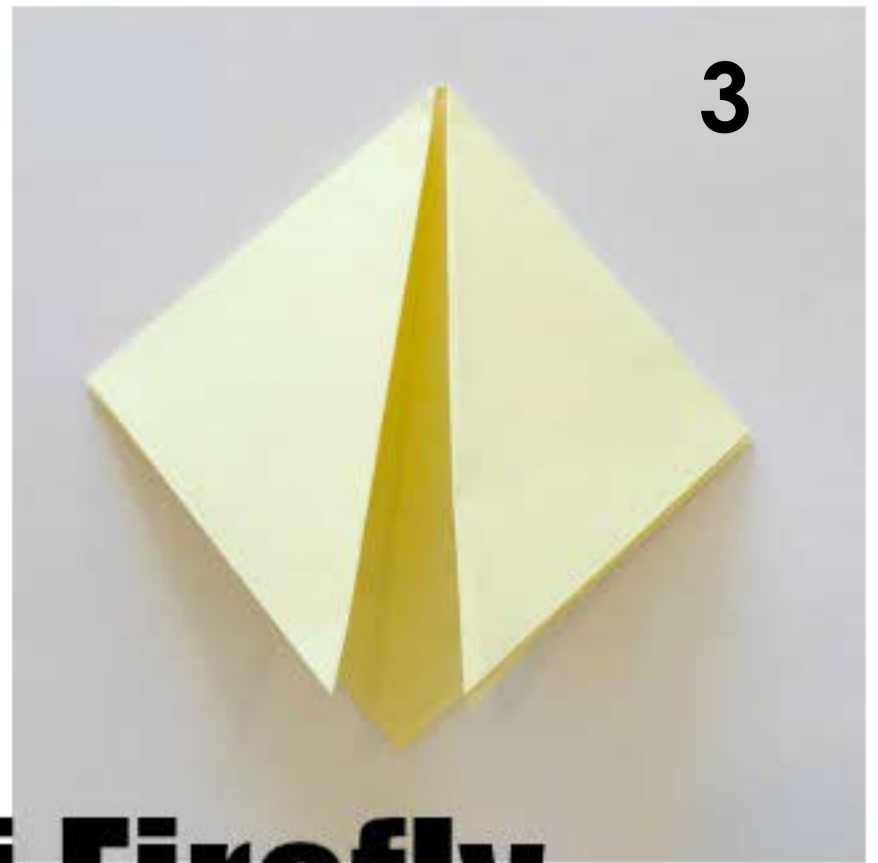
Up until 2018, Indiana was one of only three states that did not have a state insect. What took so long, you may ask? Finally, it was helped along by a group of students just like you.

It all began when Kayla Xu from Cumberland Elementary in West Lafayette noticed that Indiana did not have an official state insect. She did her research and learned about the Say's Firefly. The Say's Firefly is native to Indiana, but what is even more impressive is it is also named after a Hoosier.

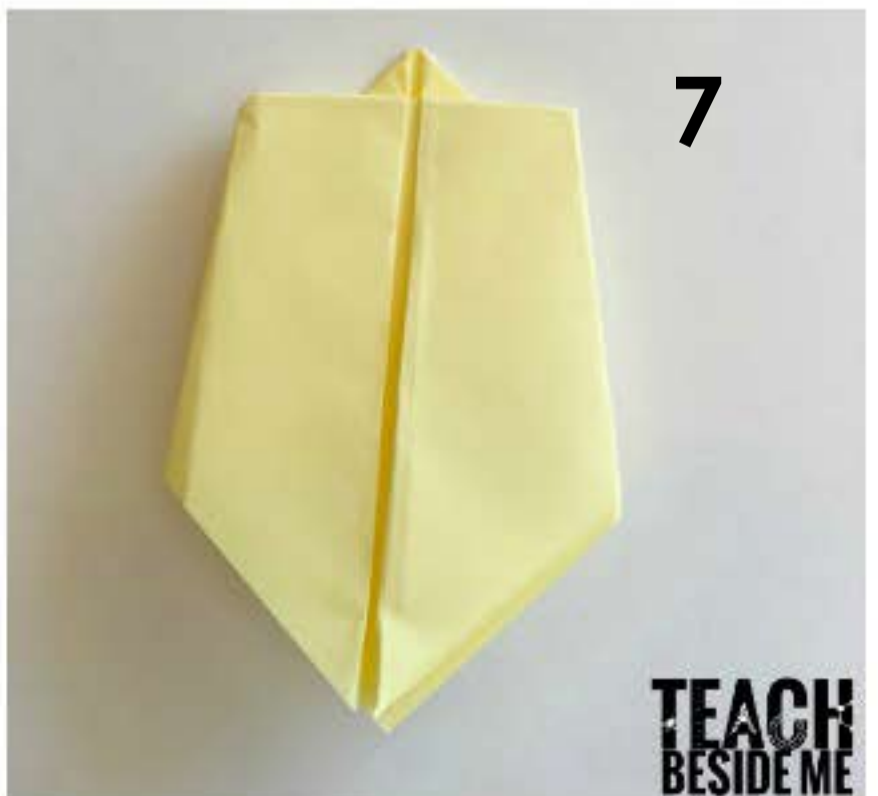
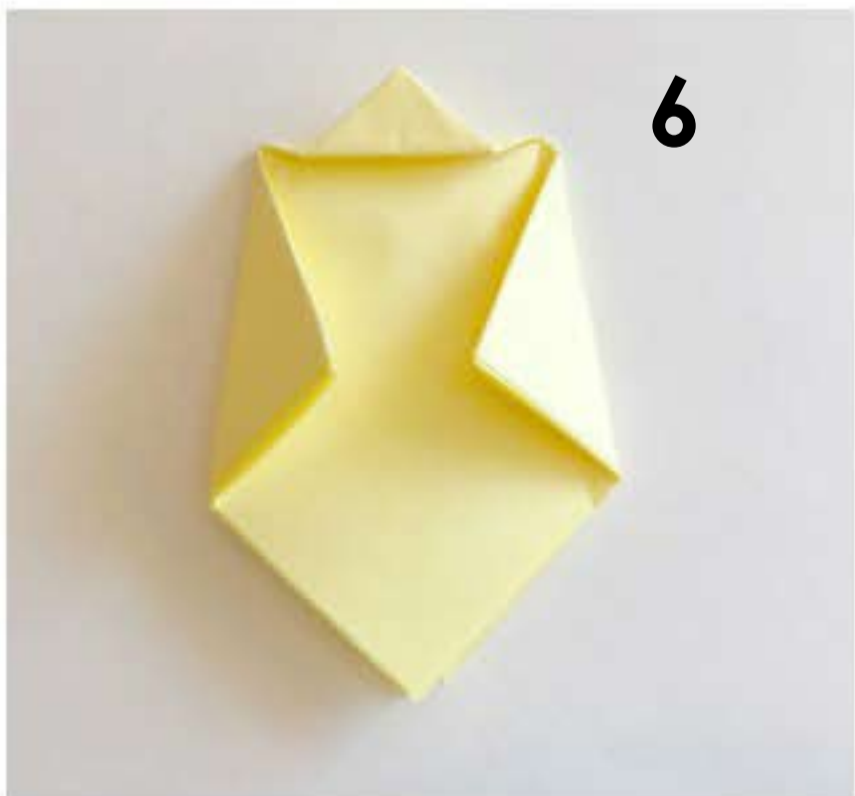
Thomas Say is considered the Father of North American Entomology (that's a fancy word for bug scientist). Say was living in New Harmony, Indiana when he first described the Say's Firefly in 1826.

Kayla wrote letters to her Representative, Senator, and even the Governor! She gathered a 768 petition signatures, and inspired more that 800 letters of support. Four years later, the Indiana General Assembly passed a law that made the Say's Firefly the official state insect.





Origami Firefly





INDIANA'S STATE SONG

Musical notes are woven throughout Indiana history. Early settlers brought fiddles, banjos, and harmonicas with them as they moved into the Indiana Territory. The songs they played came from their own family history and cultural heritage. Music brought people together and provided entertainment long before the age of radio, records, television, and the internet.

Music is so important to our nation that nearly every state has chosen an official state song. For example, "My Old Kentucky Home" is the song for our neighbors to the south. Colorado has "Rocky Mountain High," and the song for Kansas is "Home on the Range."

The official state song of Indiana is "On the Banks of the Wabash Far Away." It was written by Paul Dresser, who was born in Terre Haute. The song was very popular at the time it was chosen as the official state song in 1913. Popular bands and quartets made the tune familiar to all of America.

