



# Valley Quest

Discover our special places



VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

## QUEST

While following this quest find signs along the way. These letters are a clue to a riddle this day. Follow the course and make sure to stay true; the only one who can find the answer is you.

**1** Leave the nature store; you're on your way.  
Have you tested your wings on "Flap" today?  
Behold in front, a natural arc sculpture,  
Which could represent the flight of a vulture.  
Follow the path to a stone so white,  
Your questing adventure is sure to delight!

*Find the fifth letter of the last name of the man honored on this stone. \_\_\_\_*

**2** Bear right at the fork just past the big stone,  
More than just birds may be accident prone.  
These are animals that creep on the ground,  
And instead of feathers their scales abound!  
Look at the critters but only for a bit,  
Bear right for a map when you get to the split.

*Find the second to last letter of the biggest (by height) lettered word on the map. \_\_\_\_*

**3** Follow the path and head toward the right,  
A classroom outdoors is just out of sight.  
You're now in the forest, you won't be alone,  
Here is the place where the animals roam.  
Woodland species: the large and the small,  
Find food and shelter under trees so tall.

*Find the second letter of the second word of the long-eared animal that prefers early-successional forests. \_\_\_\_*

*Find the first letter of the largest animal that prefers well-established forests. \_\_\_\_*

**4** Move along the path, down and around,  
Until you see a walk that is high off the ground.  
You'll hear the river over to your right,  
The gleaming water is just in your sight.  
This river is older than all that you see,  
It was carved as a glacier melted with speed.

**5** Stay on the path, the walk now overhead,  
There is green all about in the summer it's said.  
Look for the plants that blanket the ground,  
They were here when dinosaurs were around.  
Bumps may cover the underside of their leaves,  
These spores create more of these ferns under trees.

*Find the fourth letter of the second word of the blue fruit pictured. \_\_\_\_*


**6** As you keep walking, spy some blue on a tree,  
Follow the arrow and see where it leads.  
Downhill to the river is where you will find,  
Evidence of where a beaver has dined.  
Many maples guide your way down the trail,  
When you find a stone bench go ahead, rest your tail!


*Find the first letter of the first word at the top of the stone bench. \_\_\_\_*

k1Vxdb b j c1Zhslg %kVazn#f j Zhi




7 Continue on walking; you're now in the zone,  
Where forest and wetland become ecotone.  
Together they meet in fashion quite grand,  
And make homes for animals in water and land.  
The songs of blackbirds ring out in a spree,  
The call they sing out is "Conk-La-Reeeee!"

 Find the second letter of the title of the sign with pictures of two native wetland plants. \_\_\_\_

 Find the third letter of the second word of the name of one of the noninvasive woody plants found in riparian areas. \_\_\_\_


10 Stroll through the woods 'til on the hill high,  
Where below lies a pool with no fish to fry.  
The water is magic though not what it seems,  
The water is not from a lake or a stream.  
Water pools here after the ice and the snow,  
A place for amphibians to mate and to grow.

 Find the first letter of the word after dragonfly, meaning that it is in a younger stage of life and not an adult. \_\_\_\_

8 Up the steps to a platform in the trees,  
Look down to water full of cattails and reeds.  
Countless creatures call this place a home,  
From fish and frogs to turtles that roam.  
Birds flit about catching insects that fly,  
And you could even see an otter swim by!

11 Travel along, the journey's almost done,  
Take a left at the map. Hasn't this been fun?  
The box which you seek is hidden quite near,  
An eagle Americans find quite dear.  
Now explore the campus, learn and play,  
Enjoy your visit and come back someday!

9 Stay on the green path. Up the hill you now go,  
Among the tall trees. Oh my, how they grow!  
White pines have clusters of needles five,  
Their cones hold seeds that help squirrels survive.  
Further along there's a wall made of stone,  
Take the path to the right where large trees have grown.

 Find the third letter of the word that means dead standing trees. \_\_\_\_

12 A bird that travels far and wide,  
South it goes to Panama in stride.  
The wings of this bird are wide to be sure,  
To catch the wind of the sky once more.  
Unscramble your letters in order to see,  
The bird on VINS logo that is flying free!

\_\_\_\_\_ D - I G \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ W K \_\_\_\_\_