

The Ever Changing Landscape



Fort Frederick State Park
2017

Introduction and Instructions

Welcome to Fort Frederick State Park's 2017 Park Quest!

During this year's quest we hope you will discover how the landscape surrounding Fort Frederick has changed over the past 250 years. The construction of Fort Frederick in 1756 began to reshape the landscape along with the animals and plants that surrounded the fort. The environment of the western frontier also altered how the European powers, fighting over the vast natural resources, conducted warfare. Prepare to be transported back in time to discover Maryland's ever changing landscape.

Now that you have your booklet;

...Follow the park quest trail signs to complete your quest.



...Look for the park quest trail stop signs along the way to complete the activity for that stop.



...Finish the quest at Captain Wort's Store by presenting your completed booklet to get your passport stamped.

...The Quest trail is approximately 1.5 miles long (round trip) and should take about 2 hours to complete. The terrain is varied and uneven in many places. Sturdy walking or hiking shoes are best for this hike.

...Park staff is available to help anyone with special needs but, due to limited staffing, you must call the park in advance to make accommodations.

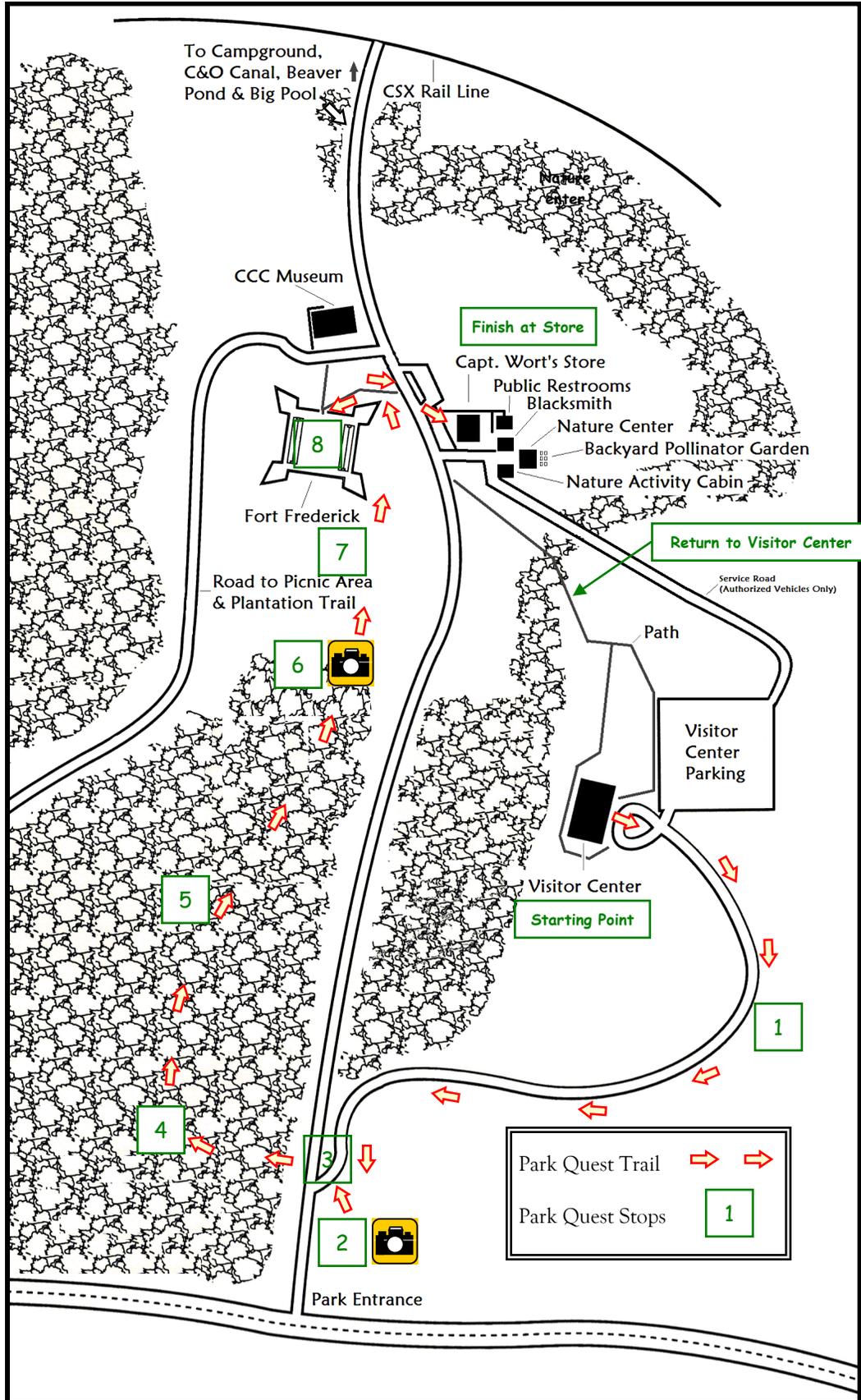
...The Quest may be completed seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please allow yourself adequate time to complete your Quest.

