

The Blue Ridge Parkway is the coolest school around!

Welcome to class on the Blue Ridge Parkway! Today we are going to explore this beautiful mountain road from Virginia to North Carolina. At each milepost, you can discover something new about the Parkway.

GYM

The wild animals living along the Parkway are great gym teachers, able to perform amazing physical feats. Listen for the "gunk!" sound of the green frog around Abbott Lake and other Parkway ponds in the spring. To avoid predators, frogs use their strong back legs to hop away.

Pretend you're being chased by a predator and hop like a frog down the trail.



HISTORY



Life was different in the 1890's than it is now, but people still had the same basic needs: food, water and shelter.

Families who lived on farms in the Blue Ridge Mountains grew and raised their own food. Vegetables were grown to eat fresh or stored for winter, and extra food was often sold in the local market.

Chickens provided eggs, cows gave fresh milk and butter, and hogs were killed for meat. What do you think the benefits are of growing your own food?



SCIENCE

Geology is the study of what the Earth is made of and how its structure changes over time. The Blue Ridge Mountains are rich in geologic history spanning millions of years, and the Museum of North Carolina Minerals celebrates this history.

Find two rocks outside that look different and describe them below.

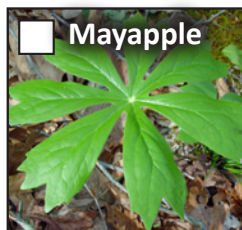
	ROCK 1	ROCK 2
Color(s):		
Surface: (smooth, rough)		
Where did you find it?		
Draw shape:		

Minerals Museum

3
2
8

LANGUAGE

Many Native American tribes lived in the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Cherokee culture still thrives today.



Mayapple

MUSIC

The Blue Ridge Music Center has several musical instruments on display in the museum. On many banjos, dogwood is used on the fingerboard, the thin piece of hard wood that is glued to the front of the neck. Dogwood bark looks like a worn checkerboard with crooked squares. In spring, dogwoods have yellow flowers with four white modified leaves, called bracts. Can you find a dogwood tree?

Dogwood



The Cherokee name for mayapple is **ᎠᎵᎠᎵᎠᎵᎠ ᎠᎵᎠᎵᎠᎵᎠ** which translates as "they wear a hat," or "they have their heads covered." This refers to the umbrella-like shape of the leaf. Write the Cherokee name for mayapple below.



4
6
9