The words of the song describe Dresser's fond memories of his childhood home near the Wabash River:

***Oh, the moonlight's fair tonight along the Wabash,
From the fields there comes the breath of new-mown hay.
Through the sycamores the candle lights are gleaming,
On the banks of the Wabash far away.***

Many people think the state song of Indiana is one of the best. It has the musical power to take us to beautiful places, where the moonlight is always shining, the candle light forever gleams through the sycamore trees, and the scent of new-mown hay lovingly lingers in the air.



QUIZ

1. In what year was the state song officially chosen?
2. Paul Dresser grew up in what Indiana city?
3. What type of tree is mentioned in the Indiana state song?
4. When might people today use a candle to light a room?



INDIANA'S STATE FLOWER

Everybody loves flowers! They add color to our homes and gardens. They add a pleasant scent to their surroundings, and they play an important role in maintaining a healthy environment for insects and other plants.

Flowers are so well liked that each state in our country has adopted an official state flower. For example, Alabama has the camellia, Florida has the orange blossom, New York has the rose, Michigan has the apple blossom, and Rhode Island has the violet.

Over the past century, Indiana has chosen four different flowers to represent our state. In 1913, the legislature adopted the carnation as the official state flower.

Ten years later, there was a desire to change flowers. So, in 1923, the honor went to the flower of the tulip tree. In 1931, the lawmakers once again changed state flowers. This time the zinnia was named the official state flower.

In 1957, the zinnia was replaced by the peony, which holds the title of being the state flower for the longest stretch of time.

“What is the official state flower of Indiana?” The answer for the last 64 years has been the beautiful peony!



Carnation



Tulip Blossom



Zinnia



Peony

For each date below, write the name of the state flower at that time.

1. March 14, 1929 _____
2. June 20, 1915 _____
3. September 7, 1945 _____
4. January 21, 1960 _____



INDIANA GROWN POPCORN

Can you imagine a world where you sit down to watch a movie, and there is no popcorn? Indiana ranks as the nation's number two producer of popcorn, right behind Nebraska. Indiana farmers have harvested more than 351 million pounds of popcorn for different companies. Hoosiers love popcorn so much, in 2021, popcorn grown in Indiana was named Indiana's official state snack. You can't pick any ear out of the field and try to pop it. Popcorn has a thick hull on it that allows steam to be trapped inside before it pops open. This cannot happen with other types of corn.



Popcorn is also tricky to grow. The plant needs the right kind of rain and weather to get the perfect kernel. If something is off, you won't get a product that pops. When popcorn is harvested, it is left in a silo to dry into the kernel that most people recognize. Indiana is home to many popcorn companies. Pop Weaver, based out of Van Buren, Indiana, produces almost 30 percent of the world's popcorn. Some other popcorn companies from Indiana are Ramsey Popcorn (Cousin Willie's), Orville Redenbacher, Groomsville Popcorn, Poptique Gourmet Popcorn, Hoosier Popcorn Company, Gutwein Popcorn Company LLC, and many others.



Make Popcorn Unique!

Get ready for an exciting movie night! Pop some popcorn and try some of these homemade seasonings to put on top.

Peanut Butter

4 tbs. peanut butter powder
2 tbs. powdered sugar
1 tsp. salt

Parmesan Garlic

4 tbs. grated parmesan cheese
1 tsp. garlic powder
2 tsp. dried Italian herbs
1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes
1/2 tsp. salt

Barbeque

3 tbs. smoked paprika
1/2 tsp. chili powder
1 1/2 tbs. brown sugar
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. onion powder

Cinnamon Sugar

8 tbs. brown sugar
4 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 1/2 tsp. salt

Do you have any other tasty ideas?



Popcorn Word Search



Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

BRAN
BUTTER
CHEESE
EXERCISE
FIBER

GERM
HEALTH
KERNELS
MICROWAVE
MOISTURE

POPCORN
RECIPE
SALT
WHOLE GRAINS





THE INDIANA STATE SEAL

No, I'm not talking about the marine mammal. A state seal is a badge of sorts that is used to make sure official state documents are authentic. The seal is placed on reports, bills the Governor signs into law, and official letters from the Governor.

The original seal was commissioned by the first Indiana Territorial Governor William Henry Harrison. In 1802 the design was described as including a setting sun, a bison, and a man cutting a tree. When Indiana became a state in 1816, the State Constitution said the state must have a state seal to use in official communication. Representative Davis Floyd described the design as, "A forest and a woodman felling a tree, a buffalo leaving the forest and fleeing through the plain to a distant forest, and sun in the west with the word Indiana."

However, much like a game of telephone, the seal had minor changes through Indiana's history. Finally, the design that we know today was finalized by law in 1963.

Each item in the seal represents something. The rising sun represents that Indiana has a bright future ahead, the mountains represent the Allegheny Mountains, showing that Indiana is in the west. The woodman represents civilization moving in the wilderness that was Indiana, and the buffalo represents the wilderness leaving Indiana as civilization moves in.





TREES IN INDIANA

Trees are an important part of Indiana's great outdoors. The leaves produce the oxygen we need to breathe and clean the air of the carbon dioxide we exhale. Their shade is cooling in the hot summer months. Wood harvested from trees is used for buildings, furniture, paper and cardboard, art, and for heating. Seeds and fruits from some of the trees are a food source for people and animals. Roots spread deep and wide, helping to anchor the soil and prevent erosion. Some trees are used to block noise, sights, or wind. Trees also play an important role in the water cycle.

At the time of Indiana's Statehood in 1816, almost 90% of the land was covered with forests. The Native Americans made their homes among the trees. They used trees for food, shelter, transportation, cooking, and heating. As the European settlers came into the state, most of the trees were cleared to make room for crop farming. Recently we have come to see the importance of trees. Projects around the state are working to preserve current forestland and to plant new forests for the future.

Indiana has a great variety of trees. Each kind of tree has its own type of leaf, bark, wood, and natural growing shape. Pines and cedars are evergreens, holding their needles even in the winter. The red mulberry has three different shaped leaves, two which look like mittens. Most trees have single leaves. A few, like the black locust and the honey locust have compound leaves. This means they have leaflets that make up each whole leaf. Hickory trees have a rough shaggy bark while river birch bark is thin and smooth. The sycamore's bark varies in color between a splotchy grey to white, making them easy to spot along rivers and streams. The color of the wood varies too. White pine and cottonwood boards are almost white in color while black walnut is called a chocolate brown. Ironwood lumber has a yellow tint while cedar is a medium to dark red.

Look at the trees when you are outside. How many different kinds can you discover? If you want to make a leaf collection, please use the leaves as they fall from the trees in autumn, so you do not damage the trees while they are growing and helping us. Or better still, just take lots of pictures.

INDIANA TREES WORD SEARCH

B O S A G E O R A N G E
L Y S T Y R H S A T S S
A R L D C E D A R U Y A
C R I O H D N E A N C S
K E P O C B E I B L A S
C B P W E U E L P A M A
H L E N E D S L D W O F
E U R O B L G T M K R R
R M Y R O K C I H C E A
R D E I S N E P S A O S
Y E L L O W P O P L A R
C R M U G H C R I B K M

Ash

Aspen

Beech

Birch

Black

Black Walnut

Cedar

Elm

Cherry

Ironwood

Locust Pine

Maple

Hickory Oak

Osage

Slippery Elm

Red Mulberry

Redbud

Orange

(Sweet) Gum

Sycamore

Sassafras Tree

Yellow Poplar (Also called the Tulip Tree (State Tree))



INDIANA LIMESTONE

Our state stone, Indiana Limestone, has been the building block for important structures here in Indiana as well as all over the country. Officially named Salem Limestone, this formation of rock forms a thin band in southern Indiana. Indiana Limestone has been called the best limestone in the country.

Millions of years ago, Indiana was covered in a shallow sea. Marine fossils decomposed at the bottom of the sea creating calcium carbonate, a chemical compound that is used to create limestone. It took millions of years for the limestone to form where it lay in the ground in the land between Bloomington and Bedford.

Salem Limestone is unique because when it is first quarried, the stone is soft and easy to work with, but it forms a hard surface when it dries, making the stone more resistant to erosion. Salem Limestone is a "freestone" which means that it can be cut in any direction, making it the perfect stone for adding decoration to buildings.

When European settlers moved to Indiana, they started to use limestone in the building of their homes and memorials. The first limestone quarry in Indiana opened in 1827, not long after we became a state. By the 1900s, Hoosier quarries were digging up 12 million cubic feet of limestone. Indiana Limestone was important to the expansion of the railroads as it was used to build bridges and tunnels.

As cities were getting bigger and taller, Indiana Limestone became the building material for structures around the country. The Empire State Building in New York, the National Cathedral in Washington DC, the Pentagon, and many more buildings were made with Indiana Limestone. Even locally, Indiana Limestone was used in the building of our Statehouse, the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, and even many buildings on the campus of Indiana University, Bloomington.

