

Other Things Hiding For You to Seek

- NPS Arrowhead** – Did you know that you are in a national park?



- Turtle** – Freshwater turtles, including the yellow-bellied slider, enjoy sunning themselves on floating logs in Weston Lake. How many can you see?

- Woodpecker Hole** – Woodpeckers, such as the red-headed woodpecker, leave scattered holes in trees as they dig for insects, feed on the sap that flows out, and create nesting cavities.



- Skink** – Look for five-lined skinks in sunny spots along the boardwalk. These cold-blooded reptiles soak up heat from the sun during the day.



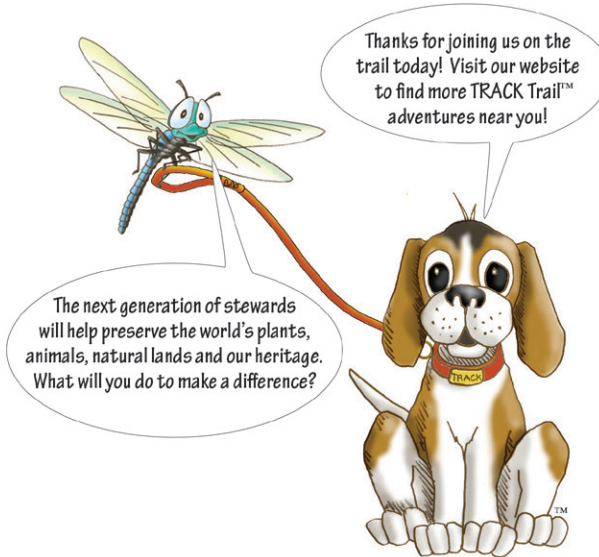
- Mud** – Mud is a mixture of many things including clay and old leaves; it filters water and traps pollution.

- Loblolly Pine** – Look for thick, scaly bark. Loblolly pines are the tallest trees in South Carolina!



Designed by Elise A. Kahl

TRACK your hike at
kidsinparks.com
 and get **FREE** prizes!



*Kids in Parks...
 Providing a network of
 fun-filled adventures that get
 kids and families active outdoors
 and connected to nature.*



Kids in Parks Founding Partners



Discover Treasures in Congaree National Park

History and nature can be found together at Congaree. Follow along the boardwalk and discover just a few of the stories this park has to tell.

Giants in the Forest

Congaree National Park is home to one of the few old-growth floodplain forests east of the Mississippi River. Some scientists say that an old-growth forest has never been completely cleared and has been relatively undisturbed for at least 100 years. The forest at Congaree is one of the tallest broad-leaved (or deciduous) forests in North America!

- 1) How tall is 130 feet? Take 50 steps down the boardwalk and look back to where you started.
- 2) Find the biggest tree on the trail. How wide do you think it is?

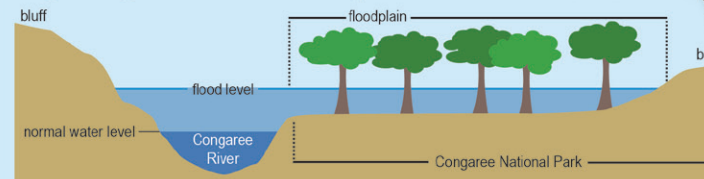
People at Congaree

Sims Trail

The Sims Trail is a former road that was used to get to a private hunting lodge in the 1960s. The road is a reminder of the long human history of the land. Native Americans, hunters, fishermen, escaped slaves, loggers, farmers, moonshiners, and conservationists walked these woods and shaped the history of Congaree National Park. Pretend that you are traveling through Congaree before it became a national park. Who are you and what are you doing? _____



Figuring out the Floodplain



A floodplain is a low place near a river that gets wet when there is too much water for the river to hold. Congaree National Park lies in the floodplain of the Congaree River. Sometimes, the Congaree River floods and the nutrient-rich water spills over its banks and into the floodplain.

Is the water high or low in the floodplain today? _____

Moss

Moss on the lower part of a tree trunk often shows the water level from previous floods. Pick a tree and find out how high the water can get. Is it above or below eye level? _____



Bell-Shaped Trunks

Many trees in the floodplain grow wide trunk bases for stability during floods. There are two large tree species here that have swollen trunks: water tupelo and bald cypress. Many of the trees are so tall that the leaves are out of sight. The best way to tell the difference is by looking at the bark.

Water Tupelo



Brownish gray, scaly ridges or even blocky bark

Bald Cypress



Thin, reddish, fibrous bark with ridges in a criss-cross pattern

Tree's Knees

Unique to bald cypress, "knees" are roots that have grown upward above the ground. Scientists aren't exactly sure of the purpose of knees. They don't grow into new trees, but can be up to 8 feet tall and may help anchor the trees in soft soil.



Cypress Knees