



Vermont Institute of Natural Science 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 sign displaying a skull and a bone.
It tells us 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 large vertical word on the sign. _____*

Trek down the trail that's crafted from stone,
Allowing all people to stroll and to roam.
Woods such as these have a story to share,
Which we hope inspires you all to care.
Keep a keen eye, as you wander through,
Then take a slight right, at the post numbered two.

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.
Be on your way to find a special mark.
Beavers snacked here on a tree's inner bark!

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

Glance to your right, some holes you will spot.
Woodpeckers dined here on insects they caught!
Some may consider a dead tree a drag,
But forest animals depend on these 'snags'!
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 the blackbirds' "Kon-Ka Reeese!"
Countless creatures call this place home,
From turtles to frogs who "Jug-o-Rum!"
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 pictures that aid,
Spotting 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 along the edge of the muck.
The cattails fill an important niche,
Like tree roots in soil oh so rich.
Then head left towards a wall made of stone,
Full of places for chipmunks to make their home.

Turn right at the wall, rotting logs await,
On your left they lie, by the post numbered eight.
Decomposers like fungi, insects, and worms,
Are important recyclers, though you may squirm.
Now stroll through the woods 'til up on high,
Below lies a pool with no fish to 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 return to VINS soon, with some of your friends!

Unscramble the letters you've been collecting,
To find one group that VINS is protecting.

_____ _____ _____ _____ S _____ _____
_____ _____ R _____ _____

Now head to the Nature store to receive your stamp!