In 1971, the Indiana General Assembly made Salem Limestone the official state stone for Indiana. The General Assembly wrote, "The regal type rock "Limestone" which is found and quarried in south and central Indiana from the geologic formation named the Salem Limestone, is hereby adopted as the official stone of the state of Indiana."

Next time you are in the city, look up and around you to see if you can see a little piece of Indiana.



WHAT IS MADE OF INDIANA LIMESTONE?



Use the word bank to fill out the chart below

Indiana Statehouse

Empire State Building

Pentagon

Taj Mahal

Buckingham Palace

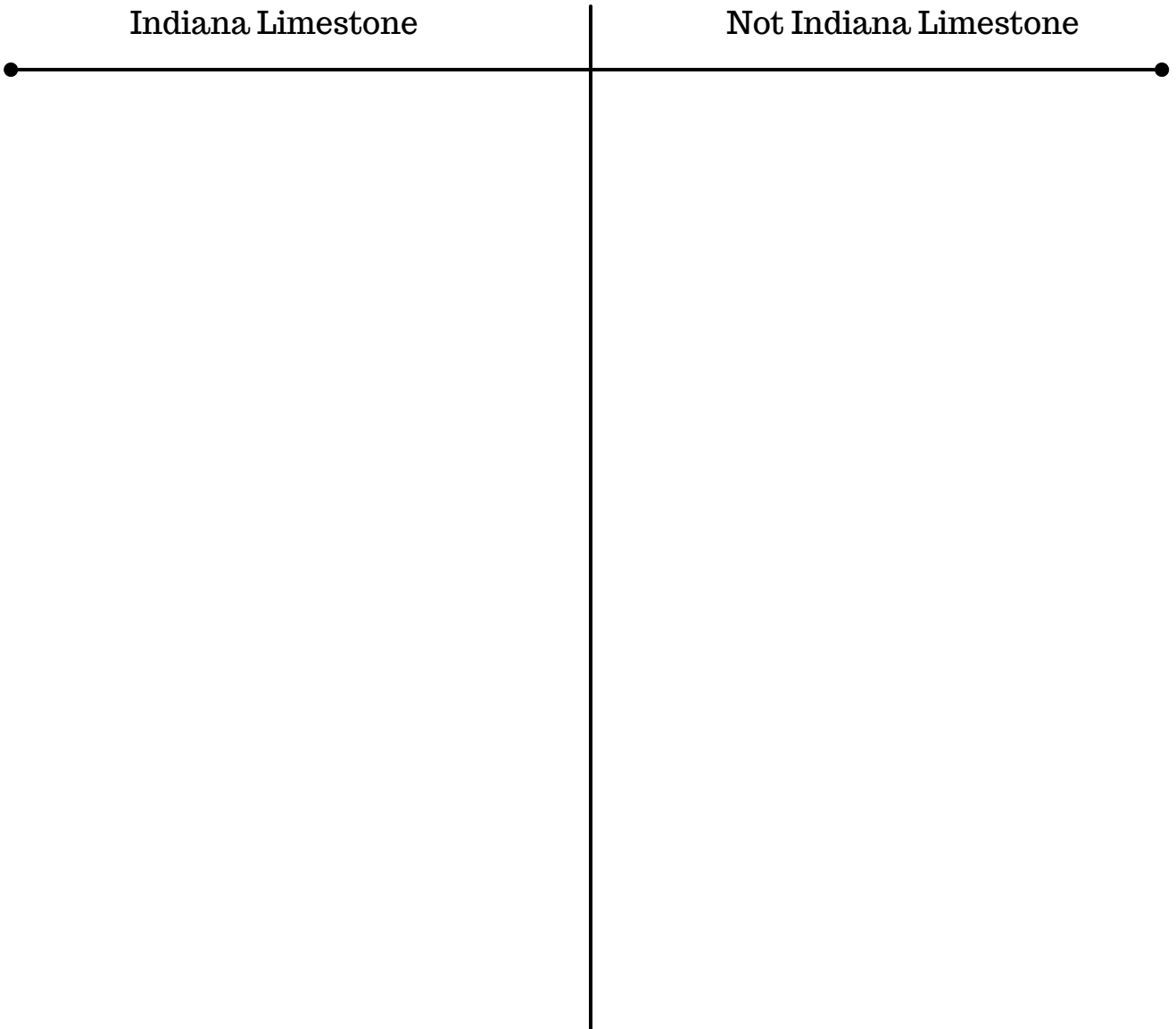
The White House

National Cathedral

United States Capitol Building

Indiana Limestone

Not Indiana Limestone





BROWN COUNTY STATE PARK

Brown County State Park is the largest of Indiana's 24 state parks. Opening in 1929, the park is home to some of the best fall colors in the state. The park has the nickname "Little Smokies" because people compare it to the Great Smoky Mountains. The park was created as a part of a 1927 legislation by the Indiana General Assembly that allowed county commissioners to donate land to establish state parks. The Brown County commissioners donated 1,129 acres of land to become a park. The park grew in 1941 with the unification of the Brown County Game Preserve and the state park. The whole area was designated as a nature preserve.

Like some of the other state parks in Indiana, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) were important in developing the area into what we have today. The CCC was a program created by president Franklin Roosevelt to provide jobs to the American people during the Great Depression. In 1933, eleven CCC groups were sent to the park. Each group had 200 members, so that was 2,200 people working on various things around the park. Workers created trails, bridges, roads, water supplies, and worked on the construction of shelters and other park buildings. One major thing CCC members worked on was planting more trees such as walnut, pine, and spruce to help prevent erosion.


























In 1932, the lodge at the park was dedicated to Frank McKinney Hubbard. Hubbard was a resident of Indianapolis, but that didn't stop him from visiting the park any chance he got. He was a well known cartoonist and humorist who created cartoons to be in the Indianapolis News. The Abe Martin Lodge was named after one of Hubbard's most popular characters, and is the largest lodging at the park. The main lodge has 30 guest rooms, and a restaurant, as well as an indoor waterpark was recently added.



artful
parent

NATURE

SCAVENGER HUNT

FEATHER 	ANT 	BUTTERFLY 	BETLE 	MOSS 
NEST 	SNAIL 	FERN 	COLORFUL ROCK 	BEE 
BIRD 	FLOWER 	SOMETHING FUZZY 	SOMETHING PURPLE 	SOMETHING ROUND 
FLAT ROCK 	Y-SHAPED BRANCH 	SEED POD 	WORM 	CATERPILLAR 
PINE NEEDLES 	ACORN 	PINECONE 	ANIMAL TRACKS 	SOMETHING BLUE 



FALLS OF THE OHIO STATE PARK

Along the Ohio River in Clarksville, Indiana, Falls of the Ohio State Park is a geological and historical wonder. The park features the largest exposed Devonian fossil beds in the world, and was a key stop in the history of American westward expansion. Today, the park is home to an education center, hiking trails, and fossil hunting.

