Montshire Blood Brook Quest

Norwich, Vermont
Special Features: Natural
Physical Difficulty: Easy
Duration: 0:30
Bring: Money for entrance fee, Field Guide, Binoculars

To get there: Get off at Exit 13 from I-91. Head east towards Hanover. Very quickly you will turn south at your first opportunity. Follow the signs into the Museum’s parking lot. The Quest begins inside the museum. Please note: The Montshire Museum and property are closed Monday and Tuesday, open 10-4 Wed.-Sun. Admission is charged for non-members.

Overview:
The Montshire Museum of Science is a hands-on museum offering dozens of exciting exhibits relating to the natural and physical sciences, ecology, and technology. The building is located on a 110-acre site near the Connecticut River, and the Museums' outdoor environment is a large part of the visitor experience. Science Park is a two-acre exhibit area in a beautiful, park-like setting. Also outside is a network of easy-to-moderate walking trails for visitors of all ages and fitness levels. For more information, check www.montshire.org.

Clues:
Begin your Montshire Quest with a trip up the stairs,
A climb up the tower as you lose all your cares.
Take a look around and enjoy the view.
Can you spot the Connecticut River and the Ledyard Bridge, too?
Make sure you turn and see all around,
Over the railroad tracks and down to the ground.

Back down all the stairs and out the backdoor,
Checking for seasonal notes on the white board
Walk out the back door and your left you should head,
Follow the path as you carefully tread.
Towards the granite globe you should slowly wander.  
Your place on it you should carefully ponder.

Follow the trail into the woods is my hunch,  
Through white pines with needles, a five in a bunch.  
Past a hanging boulder too heavy to lug,  
All it really needs is a very gentle tug.  
Soon signs of animals you might want to learn,  
As you go round the very next turn.

The smell of the mink is not so nice to discover,  
But as you continue on look for signs undercover.  
A fox up the hill in her den may be sleeping,  
While a red squirrel may be scampering with nuts he is keeping.  
In winter, look for the tracks of the fisher,  
Or the scat of the coyote even though you’ll miss her.

Down the hill into hemlocks you’ll enter,  
With short flat needles, faint lines down their center.  
Look up through their needles as you ponder their beauty.  
Then take a sharp left, for that is your duty!  
To follow the trail along the edge of the water,  
No matter if you are the son or the daughter.

Soon there will be a sign of people long ago.  
A old rock wall that is now terribly low.  
Watch for signs of a beaver or a little bird’s nest,  
And continue on till you need a rest.  
What do you notice as you crouch to the ground?  
Do you hear anything here making a sound?

When given a chance go right to the overlook,  
Observe all around you from the turn you just took.  
Go till you see a brook that was once called Bloody.  
When the water is low the lagoon may look muddy.  
A train sometime travels over the arched bridge of stone,  
Or if you are lucky you might see a duck in a group or alone.

The platform is this Quest’s final destination.  
So look for the box attached at this station.  
Look down in the bottom for the stamp you might need.  
Congratulations on following this lead!
So leave us a note on all that you found,
And return to the Montshire where discoveries abound.

This Quest was originally created by Amy Vanderkooi for the Montshire Museum in 2000. She updated it in 2008.

**Valley Quest**

Valley Quest is a collection of more than 150 treasure hunts that teach and share the natural and cultural history of the Upper Valley region with children, families, adults and visitors.

**How can I participate in the Valley Quest program?**

1. Go on a Quest!
2. Complete 20 Quests and earn a Valley Quest patch. Go on 50 Quests and earn a Valley Quest hat!
3. Do the Super Quest Challenge! The Upper Valley Bird Search, register your team, collect the stamp impressions, earn a special patch, be entered to win our Grand Prize.
4. Utilize an existing Quest as an “Outdoor Classroom” with a group.
5. Adopt an existing Quest as a “box monitor.” Help foster community as you steward one of the Upper Valley’s Special Places.
6. Create a NEW Quest by yourself or with friends. Help preserve a special place in your community.
7. Buy a Best of Valley Quest guide book from your local bookstore and head out on an adventure.

**Vital Communities**

Valley Quest is a program of Vital Communities, a regional non-profit organization serving the Upper Valley Region. For more information about Valley Quest please check our website: [www.vitalcommunities.org](http://www.vitalcommunities.org). You can call us at 802-291-9100 or email laura@vitalcommunities.org.