



The Marshall Pond Quest

Unity, New Hampshire

Physical Difficulty: Moderate

Special Features: Historical (Natural, Vista)

Walking Conditions: Trail

Duration: 1:00

Bring: Binoculars, field-guide and journal

To get there: From Claremont, take Chestnut Street (2nd New Hampshire Turnpike) toward Unity Town Center, approximately 8 miles. Just before Unity Elementary School, turn left at the Unity Village Store onto Mica Mine Road. Follow Mica Mine Road until you reach the trail kiosk on the left side across from the Marshall Family Cemetery.

Clues:

Where you stand was once the Marshalls' land,
Now go to Ben Marshall's grave—this is a command.
1871 was the year he died,
take the last two digits of that year; this number is your stride,

Once you've gotten this far,
You are near your car,
Headed for the big green bar.

You've found yourself on a trail,
Where your story will unveil.

About 100 years ago,
There was lots of room for plants to grow.
Today the trees stand tall,
though some soon will fall,

If you continue down the trail and look towards your left,
You'll find a place where squirrels are known for their theft.
The clearing you see though is not where you're headed,
Continue farther down the trail where the leaves leave the ground embedded.

Keep going until you spot the shining waters,
Make sure the wildlife you do not bother.

Some plants here can make you healthy,
And you don't need to be wealthy,
St. John's Wort will drain your sorrow; you don't even need to borrow,

Here is Marshall Pond named for the Marshall family
Also once home to a beaver.
Look for their sign along the water's edge,
As you continue down the trail.

Marshall Pond, named for the family who once inhabited these lands,
Continue down the trail, around the lake,
Don't worry, it's hard to make a mistake.

Wildflowers also grow here in spring and summer,
In late July and August, you may find blueberries ripe with flavor.
Cross over the culvert made by man,
Now proceed to the next part of the land.

We've led you to the vernal pool
The critters you find may seem kinda cool.
If you find any critters you may take a look,
Now travel 'round the pond on the hook.

We're in a clearing, stop again.
Don't get too excited, it's not the end.
There's a fork in the road, but do not fret!
Each is part of a loop, don't forget.

But even with this fact in sight,
We are going to continue right.
Soon you'll see at left a pile of stone, once a cellar hole.
Now an animal's den,
Home to some, maybe ten.

Now head down farther,
Sorry if this is a bother,
Towards a fork you can't use to eat,
(Though that would be quite the treat.)

But on your way, look for scat,
If you see some, you're probably on the right track.
The scat you might have found,
Could reveal the animals that lurk around.

Take a left at the split,
 Keep on hiking, soon you will sit.
 Past the blackberries,
 Be careful of thorns.

When you turn right to a bench at the overlook
 You'll know you were correct on the path you took

Sit down for a while, then look to your right,
 I hope your determination is as strong as your might,
 Go to the rocks and use your sight

Look in the cracks until the box you have found,
 Receive your reward and you may head back down.

Quest Checklist

Here are some nature signs to look out for:

- Animal paw prints
- Painted trillium
- Blueberries
- Lady slippers (a flower)
- Bluets
- Apple trees
- Meadow
- Dam
- Stone walls
- Animal scat
- Beaver signs (a dam, cut down trees and tooth marks on trees)
- Spotted newts
- Frogs
- Toads
- Butterflies
- Dragonflies
- Middens (a favorite spot for small animals to eat food)
- Pine trees
- Birch trees
- Oak trees
- De-barked trees
- Blue jays
- Snag (dead trees)

This Quest was created by Jennifer Thompson's 7th grade class at Unity Elementary School in the spring of 2018 with help from Dawn Dextraze at the Sullivan County Conservation District and the Unity Historical Society

Please be a good steward of the land: leave it better than you found it and pack out any trash you find.



Valley Quest is a collection of 100+ treasure hunts that share and teach the natural gems and cultural heritage of the Upper Valley with children, families, adults, and visitors. It is a program of Vital Communities, a regional nonprofit working to engage citizens, organizations, and communities in creating solutions to our region's challenges. Learn more at vitalcommunities.org.

Have a suggestion, question, comment, or idea for us? We'd love to hear from you. Reach us at valleyquest@vitalcommunities.org or 802-291-9100.