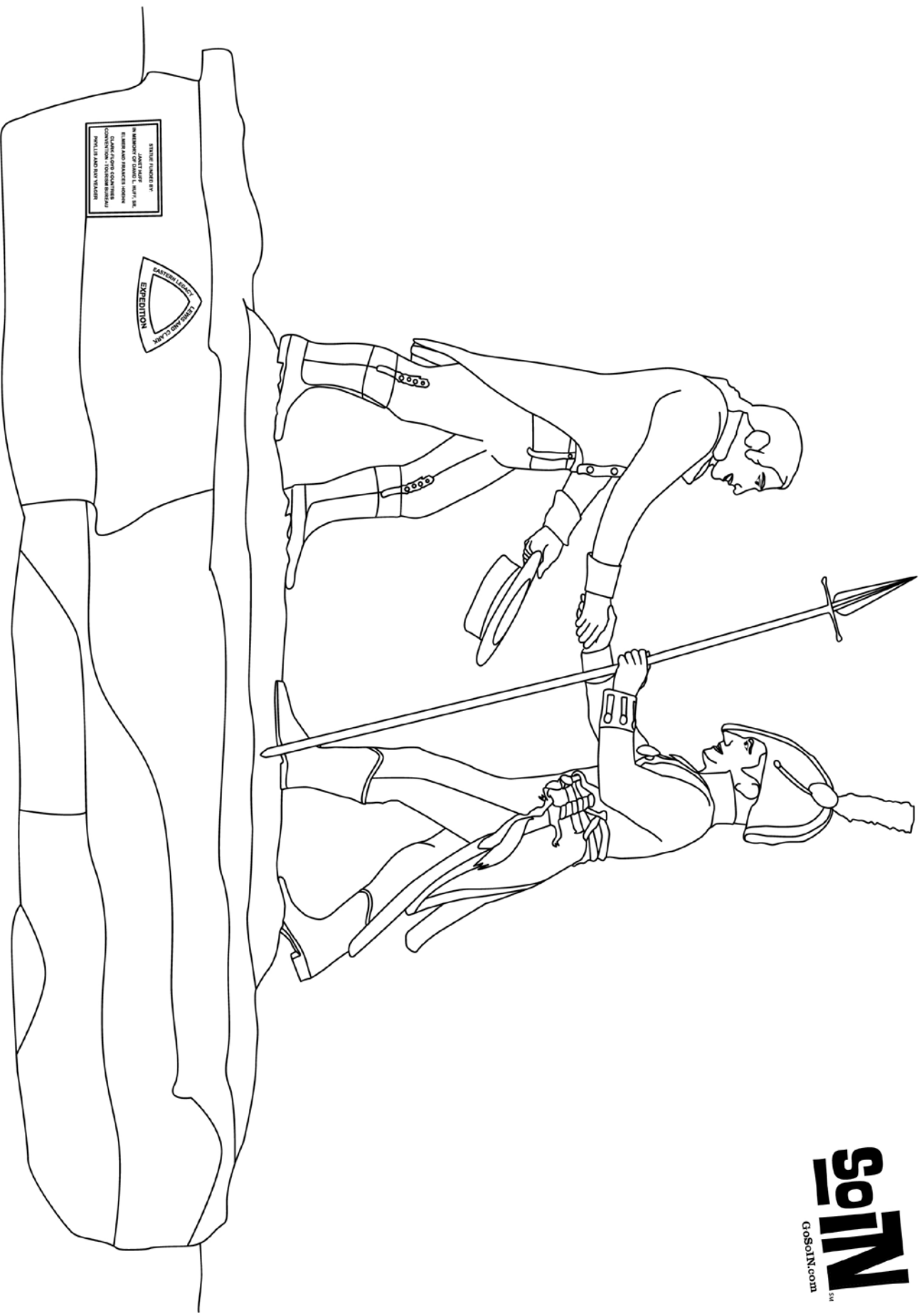
390 million years ago, the Falls of the Ohio State Park was covered in a shallow sea. This time period was known as the Devonian (the Age of Fishes). The Devonian period saw a large diversity of fish, molluscs, trilobites, and coral reefs. An extinction

event 375 million years ago, mostly affected organisms living in shallow seas. Their skeletons were forever saved in stone as they fossilized, and can now be seen at the park. Visitors to the park can walk along the ancient sea bottom and see the different kinds of fossils found there. It is important to leave the fossils where they are so others can see them in the future. There are collecting piles near the education center where you can get a piece of ancient history to take home with you!

Long after the area was thriving with prehistoric fish, the area became the meeting site of two of America's most famous explorers. In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Territory from the French, and hoped to find a water route from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Jefferson appointed Captain Meriwether Lewis and Lewis's friend, William Clark to make the journey. Lewis had a large keel boat built to hold the crew and all of their supplies. Lewis traveled down the Ohio River and picked up Clark in Clarksville. Normally, when boats had to go over the falls, everything had to be removed from the boat, the boat needed to be taken apart, carried around the falls, and then put back together. However, a strong crew of men were able to keep the keel boat together and ride it over the falls, saving the expedition weeks of time.

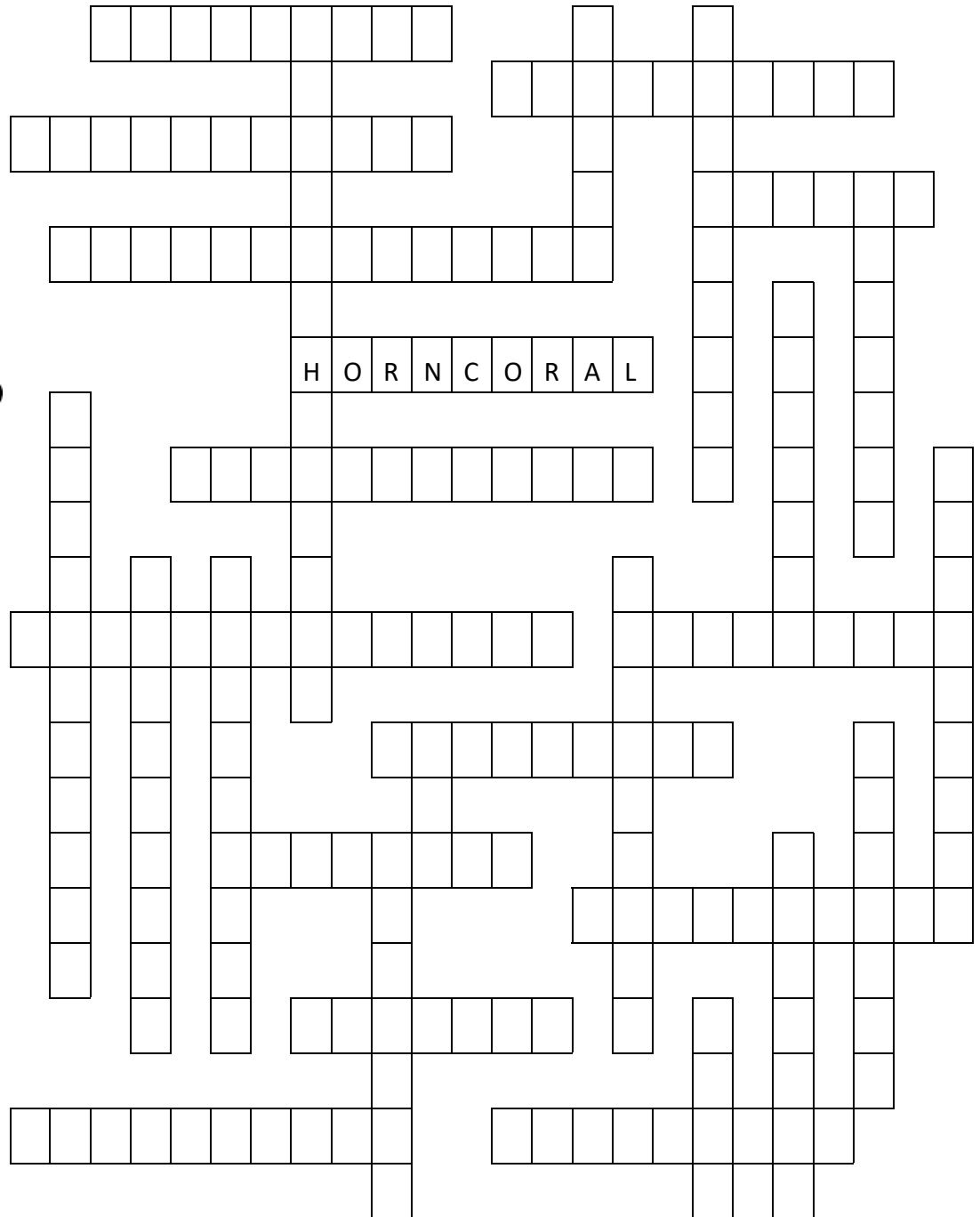
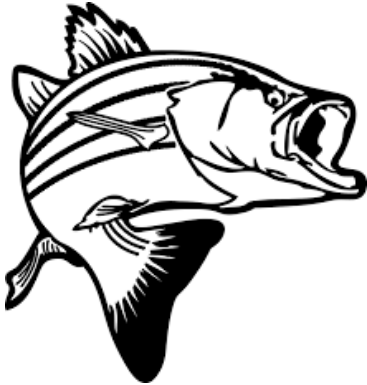
Visitors to the park get a great opportunity to see various times in history on display about Indiana's great outdoors.





Lewis and Clark Handshake Statue, Falls of the Ohio State Park

THE AGE OF FISHES



Use these words about the Devonian Period to fill in the puzzle. Use the number of letter as the clues.

DO NOT INCLUDE SPACES IN THE PUZZLE GRID.

- | | | | |
|---------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| AGE | SPIDERS | FOSSIL BED | SHALLOW SEAS |
| SILT | VOLCANO | HORN CORAL ✓ | VERTEBRATES |
| FERNS | SEDIMENT | HORSETAIL | CHONDRICHTHYE |
| SHELLS | AGE OF FISH | OHIO RIVER | FOSSIL HUNTING |
| EQUATOR | CARTILAGE | TETRA PODS | TECTONIC PLATES |
| LOWLAND | CORAL REEF | CENTIPEDES | DEVONIAN PERIOD |
| MOLLUSK | DIVERSITY | COELACANTH | |
| SPONGES | ECOSYSTEM | TRILOBITES | |

THE DEVONIAN PERIOD



INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL PARK

If it weren't for the weather, you would think Chesterton, Indiana was located along the ocean, not Lake Michigan. The Indiana Dunes run for about 20 miles along Lake Michigan, and the park contains sand dune, wetland, prairie, river and forest ecosystems in over 15,000 acres. The park was named by Congress in 1966 as the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and then was named the 61st National Park in 2019.