...Your Park Quest Passport gets you into the fort and park for no extra charge.



...Make sure to bring a camera or digital recorder to capture the fun memories of your day to send to the Park Quest Facebook Page, as well as sunscreen, insect repellent, and water.

...Pets on a leash are welcome to accompany you on most of your Quest, however they are not allowed in the buildings or in the fort.



Visitor Center Non-Native & Native Species Scavenger Hunt



From the very beginning of the Maryland colony in 1634, European settlers brought with them species of animals and plants that were not native to North America. Once they became established they often altered the habitat and in some cases replaced the native species.

The introduction of non-native species to Maryland continues to this day. One of the best known recent examples is the snakehead fish. The snakehead is a non-native fish species that was illegally introduced to the Potomac River. Snakeheads have thrived and expanded due to their ability to adapt to the Potomac's ecosystem, and they now occupy the Potomac River and many of its tributaries. As top predators, they significantly alter the ecosystem and fisheries. Snakeheads have also been caught in the Patuxent, Nanticoke and Wicomico Rivers. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources hosts contests to catch and kill snakeheads to control their population. There are even tasty snakehead recipes.

 **Activity:** Mark off the animals that you see along your journey. How many can find?

Three of the animals pictured above are non-native species to Maryland. Please list them below:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Park Quest



1

Where a family becomes a team

"We dined in a hollow cotton wood tree,"



Robert Griffing...reprinted with permission of Paramount Press

A British officer accompanying General Braddock's expedition into western Pennsylvania described the landscape that surrounded him in 1755: *"there is nothing round us but trees, swamps and thickets."* This was a great change from the open European environment in which he was used to waging war. This military expedition was England's first attempt to remove the French from the rich undisturbed American interior.

The undisturbed forest allowed some trees to grow to enormous size. In the summer of 1749, Jesuit Father Joseph-Pierre de Bonnecamps accompanied a military expedition. They traveled from Montréal to the Ohio Country in order to assert France's claims and authority in this strategic region by placing lead tablets in the ground. Pausing near the site of present-day Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on August 7, Bonnecamps encountered a remarkable tree, noting in his diary: *"We dined in a hollow cotton wood tree, in which 29 men could be ranged side by side."* Known today as the American sycamore, this tree was nicknamed "le cottonnier", or cotton wood, by eighteenth-century French Canadians. Some early travelers' accounts note that settlers often lived in such giant trees while building homes or used them to house their livestock.



Activity: Take time to discuss what life would be like to live in a hollow tree. Then look closer at this sycamore tree and see what is living in or visiting the tree today.

Please record your thoughts about living in a tree and what animals you see living on the tree today in the space below:

