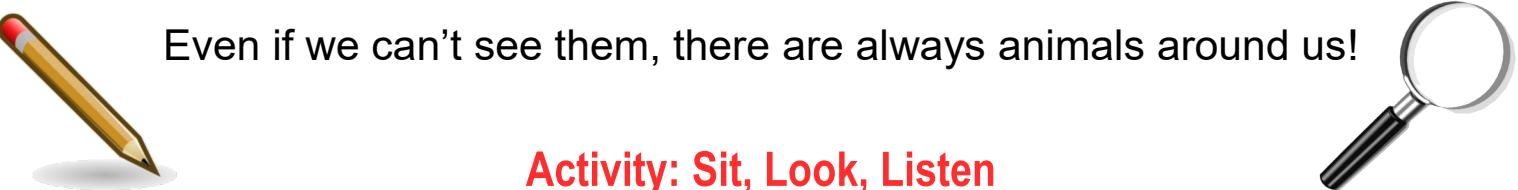


Animal Investigations

Even if we can't see them, there are always animals around us!



Activity: Sit, Look, Listen

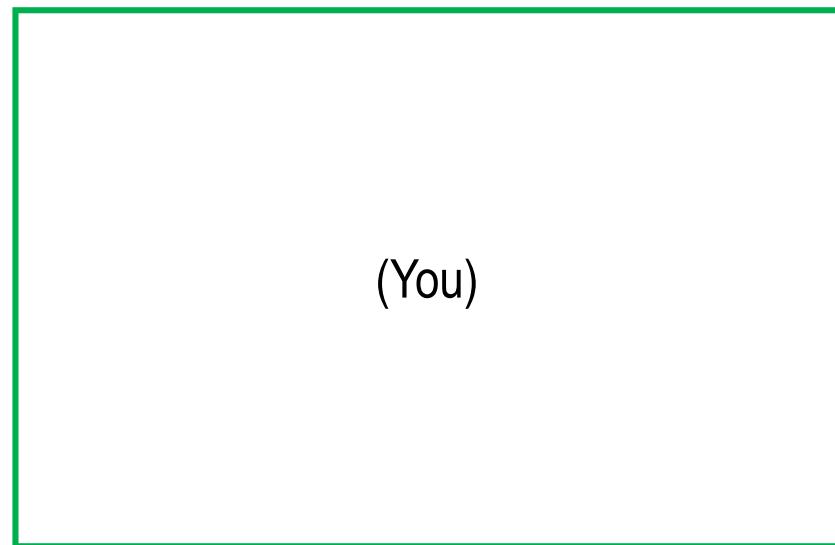
Sometimes all we have to do to find animals is sit quietly for a few moments and let our senses do the work.

Make a record of the sounds you hear by drawing a sound map.

Imagine you are in the center of the square. Mark X's around you on the map where you hear sounds.

How many different sounds can you identify?

(You)

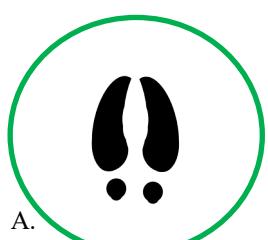


Activity: Track Match

One of the best clues that an animal leaves behind is tracks! Try matching each of these animals with their tracks.



Raccoon



A.



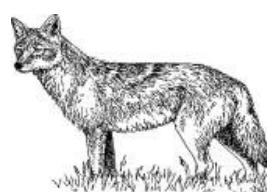
Great Blue Heron



B.



Bobcat



Coyote



Opossum



White-tailed Deer



C.



D.



E.



F.

Answer: Raccoon (D), Heron (C), Bobcat (E), Deer (A)
(B), Opossum (F), Deer (A)

Feathered Friends

Bird watching is a wonderful way to get outdoors and be active. There are many species of birds at Belle Isle; how many did you see?

Activity: Observe one location in the park; can you see or hear any birds. Describe the habitat and birds below.