The Dunes were formed thousands of years ago during the Wisconsin Glacial Period. When the glacier started to melt and move further north, what is left behind is called a moraine. A moraine is made up of small debris that the glacier leaves behind. The Valparaiso Moraine makes up the Indiana Dunes and Lake Michigan.

There are many things that make the Indiana Dunes special. Every year, there are more than 350 different kinds of birds that have been seen in the park. Those birds just add to the rest of the nature found in the dunes. There are 1418 different kinds of plants that have been recorded. One of the things that makes the Dunes unique is that it is home to both Arctic plants, such as the bearberry, and desert plants such as the prickly pear cactus.

Mount Baldy is the tallest of the dunes at 123 ft. tall. The dune moves an average of 4 ft. per year in the wind, making it a living dune. On a clear day, you can hike to the top and get a view of Lake Michigan, Chicago, and south shore.

Another unique thing about the Dunes is the sand. The sand at the Dunes is made up of quartz and silica that was left behind from the glaciers, which creates an interesting sound when you walk across it. This is known as "singing sands." Singing Sands are rare, and the Indiana Dunes is one of the few places on earth where they can be found.

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POKAGON STATE PARK

Pokagon State Park is located near Angola, Indiana. If you visit during the winter, it might look like a scene right out of Disney's *Frozen*. Pokagon is known as Indiana's winter wonderland. Visitors can ski, sled, ice fish, and race down a twin track toboggan run. While there is ton of recreational winter fun, there is a lot more to Pokagon State Park.

The park is bordered by lakes in Steuben County. Lake James is located along the west and south, and Snow Lake is along the north. The lakes, wetlands, and rolling hills of the park were created thousands of years ago by the Wisconsin Glacier as it receded back north.

The area was originally called Lake James State Park when it became the fifth Indiana State Park in 1925. The name was changed to Pokagon State Park. Leopold and Simon Pokagon (father and son) were the last most notable leaders of the Potawatomi, the native people in this area were the Pottawatami Nation. The Potawatomi Inn, opened in 1927, was named after the native people who lived in the area.

In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) came to Pokagon State Park and got to work. The CCC was an organization created by President Franklin Roosevelt to provide relief for American unemployed workers during the Great Depression. The CCC worked for eight years creating some of the best-known buildings at Pokagon, such as the Gate House, the Spring Shelter, the Saddle Barn, and the first three versions of the toboggan run. The CCC planted hundreds of trees and created roads and trails. One of the most recognizable buildings is the CCC Shelter, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

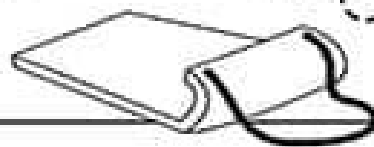
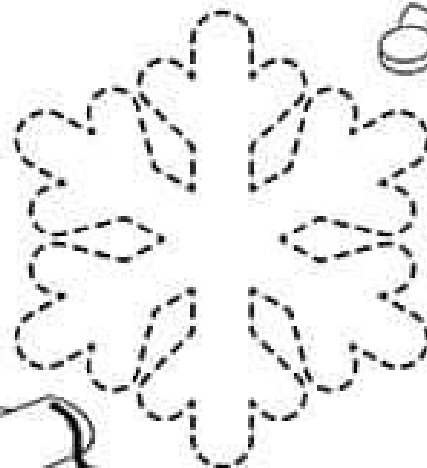
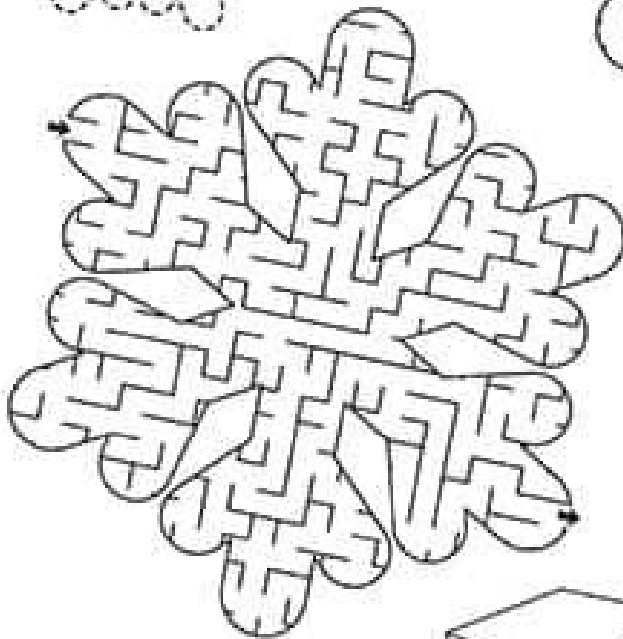
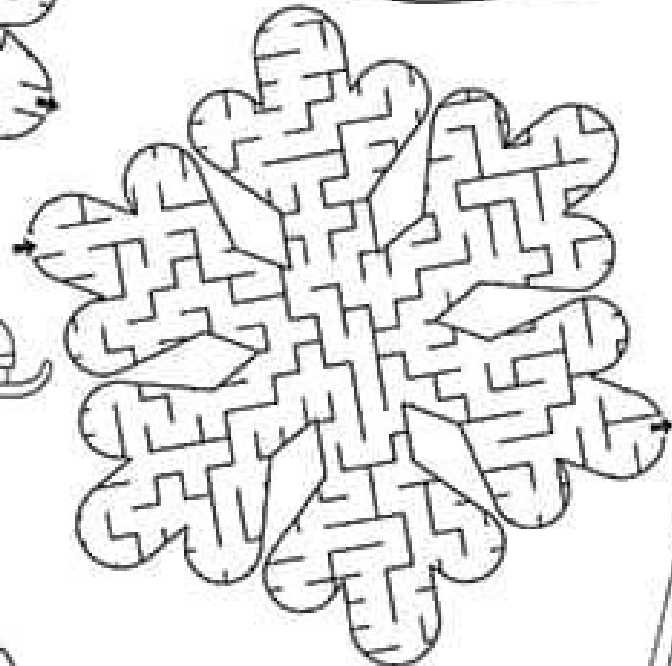
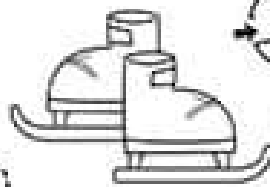
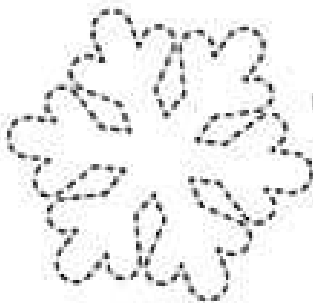
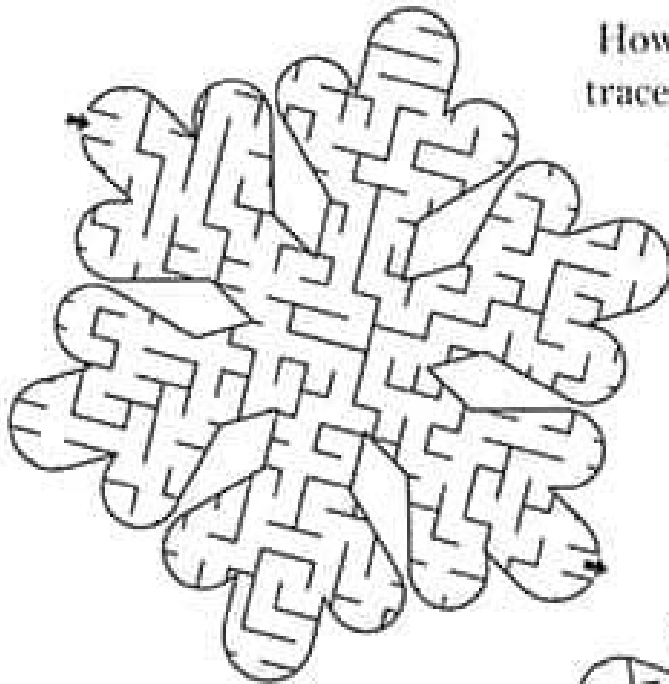
One of the favorite activities in the park is the toboggan run. Visitors can race at speeds of up to 35-40 miles per hour on the quarter of a mile track. What fun!





Snowflake Maze

How fast can you
trace and solve the
mazes?





