Junior Ranger

Garden Explorer Activity Book

Ages 7 and up

Explore   Learn   Protect

This Book Belongs to:
How to Become a Garden Explorer

Voyageurs National Park is a special place and needs to be cared for and protected so people can enjoy it today and in the future. As a Garden Explorer, you can help.

If You Do This…
• Stay on the trail
• Leave plants where they are
• Leave rock cairns alone
• Pick up trash
• Don’t bother the animals

Then This Happens…
• Plants don’t get stepped on and die
• Flowers are left for others to enjoy
• People can find the path
• Garden stays beautiful
• They will build a home in the garden

To become a Garden Explorer:
1. Explore the Ojibwe Ethno-botanical Garden
2. Complete 6 or more activities in this book by reading the directions next to the on each page.
3. Bring the completed book to a park ranger for review and receive your badge.

Use the secret code below to discover what kinds of plants are in the Ojibwe Ethno-botanical Garden.

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | L | N | O | P | R | S | T | U | W |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
Arrival of the Ojibwe

The Ojibwe Indians traveled to Minnesota more than 250 years ago. Ojibwe elders tell the story of how a Megis Shell appeared in the sky and led their people here. Once the Ojibwe arrived they lived in many different areas of Minnesota including here - Voyageurs National Park.

Using the 🍂, help guide the Ojibwe Indians to their home in Northern Minnesota.

Use your finger to trace the routes the Ojibwe traveled from New Brunswick to Minnesota. *Sometimes they branched off and traveled different paths.

How many U.S. states and Canadian provinces (states) did the Ojibwe travel through? ___________
Circle your state. How many states and provinces did you travel through to get here? ______________
Today people go to stores to buy food, medicine, and supplies but when the Ojibwe Indians lived here there were no stores. The Ojibwe searched the land and water for their food and supplies. Imagine shopping in your backyard for your breakfast.

Take a walk on the garden path and use the to “shop” for the items you need below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Ojibwe Indians used this plant to:</th>
<th>What is the plant’s name?</th>
<th>What product do you use from a store?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keep Mosquitoes Away</td>
<td>White Spruce</td>
<td>Bug Spray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cure a Stomach Ache</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cure a Bad Cough</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dye Clothing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tie Something Together</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heal a Cut</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a Basket</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floss Teeth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do NOT eat plants or use them for medicine.
Voyageurs National Park is home to more than 800 different kinds of plants. What you see around you is a good example of **biodiversity**. This word comes from the words bio - meaning “life” and diverse - meaning “many different kinds”. As you explore the garden, take a look at all the different kinds of plant life growing here.

Once you have walked the garden path, find your favorite plant and draw it below on the birch bark paper. Answer the following questions.

What is the name of your plant?

________________________________________________________________________

Why is it your favorite?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Did the Ojibwe have a special use for this plant? If so, what was it?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Use one of your senses (see, hear, touch, or smell) to describe the plant.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Which animal might use this plant and what would they use it for?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

The Ojibwe Indians have many uses for the paper birch tree. It has the name “paper” birch because the bark peels into thin, papery pieces.

What do you see in the garden made from birch bark?

________________________________________________________________________
Plant biodiversity is important for all living things, including wildlife. Different animals use plants for different reasons including food and shelter. The garden is home to many animals. Match the animal to what it is looking for in the garden by following the directions below.

The 🐦 is searching for __________. Draw a □ around it.

The 🦋 is looking for __________. Draw a △ around it.

The 🍁 is searching for __________. Draw a ★ across it.

The 🍃 is looking for __________. Draw an X across it.

The 🐿️ is searching for __________. Draw a ○ around it.

The 🦊 is hunting for __________. Draw a ❤️ around it.
As you walk through the garden, look around for animals. Who do you see living in the garden? Are these animals eating, building a home, or doing something else? Write about what you see.

__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
Most types of plants in Voyageurs are native, meaning they have always grown here. They are important because they provide food and shelter to animals. Exotic, or non-native, plants came here from another part of the world. While not all exotic plants are harmful, many act like bullies to other plants, animals, and even humans and can take over a forest or field!

The exotic plants below have been sneaking up on you in this book. Garden Explorers can help protect the park by learning how to spot exotic plants. Go back through the pages to find each plant’s shadow. Write down the page number you found it on so the ranger knows which exotics to remove.

- **Purple loosestrife**
  - Takes over marshes and wetlands.
  - page:

- **Common Tansey**
  - Bullies other flowers growing near it.
  - page:

- **Dandelion**
  - Takes over yards and gardens.
  - page:

- **Canada Thistle**
  - Its sharp leaves and stem hurt animals and people.
  - page:

- **Reed Canary Grass**
  - Grows very tall and bullies other kinds of grasses.
  - page:

- **Wild Parsnip**
  - A poisonous plant.
  - page:

If exotic plants don’t get removed from Voyageurs, how would they affect plant biodiversity in this national park? (Hint-return to page 5)

Wild Parsnip can cause large, painful blisters if you touch it! If you see this plant in the park, please tell a Park Ranger so they can remove it.
Many animals eat plants for food. Plants are called producers because they make food from sunlight. Animals who eat plants are called herbivores. Herbivores are eaten by bigger animals called carnivores or “meat eaters”. Together producers, herbivores, and carnivores create a food chain.

The diagram below shows healthy food chains made up of native plants and animals. Follow the steps below to learn how exotic species can affect food chains.

1. Finish drawing the arrows to connect carnivores to the herbivores they eat. Then draw arrows to connect herbivores to the producers they eat.
2. If the Milkweed flower was replaced with exotic Common Tansey, circle the animals who would be affected.
3. The Emerald Ash Borer is an exotic green beetle that destroys ash trees. Draw an X across the animals who would not have food if the Green Ash tree was destroyed by the Emerald Ash Borer.

Voyageurs National Park protects all native plants and animals that live in the park. Removing exotic plants from the park helps native plants grow. Animals who need these plants for food and shelter will continue to live in the park.
A Walk Through The Garden

Use the clues below to solve the crossword puzzle. If you need a hint, use the page numbers.

Down:
1. __________ plants should be removed from Voyageurs National Park. (page 8)

4. Strawberry roots can be used for __________ __________. (page 4)

5. __________ plants should be protected. (page 8)

7. This word means “many different kinds of life”. _____________________ (page 5)

8. Animals will live in the garden if people don’t ____________ them. (page 2)

10. The __________ shell guided the indians to Minnesota. (page 3)

Across:
2. The __________ Indians were the first group of people to live here. (page 3)

3. The __________ __________ plant is poisonous to animals and humans. (page 8)

6. The Indians would have used the aspen tree to heal a cut instead of a ____________. (page 4)

7. Draw a picture on the __________ __________ paper. (page 5)

9. The garden provides food and _____________ for wildlife. (page 6)

The Ethno-botanical Garden you visited today has not always been here. Before 2009, this spot was a field full of exotic Reed Canary Grass and no other plants could grow here.

Park rangers created the garden to remind us why native plants are important to animals, nature, the Ojibwe Indians, and you!
Congratulations!

As a Junior Ranger Garden Explorer,

I, ________________________________,

promise to appreciate and protect the native plants in Voyageurs National Park and in my own backyard.

Garden Explorer Signature: ________________________________ Date: ________________

Park Ranger Signature: ________________________________ Date: ________________
Congratulations! You are almost a Junior Ranger Garden Explorer. Once you have completed your activities, present this booklet to the person behind the desk at a visitor center or mail it to:

Junior Ranger Program
Voyageurs National Park
360 Hwy 11 East
International Falls, MN 56649

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