Habitat:

What does the habitat look like around you? Check all descriptions that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tall Trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Deep water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short trees/shrubs | <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tall Grass | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands (plants and water mixed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short grasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Freshwater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildflowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Saltwater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bare ground | <input type="checkbox"/> Beach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leaves on Ground | |



Osprey

What did you see?

Every bird species has a different shape, size, color, song, and behavior. Some birds, like Osprey can be seen hovering over the water, hunting fish. Describe any birds you see or hear below.

Bird 1

Shape: _____

Colors: _____

Sounds: _____

What is it doing? _____

Can you identify this bird? _____

Common bird shapes



Bird 2

Shape: _____

Colors: _____

Sounds: _____

What is it doing? _____

Can you identify this bird? _____

The Adventure's About to Begin

You're on your way to becoming a Jr Ranger at Belle Isle State Park

Start by choosing your level below

Kit | Ages 5-7 | Complete **4** activities

Pup | Ages 8-10 | Complete **7** activities

Fox | Ages 11 and up | Complete **10** activities



Kit



Pup



Fox

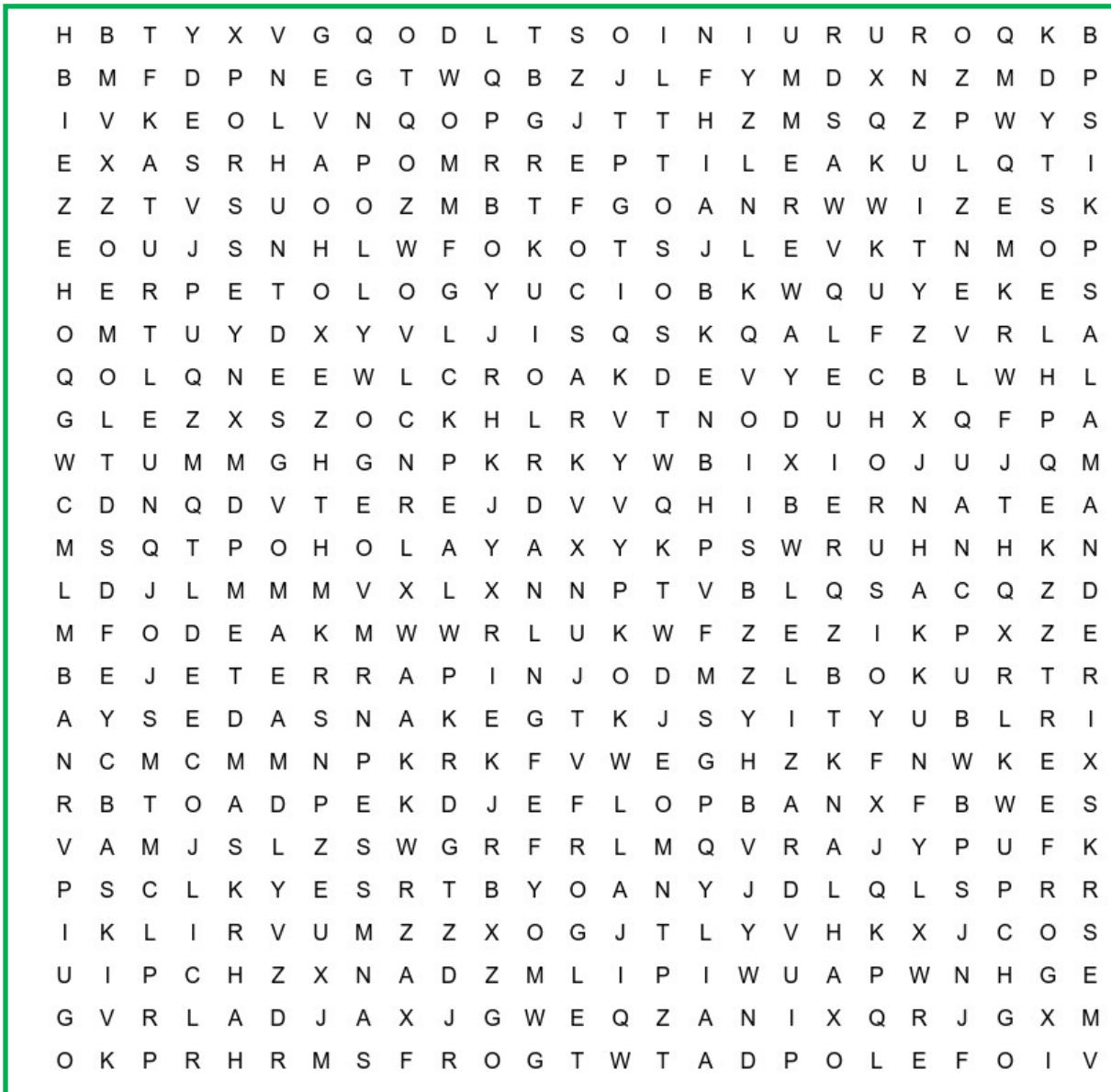
Once you have completed all of your tasks stop by the Camp Store and have a Ranger sign off on your activity book; take your pledge and receive your official Jr Rangers badge.