TURKEY RUN STATE PARK

Located in Marshall, Indiana, Turkey Run State Park, became Indiana's second state park in 1916 celebration of Indiana's centennial. Hikes in the park are like walking back in time to see 600 to 300 million years of geological history. With several miles of hiking trails and the famous suspension bridge over Sugar Creek, Turkey Run is a nature wonderland right in the heart of the state.

At Turkey Run, you walk along through ravines that have eroded over millions of years. The exposed bedrock is made up of Mansfield sandstone, named after Mansfield, Indiana. The stone was created by the build-up of sand over time that became compacted from pressure and "cemented" into solid rock. Like other state parks here in Indiana, the geological features were created by glacier melt. Water and ice from melting glaciers eroded the sandstone away. However, the walls and floors of the ravines are still being eroded slowly by wind and water.

Turkey Run has many legends about how it got its name. One of the main stories talks about how many wild turkeys called the area home. The turkeys would huddle in the canyon bottoms, or "runs" when the weather got cold to stay warm. People who lived in the area would use this to their advantage and herd the turkeys through the runs to a central location to harvest.

If you visit the park, there are many things to do. Turkey Run has over 14 miles of hiking trails, guided horseback riding, canoeing and kayaking along Sugar Creek, and several historical sites that show what it was like as a pioneer living in Indiana.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Adventures in the Forest

S K U N K P Q B O B H F G G J A Z
O J C P A S N P E S J S L O O V Q
R H H L S Y O A S Q P I N O R V B
E B W C A S V R E U I I O R W F P
T U U L S E U E V I N A I E O E T
T R J U R L T K A R E C L E N I R
O G M H K E A C C R C O N D B C K
R I P H C A C E O E O R I B J I N
E R O S O G B P Y L N N A L S N U
V A R I R L O D O Z E R T E E C M
I C C F U E B O T D T B N A E I P
R C U L O Z M O E R K X U F B P I
R O P E F X I W E K S J O S C F H
S O I S C T E E O C D Y M D L Q C
G N N A B G S K O K R V X O O F I
U B E E B E A R I K I I W Y N J F
B P D W H J E L N H B S E L A N S

Bobcat	Hike	Mountain Lion	Grub
Trees	Rock	Flower	Wolf
Bugs	Ivy	Eagle	Possum
Woodpecker	Leaf	Acorn	Pinecone
Rabbit	Beaver	Porcupine	Weasel
Coyote	Fox	Frog	Chipmunk
Snails	Skunk	Raccoon	Squirrel
Bees	Birds	Fish	River Otter
Caves	Picnic	Deer	Bear



INDIANA WETLANDS

Wetlands are biodiverse habitats. They are home to thousands of different plants and animals who can only live in these water-soaked environments. More than one half of North America's waterbirds live all or part of their lives in wetlands. For the freshwater fish in the United States, wetlands act as hatcheries, places where they lay their eggs and the young fish grow before moving to lakes and rivers.

At the time when Indiana was a territory, it had about 5,600,000 acres of ground known as wetlands. These lowland, swampy areas act as natural sponges, soaking up and holding large amounts of water during rainy seasons. This helps prevent flooding and erosion. During the drier parts of the year, wetlands slowly release the water for use by plants and animals.

Wetlands are an important part of the ecosystem of Indiana which has not been cared for in the past. By the 1980s, Indiana had less than 813,000 acres of wetland remaining. Too often people viewed wetlands as wasted ground. Wetlands were drained to try and use them for farming, and in some areas, oil wells were put in to pump out the fossil fuels that had gathered beneath them. But as they were cleared of trees and ditched, many plants and animals that need wetlands to live no longer had a home and are extinct. One third of all the plants and animals currently considered endangered in the United States depend on wetlands to survive. People need wetlands too. Besides helping to prevent flooding and erosion, wetlands act as filters for the water we drink. The plants that grow in wetlands give off the oxygen we need to breathe and absorb carbon dioxide, cleaning the air. If wetlands are used carefully, they can also be recreational areas for hiking, boating, birdwatching, and photography.

Conservation efforts are happening throughout Indiana. Former wetlands are being allowed to flood, and this helps the surrounding areas to drain better. Wetland plants and animals are encouraged to return. Some laws help prevent wetland areas from being destroyed. Government agencies like the Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management work to prevent further pollution and other destruction of Indiana wetlands. This is one way they are working to care for Indiana's Great Outdoors.



W A T E R B I R D S A P M L P
 E E B W O L F L O O D O M I H
 T O P S O I L E N O O L O A O
 L N L S S P O N G E P L S T T
 A A A H T E W O L S E U Q T O
 N C N T E N A N E E A T U A G
 D B T B H D U C K E T I I C R
 G S T O R A G E I G N O T R A
 F B A T S N R E H L O N O E P
 P F O X Y G E N H S I F E E H
 M I A A E E T A N E S T S K Y
 A L K I T R A C N W O R G D G
 W T S I L E W A H E R O N N O
 S E R C A D R A I N E D O O F
 W R A E L C D N A S K C I U Q

Find the words about things you might find or do in and around a wetland. Look for other words that are about the functions of a wetland.

ACRES	BATS	BOAT	CANOE	CATTAIL	CLEAR	CRANE
CREEK	DRAINED	DUCK	ENDANGERED		EROSION	FILTER
FISH	FLOOD	FLOW	FOG	FOOD	FOX	GEESE
GROW	HEDGE	HERON	HIKE	LOON	MOSQUITOES	
NESTS	OAKS	OXYGEN	PEAT	PHOTOGRAPHY		PLANT
POLLUTION	QUICKSAND	SAP	SKY	SLOW	SPONGE	
STORAGE	SWAMP	TOPSOIL	WATERBIRDS	WETLAND	WOLF	



GENE STRATTON-PORTER

Gene Stratton-Porter was an author, nature photographer, naturalist, and film producer. She inspired those who enjoyed her stories and pictures to learn more about nature, especially the wetland plants and animals of northern Indiana. Gene Stratton was born in Largo, Indiana in 1863. She was raised to appreciate everything nature had to offer, roaming around the family farm, and taking care of various animals. She married Charles Porter and they had a daughter named Jeannette.

In 1888, Stratton-Porter and her family moved to Geneva, Indiana, which is the home of one of her famous homes, the Limberlost Cabin. The surrounding area is known as the Limberlost Swamp, a wetland that had many plants and insects which can only survive in swampy habitats*. She explored this area and used inspiration from this habitat to write two of her most popular novels, *Freckles* and *A Girl of the Limberlost*. Stratton-Porter spent her days at Limberlost exploring, observing nature, sketching, and taking photographs. Over the years between 1888 and 1910, the wetlands that surrounded the home were drained for agricultural development, destroying most of the habitat.

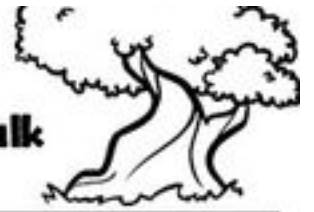


As the swamp was destroyed, Stratton-Porter decided to move. She bought a lakeside property on Sylvan Lake in Rome City, Indiana, and built a new home which she called the Cabin at Wildflower Woods. She turned the land around it into a nature preserve as her new inspiration. During her time in Rome City, she wrote her sixth novel, *Laddie*. In addition to writing novels, Stratton-Porter published several books on her nature observations. She became a conservationist because of her experience at the Limberlost Swamp. In 1917, she joined with other conservationists who were asking the Indiana General Assembly to keep from draining state-owned swamps in Noble and LaGrange Counties. The law was repealed in 1920, but the swamps were eventually drained. Both of her Indiana homes are owned by the state and are operated as museums. You can visit them to learn more about Gene Stratton-Porter and enjoy hiking in part of the reclaimed Limberlost Swamp.

*Habitats – an area that has the right balance of food, water, shelter, and living space (temperature, elevation, soil, etc.) to support the kind of plants and animals found there.



Nature Walk



Draw pictures of 4 things you found on your walk
Describe them



INDIANA RESERVOIRS

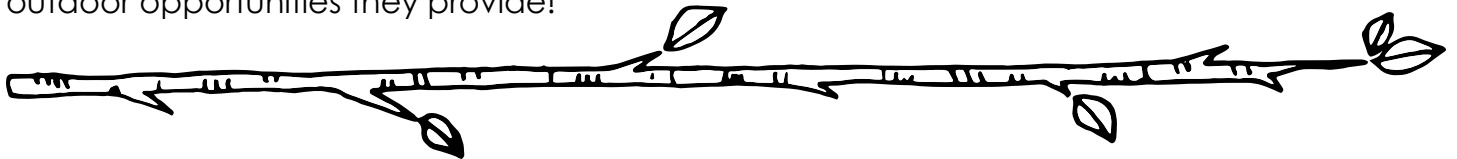
Do you know what a reservoir is? It is an enlarged natural or artificial lake created, using a dam, to store fresh water. Reservoirs have been made to help with flood management. They collect water during times of heavy and high rainfall, then release the water slowly over weeks and months. The water can be used by water companies in cities and towns for the people who live there or for irrigation of farmland. As the water is released from the reservoirs, it flows over dams and is turned into electricity to power lights and machines in homes, stores, and factories.