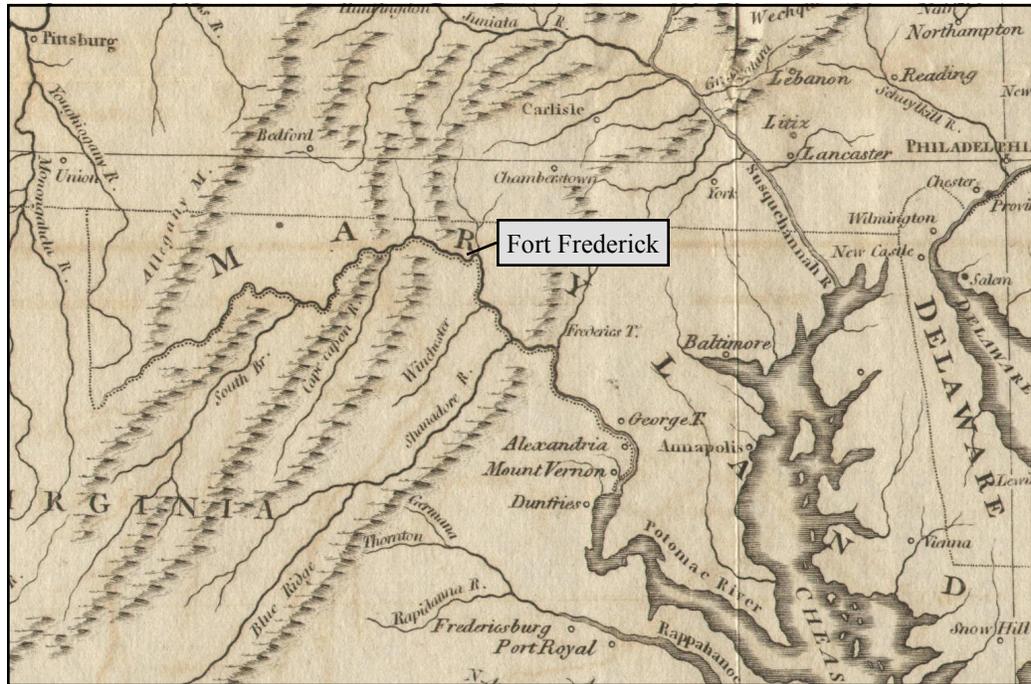
Park Quest



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Where a family becomes a team

Mountains



To the west of Fort Frederick a seemingly never ending series of mountains challenged the western expansion of the English Atlantic based colonies. Imagine the daunting task of crossing the mountains on foot as well as the challenge of building roads to move armies!



Activity: Please take a picture of the mountains to your west. Make sure members of your team are in the picture. Send it to the Park Quest Facebook page with a caption of what your image is showing and what the view may have been 250 years ago. Think about the forest

Park Quest



3

Where a family becomes a team

Climate Change – The Little Ice Age

Today climate change is creating greater extremes in weather. Rising sea levels and other environmental changes will impact how we all live. In the mid-18th century, a pattern of colder weather had settled over Northern Europe, impacting everything from the length of the growing season to the increase in the size of European glaciers. The cause of this climate change is unknown but historians have narrowed down to three possibilities including changes in ocean currents, sunspot activity, and volcanic eruptions. Known as the Little Ice Age, it created a need for warmer woolen clothing throughout Europe. The climate of North America had not cooled as much as in Europe, so when the English Army arrived in North America the soldiers were forced to adapt to the warmer weather. In some cases the British Army even adapted to the change in climate by replacing the soldiers' woolen waistcoats and breeches with ones made of heavy linen.

 **Activity:** Inside the box are samples of both woolen and linen textiles. Which one would you rather wear on hot, humid summer day in western Maryland? When you visit the fort see what types of textiles the soldiers are wearing.