As a Jr Ranger I pledge to:

- Preserve and protect our parks;
- Care for my natural and historical resources;
- Share what I have learned about the parks with others;
- Obey all safety rules;
- Continue to explore and discover.

Hidden Herpetology

Activity: Find the hidden words all about herpetology, or the study of reptiles and amphibians.



Kit List:

Croak
Frog
Gills
Newt
Scale
Shell
Skink
Snake
Song
Toad

Pup List:

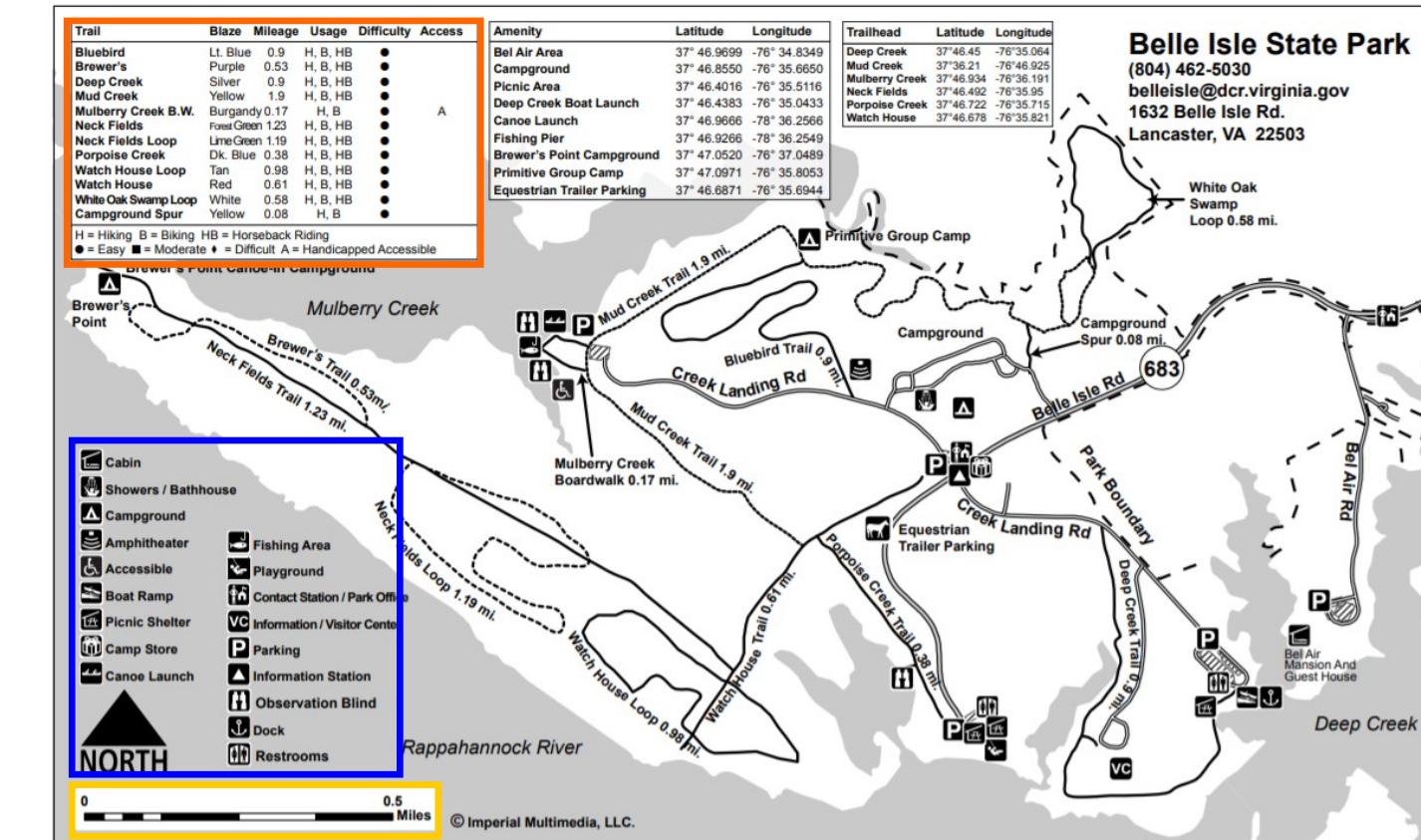
Bask
Chorus
Froglet
Keratin
Lizard
Molt
Reptile
Tadpole
Tree frog
Turtle