Indiana has many reservoirs throughout the state. The largest Indiana reservoir is Lake Monroe, and it is located near Bloomington, Indiana. The second largest Indiana reservoir is Patoka Lake. Located in the southern portion of Indiana, it includes parts of Dubois, Crawford, and Orange counties.

Indiana's reservoirs are not only used for water storage, but they provide outdoor recreational opportunities. Many of Indiana's reservoirs allow fishing and boating. Other reservoirs have opportunities for hiking, camping, and swimming. Eagle Creek Reservoir, located in Indianapolis, not only provides boating, fishing, and swimming but they have walking and running paths, bird watching stations, and trails to explore wildlife habitats.

So sometime soon, make it a fun goal to visit some of Indiana's reservoirs and enjoy the great outdoor opportunities they provide!



QUESTIONS

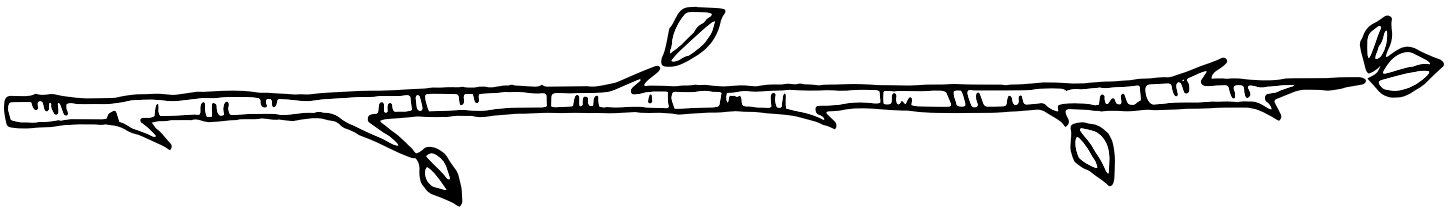
1. What is the purpose of a reservoir?
2. Why do we need reservoirs?
3. Locate the largest Indiana reservoir on the state map?
4. What is one activity you would enjoy doing at a reservoir?
5. Is there a reservoir near you? If so, when do you plan to visit it?



INDIANA OUTDOOR SPORTS & RECREATION

Playing out-of-doors is a great way to enjoy fresh air, get exercise, and have fun. Whether you are alone or with a group of people, there are things to do in all kinds of spaces. Some, like hide-and-seek or footraces take no equipment and only take two people. Others, like soccer or baseball are more interesting with a group. You can challenge yourself if you play hopscotch or jump rope on your own.

Outdoor sports can be organized teams for basketball or capture-the-flag. Or it may be two friends playing tennis or doing a nature hike. There are sports for all seasons in Indiana. Unless there is a lot of snow, some people ride bicycles or play basketball anytime. With winter snow and cold, options include skiing, sledding, ice skating, or ice fishing. Spring and fall are great times to hike, and Indiana has lots of state and city parks and public hiking trails to see nature as it emerges in the spring or the beautiful colors of leaves in the fall. Summer is the perfect time for water sports like fishing, swimming, and boating.



Whatever you decide to do, going outdoors should be fun for everyone. By using a few safety guidelines and courtesy rules, everyone can have a great time.

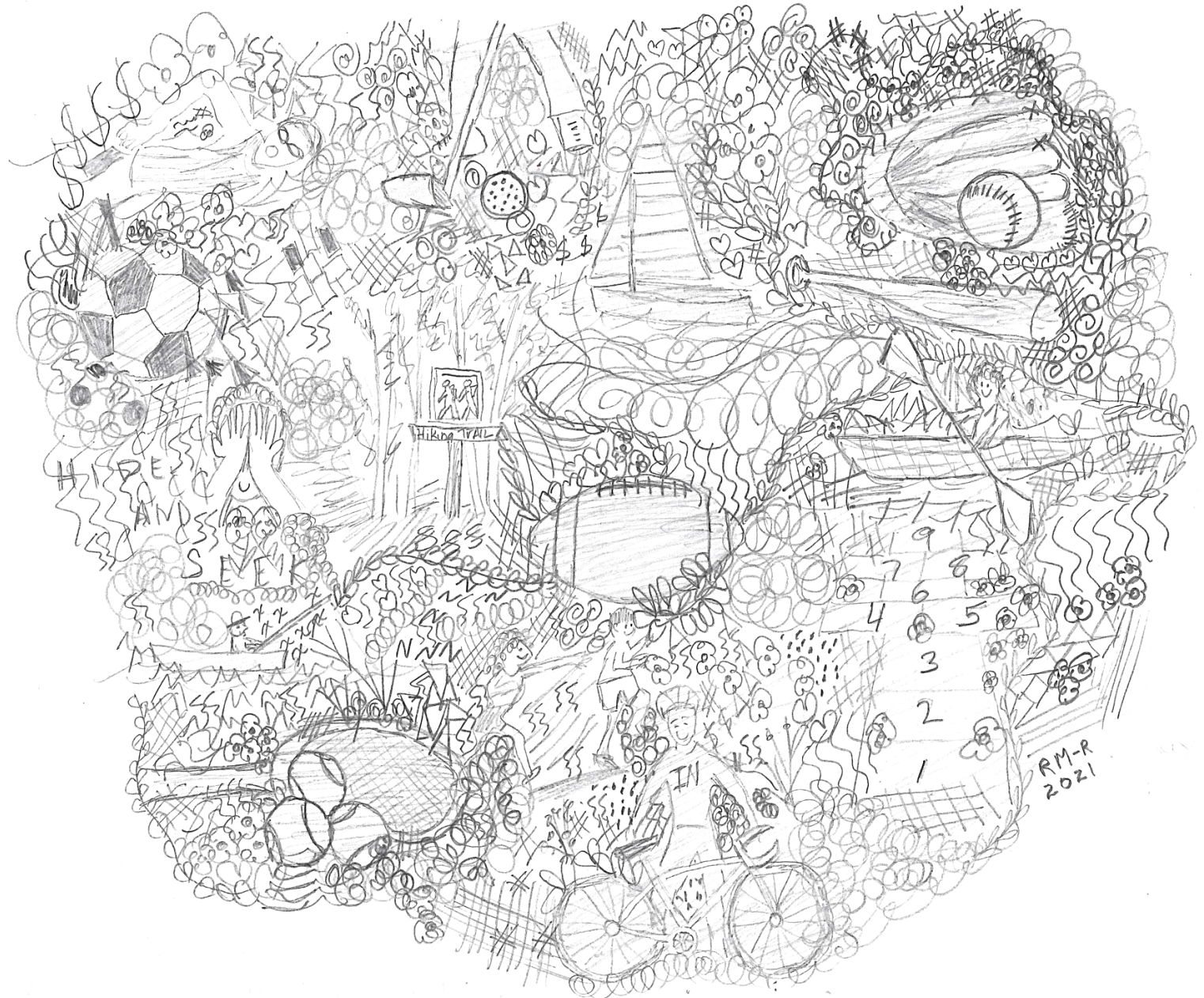
- Make sure an adult knows where you are at all times.
- Follow any posted safety notices.
- Only use spaces that are safe and where you have permission to be. It is never safe to play in roadways, climb on or play hide-and-seek around mechanical equipment, and do not go on private property without the owner's permission.
- Use the right safety equipment. Helmets and other body-covering guards protect you from injury in case of an accident. Flotation devices help keep you safe during water sports.
- Use the buddy system. Taking a friend along helps keep you both safer and to give you someone with whom to share the experience.
- Include everyone in the fun. While some people may have more skill at certain sports, everyone likes to be included.
- Be kind and encouraging with your words and actions.
- Be a good sport. With games of competition, the scores will be different, but everyone is a winner if everyone has fun and goes home happy.

Indiana Outdoor Sports and Recreation

Find the hidden pictures.

See if you can find:

- ___ Biking
- ___ Hiking
- ___ Kayaking
- ___ Tag
- ___ Hide-and-peek
- ___ Hopscotch
- ___ Soccer
- ___ Football
- ___ Tennis
- ___ Golf
- ___ Sailing
- ___ Fishing
- ___ Swimming





INDIANA WEATHER



Spring



Summer



Fall



Winter

The four seasons are very different in Indiana.

The weather varies around the state of Indiana. Northern Indiana may have a snowstorm and at the same time Southern Indiana may be sunny and warm. However, all of Indiana experiences similar weather during the four seasons.

