

# Great Falls Park

## Virtual Junior Ranger Activities

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
George Washington Memorial Parkway  
Virginia



Complete the activities and email scans or pictures of the completed pages to gwmp\_vsnorth@nps.gov to earn a badge! You may get help from your parents or people in your group. We hope you have a safe enjoyable visit in the park!

We will mail your badge to you. Don't forget to include your mailing address in the email; good luck.

### Great Falls Through Time

Visit the Timeline Webpage on our website here:  
<https://www.nps.gov/grfa/learn/historyculture/chronology.htm>

The name of this river, Potomac, comes from an Algonquin Indian term that means, "where the goods are brought in."

What are the three indigenous tribes that used Great Falls and the surrounding areas as a major trading place?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

From 1785-1828 the Potomac Canal was being built. The five skirting canals were at House Falls, Shenandoah Falls, Seneca Falls, Great Falls, and Little Falls. Great Falls was the largest of these five projects.

What type of labor was mostly used to construct the canal and locks at Great Falls? Write your answer in the space below:

\_\_\_\_\_

### River Safety

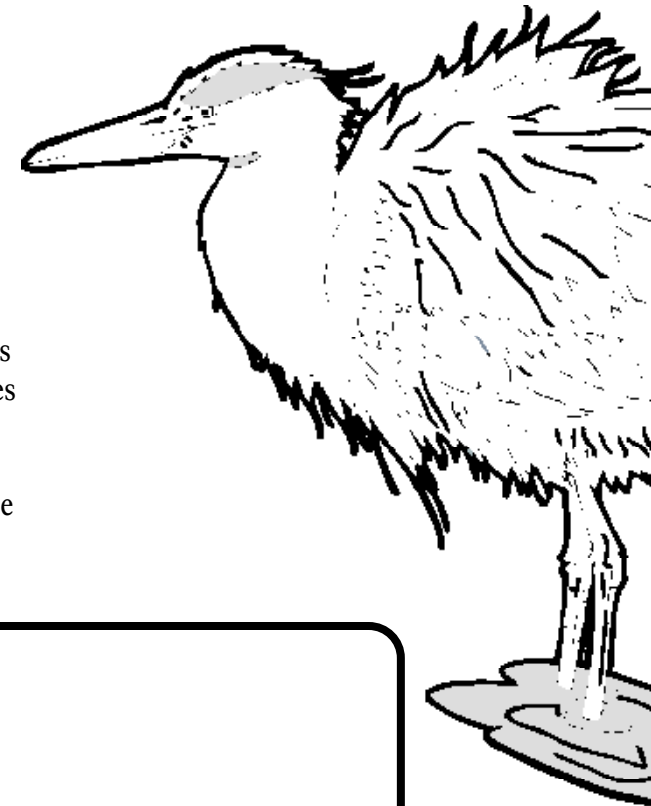
Safety is an important thing to keep in mind when you visit any park. Go find the sign with this bird near Overlook 2. It highlights river hazards to look out for, and prohibited activities. Remember to always stay at least 6 feet away from the rivers' edge!

List the three activities that are not allowed because of the danger?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

This sign also talks about some of the adaptations that allow great blue herons to wade in the river for fish; sometimes right under the rapids of Great Falls!

Use the space below to draw the shape of a great blue heron's footprints.



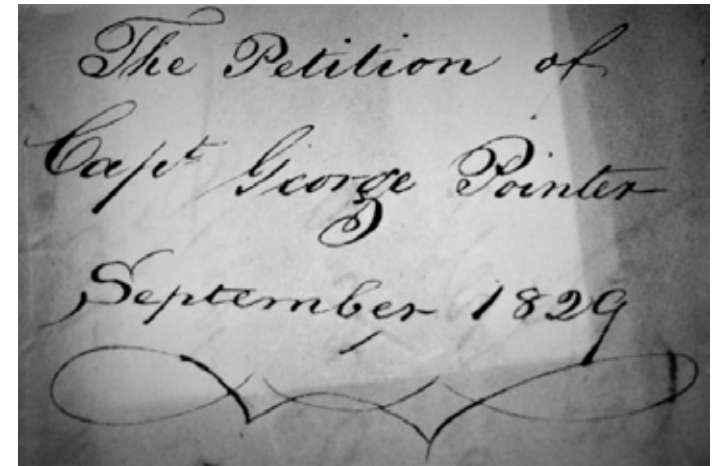
## The Patowmack Canal

The Patowmack Canal established a very important trade route to the port of Georgetown; it was one of America's first water highways. The map below is a map of the canal at Great Falls. Put an X on the map near the numbers for places you were able to visit while at the park. Use a colored marker or take pictures in these areas and email them along with your completed activities.

## Captain George Pointer

George Pointer was a man who worked on the Patowmack Canal for over 43 years. In 1829 he wrote a historic letter to the directors of the newly formed C&O Canal Company. George Pointer would have been present, just a boy then, in 1789 when the survey mark was made at stop 6 on the map below. Later in the early 1800's, as a man, he was appointed superintendent engineer in charge of construction of the wing dam at stop 1.

On the Great Falls Park website go to Learn about the Park >Multimedia Presentations for clues to answer the questions to the right.



1. Why did George Pointer write his petition?

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2. How much money did he save up at age 19, and how much would that be today?

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3. What are you curious to know about George Pointer?

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