Fox List:

Amphibian
Herpetology
Hibernate
Metamorphosis
Pollywog
Salamander
Terrapin
Tortoise
Venomous
Zoology

Map Skills Challenge

Ready to discover all the treasures Belle Isle has to offer? All you need is a map, and know how to use it.



Match each word to its corresponding color box on the map.

Scale: This helps you measure distances on the map. Each map will have its own scale.

Legend: Lists what each symbol on the map means.

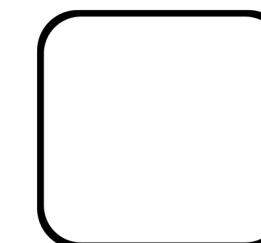
Trails List: Includes all the trail names, distance, difficulty, what activities are allowed, and if its accessible to all guests.

Activity: use the map to answer the following questions.

What is the longest trail at the park? _____

How long is it? _____

How many restrooms are in the park? _____



What does the symbol for Camping look like? Draw it here:

Park maps are available in many locations across the park. Check the Camp Store, Visitor Center, or Contact Station. If you prefer to come prepared print a map at www.dcr.virginia.gov OR download one using the Avenza app.

Parker's Scavenger Hunt

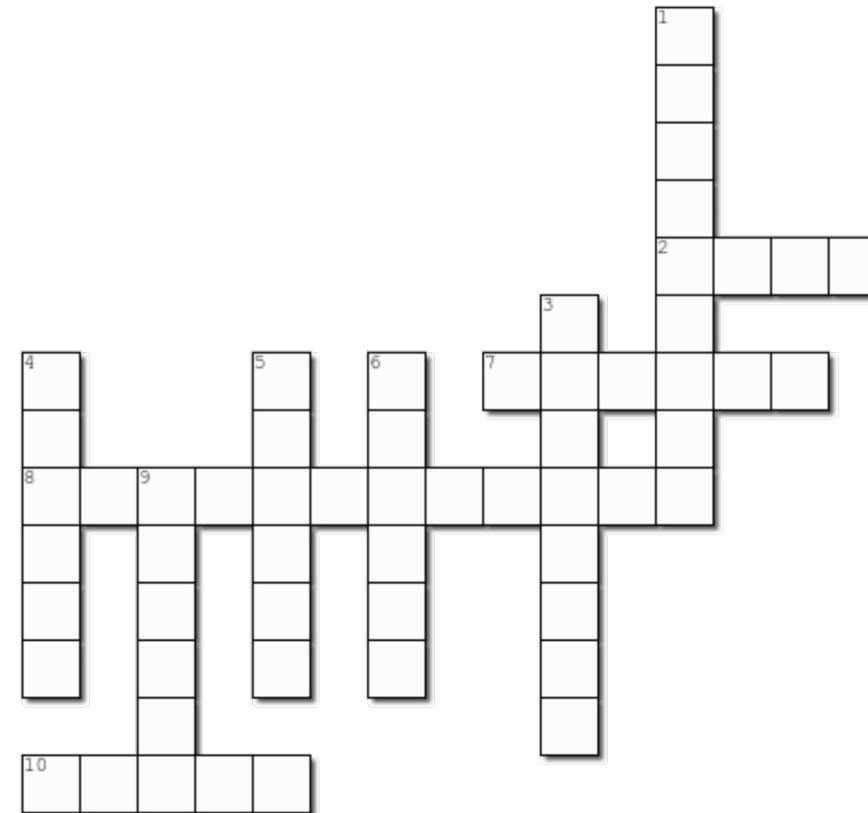
Activity: As you explore the park keep a sharp eye out for items on Parker's scavenger hunt list. Ask a ranger if you need help.

#	Item
1	Hike a trail with a viewing blind
Trail name:	
2	Find an animal's nest
Describe:	
3	Hug a tree
Tree species:	
4	Run your fingers through sand
Where?	
5	Sit and listen quietly for 5 minutes
What did you hear?	
6	Find something red
Describe:	
7	Find a leaf