The snow melts and the flowers and plants begin to bloom in the Springtime in Indiana. Birds that migrated to the south for the winter begin to return to the warmer climate. The sun begins to warm the earth and we know Spring has arrived.

The summer sun is hot, and the flowers and plants are in full bloom. The days are longer because the sun is out longer during our summers in Indiana. The firefly, our Indiana state insect, flickers during the hot summer nights. Summer is a great time to visit the Indiana Dunes on Lake Michigan.

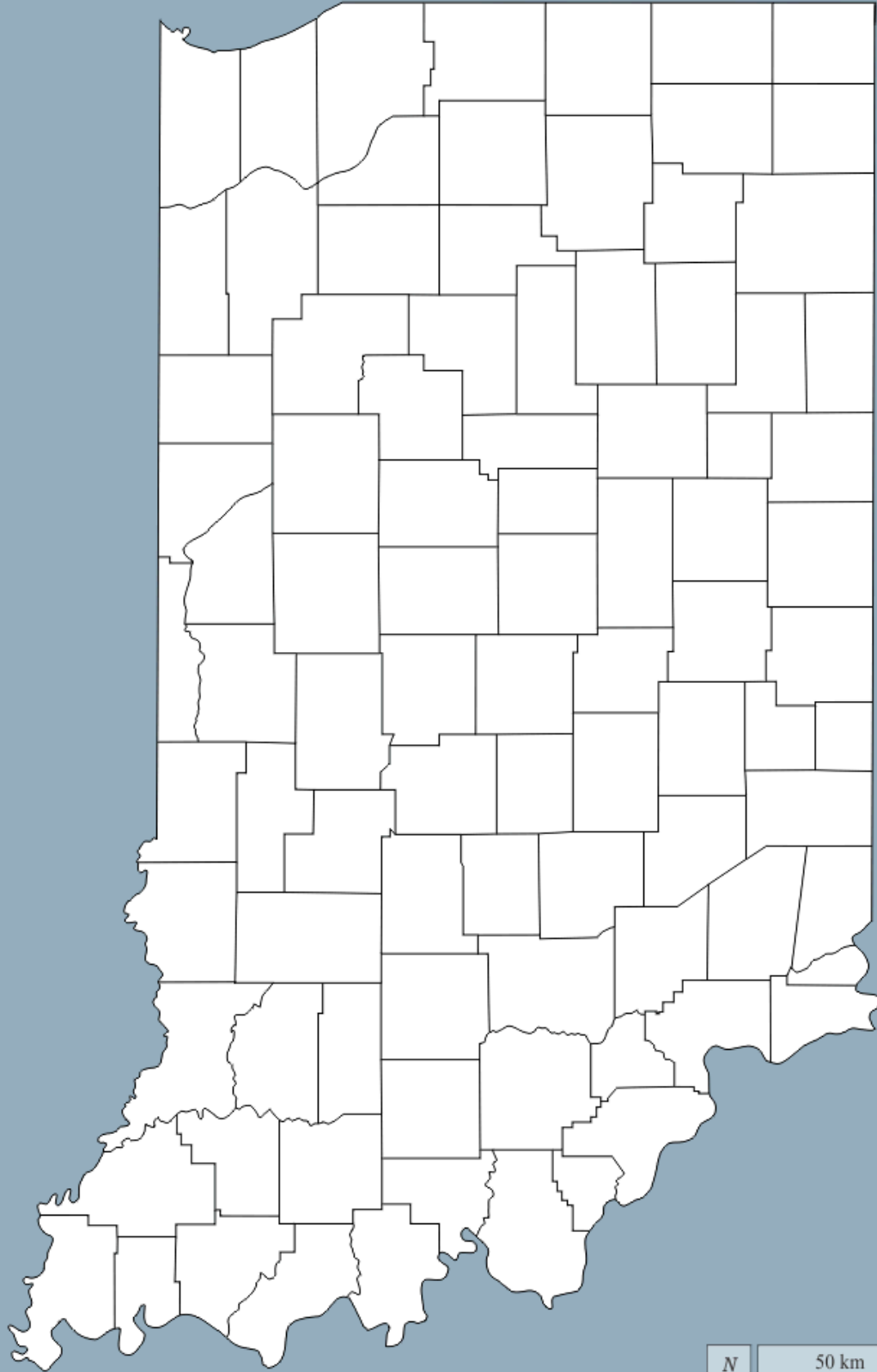
The leaves turn from green to beautiful shades of brown, yellow, and red during the Fall in Indiana. The weather slowly becomes cooler. Farmers begin to harvest their crops. The days slowly become shorter during the Fall in Indiana.

The cold weather arrives with Winter. Most of the birds have migrated to warmer weather and the trees have shed all their leaves. Snow blankets the landscape, and the sun sets low in the sky. Winter in Indiana can be very cold.

What's the weather like today?

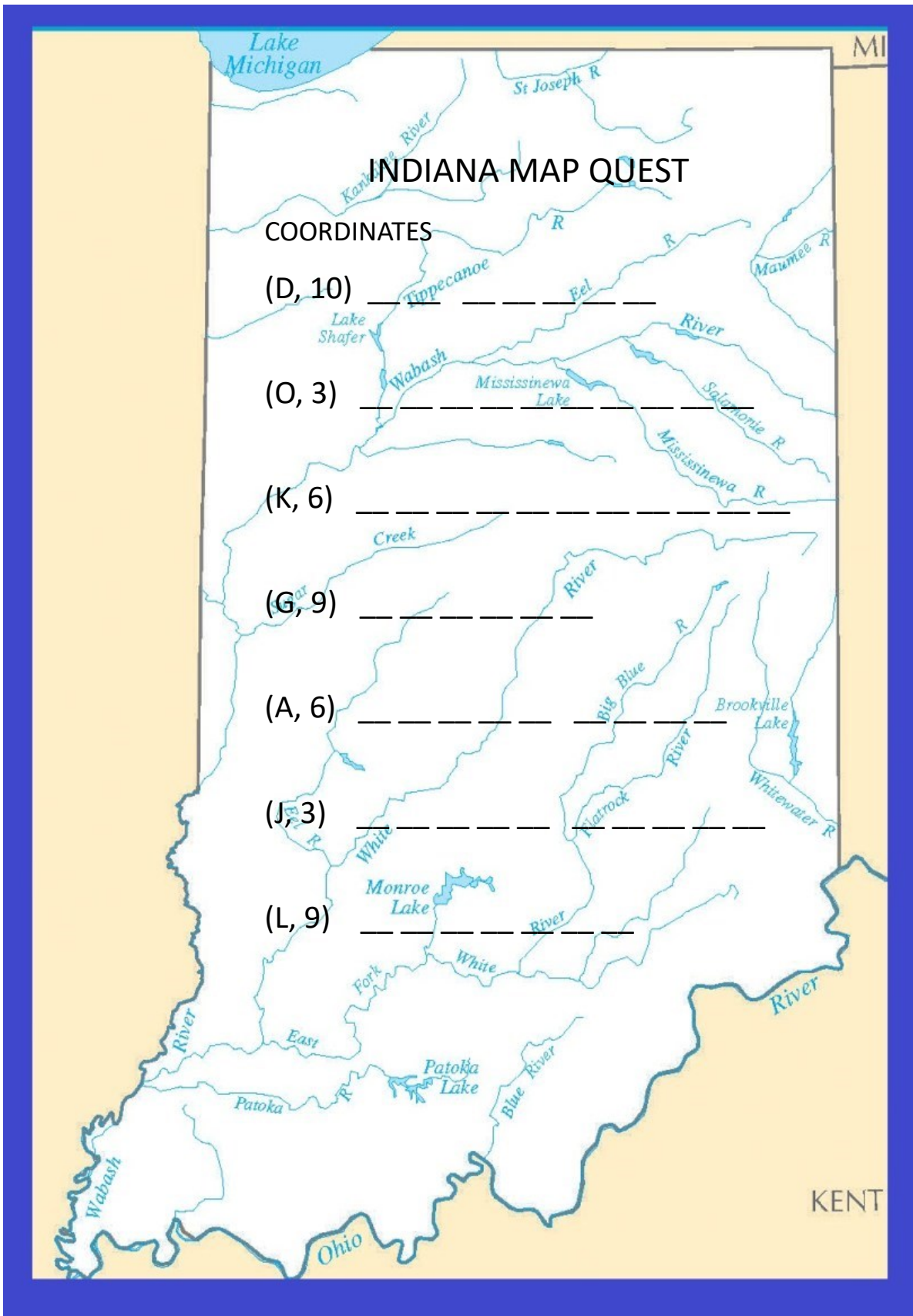


○→□ Mercator



50 km

30 mi



NAME _____

Using your Official Indiana Roadway Map, find the cities at these given coordinates.