Private, Battalion Company,
44th Regiment of Foot, 1755
From *Wolfe's Army*

Park Quest



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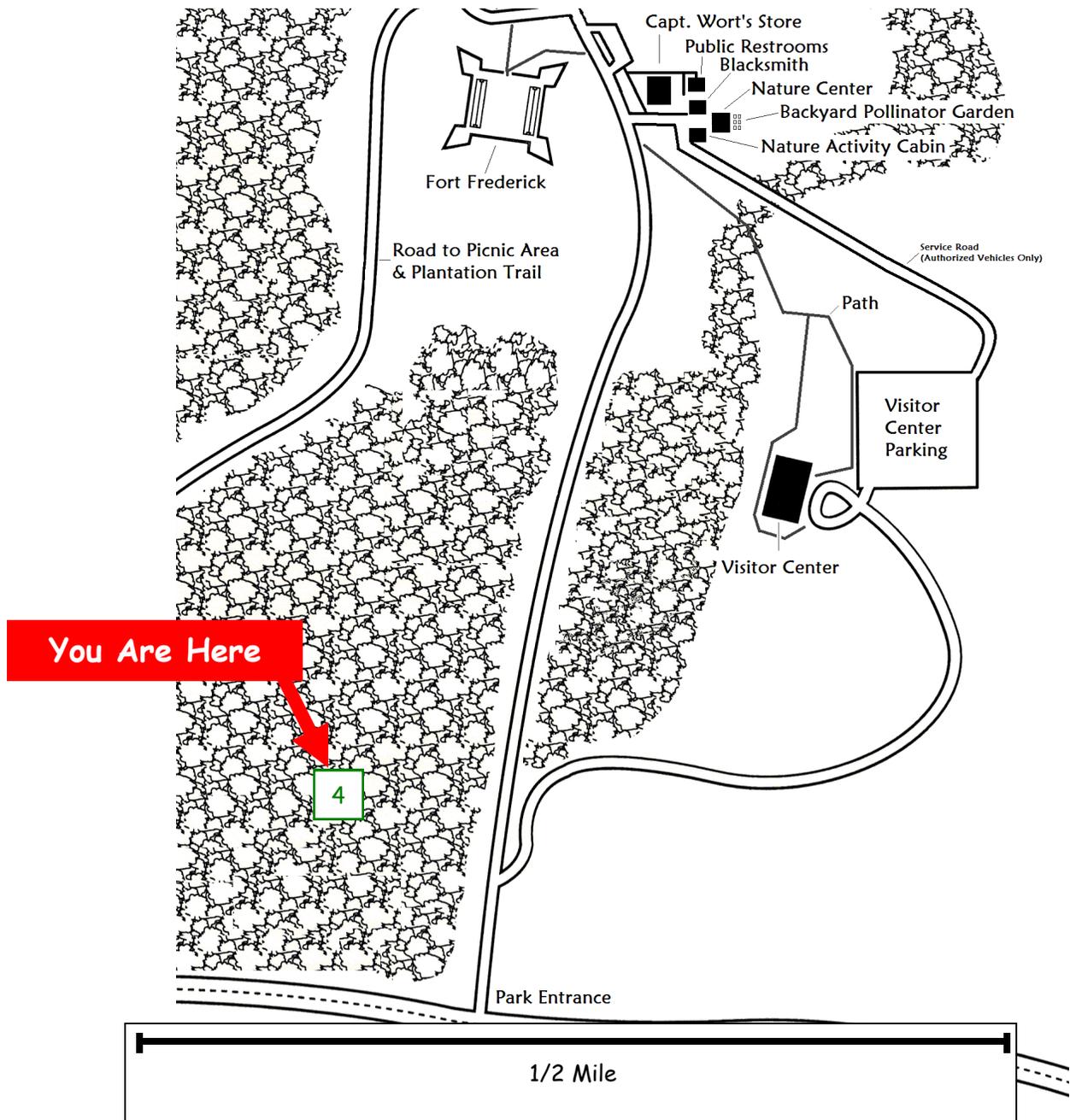
Where a family becomes a team

Clearing a Field of Fire

Four six-pound iron cannons were brought to Fort Frederick to serve as part of its defenses. They had an effective range of half a mile. In order to ensure a clear field of fire, all of the trees and brush for at least a half mile should have been cut down, leaving the stumps to serve as obstacles to the enemy's approach. This would have not only provided building materials and fuel for the fort, but also would have changed the environment for the animals and plants that lived in the forest.

 **Activity:** Use the map below to measure the half mile radius field of fire around the fort. Draw a circle on your map to indicate the field of fire. Hint: measure from the four tips of the corners of the fort and not the center of the fort.

According to the map are you inside or outside of the effective range of the cannon?



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Forest Roads

Forest trails used by the American Indians were converted into roads suitable for use by the English colonies. Wagons and cannon could then be hauled by teams of horses or oxen. Groups of soldiers were often paid extra money for doing this arduous duty. Another reason for making the trails wider was to allow the soldiers to march in sections or lines of men. Accounts of travelers along these roads often commented on how closed in they felt and how the overhanging tree canopy even blocked out the sun. The road which you are now on is the original way between the fort and the main road.



Activity: First walk in a single file one behind the other as you move down the road. How wide would the path need to be?

Second, stand side by side. How many people can now walk side by side along the road? Why do you think the military wanted roads and not paths through the woods?

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View of Fort Frederick

Imagine you just made a three day journey from Annapolis. You are bringing a wagon load of Indian Trade Goods to Fort Frederick so the Governor can give them as presents to the Cherokee who have offered to ally themselves with Maryland against the French and their Indian allies. What a relief to see the fort from this hill! But you have never seen an American Indian before...you have heard stories of their ferocious nature. How will you feel when you see them? The French and Indian War was not only a fight of land but a clash of cultures.