Draw it:	

#	Item
8	Take a picture of something cool!
Show the ranger.	
9	Find an animal track
Describe:	
10	Find a spider web
What was in it?	
11	Find something green (not a leaf)
Describe:	
12	Find a flower
Describe	
13	Find moss or lichen
Describe:	
14	Find a campsite
What number?	

Belle Isle Crossword

Activity: solve the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.



Across

- 2. Watch out for these pinching critters when you fish along Mulberry Creek
- 7. This can help you determine what a symbol means on a map
- 8. This salt water river can take you all the way to the Chesapeake Bay
- 10. These great birds aren't actually blue, but a light gray color

Down

- 1. This is the longest trail in the park
- 3. Copperheads are the only snakes at Belle Isle
- 4. Bald eagles live in the _____ habitat
- 5. These can help give you energy on a long hike
- 6. _____ are a good indicator that an animal has been around
- 9. This friendly fox loves Virginia State Parks, and helping new rangers out

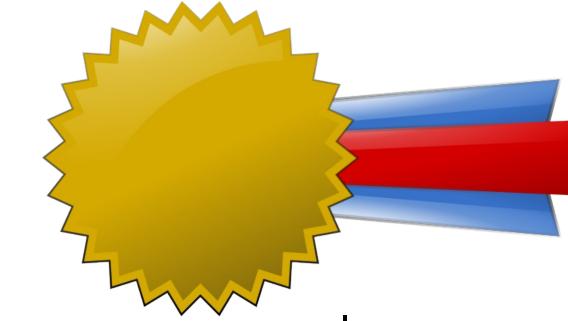


Most of these clues can be found in your activity book. For the tricky ones ask a Ranger, or an adult.

Certificate of Completion

Has successfully completed the activities of the
Junior Ranger Program and is hereby proclaimed an official

Belle Isle State Park Junior Ranger

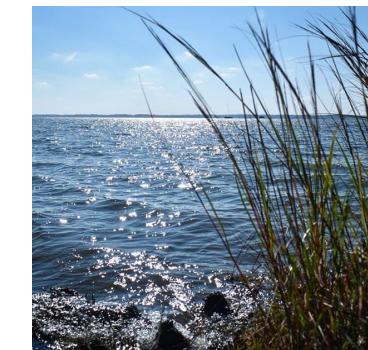


Date _____

Park Ranger _____

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Belle Isle State Park Jr Ranger



_____’s
Activity Book