Activity: Please take a picture of the fort from this hill. Make sure members of your team are in the picture. Send it to the Park Quest Facebook page with a caption of what your image is showing and what you think the fort would have looked like 250 years ago. Think about the landscape and people you might have found here. <https://www.facebook.com/ParkQuestMaryland>

Park Quest



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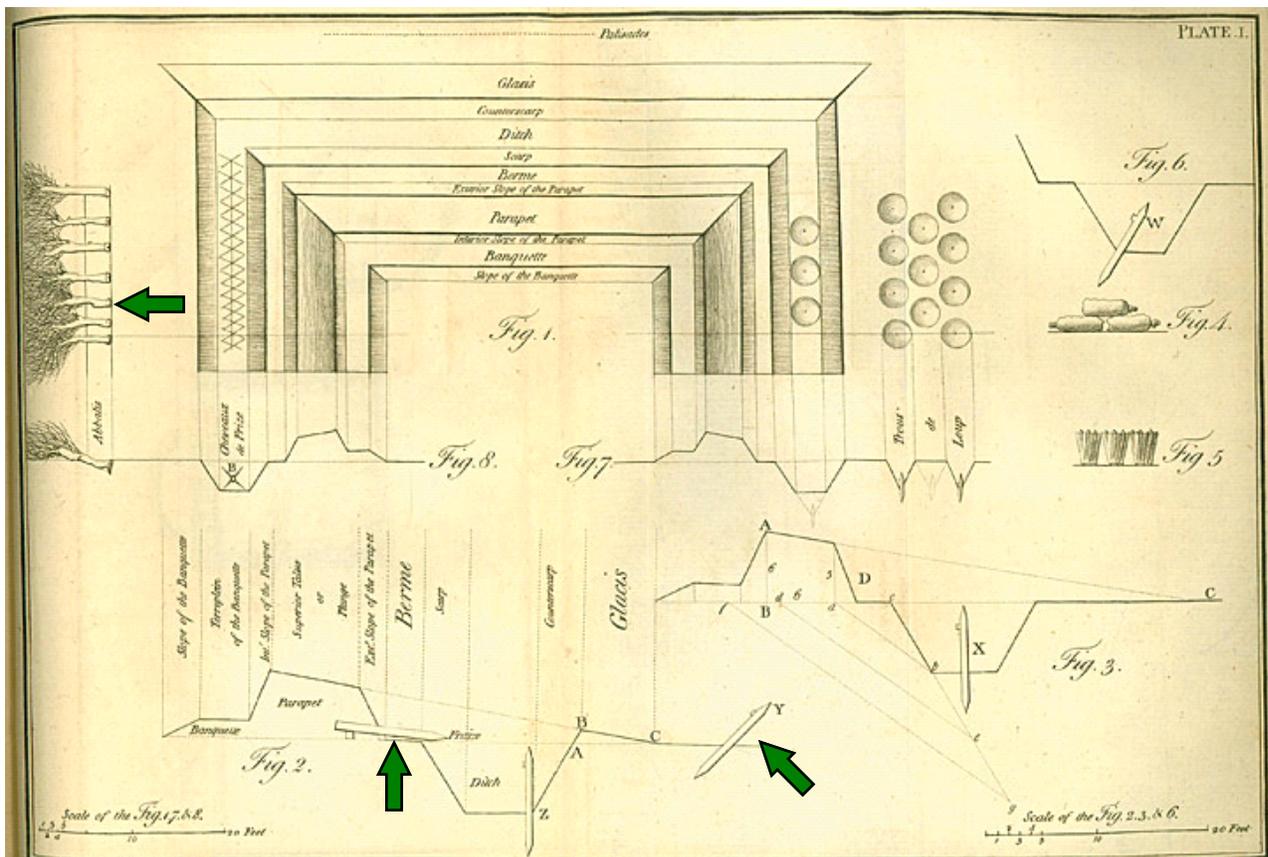
Where a family becomes a team

Musket Range

While the cannon in the fort could fire accurately up to a half mile from the fort, smooth bore muskets had an effective range of 60 yards. At this point you are within that range. Tree stumps provided obstacles farther away from the fort, now you would have faced a set of sharpened stakes called “abatis.” Sometimes they could be as simple as felled trees with sharpened branches to entangle you at this range.

 **Activity:** Watch a musket demonstration in the fort. Have the soldier sign your book. If one is not scheduled please ask anyone in 18th century clothing to assist you. Write your thoughts on what you witnessed.

The image below shows several examples of abatis.



Park Quest



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Building a Fort

In 1756, Governor Sharpe oversaw construction of Fort Frederick. The colony hired skilled masons, miners, and carpenters to construct Maryland's primary frontier fort. The natural resources surrounding the fort were used in its construction. As you visit the fort please list at least two things made out of the following materials:

Sand:

Stone:

Wood:

Iron:

Clay:

What other natural resources or local raw materials can you find that were used to construct the fort?

Congratulations you have completed Park Quest!

Once you have completed your Fort Frederick Park Quest Booklet please go to Captain Wort's Store to get your Park Quest Passport stamped.