

Brighton State Park Treasure Hunt



After a 4-hour car ride, Erik and the summer camp group finally arrived at Brighton State Park. It was a long ride and everyone was exhausted. They set up camp, made a small fire, ate a little something and then went to bed. The next day, Erik and the group awoke early eager to get out and enjoy the park's recreational activities. The first thing they did wanted to do was hike the park's Shore Trail. It was a pleasant walk, with minimal elevation changes and views that could only be seen in the movies. Suddenly, the morning sun blazed through the trees, shooting back a reflective ray nearly blinding Erik. This far off reflecting light caught their attention immediately. They walked towards the object slowly and cautiously wondering what it could be. As they approached, it became apparent that it was a clear bottle with something in it. Erik picked the bottle up right away and shook it until a thin rolled-up white birch bark fell to the ground. They picked it up, and lo and behold, a treasure map was presented before them. Their faces lit up with excitement and wonder.

As it was told, many years ago, in the era long before this land was a State Park, a Native American boy, named N'mitougues and his pet bobcat, "Bezo", frequented this land for hunting and gathering. It was a fruitful land allowing the young man and his family to survive within it for many years. As N'mitougues grew, this land became more important to his people. In time, it even became a meeting place for various tribes to meet at Eagle Point to discuss matters of importance. As a teen, however, N'mitougues and his family were run out of this area by a huge man-eating ice giant (the Abenaki mythical creature called, "Giwakwa"). It just so happened that N'mitougues and his family were warned early so that they could prepare for the evacuation ahead of time. Before they left, N'mitougues hid treasures through the land so that one day he could return to retrieve them and reclaim the land. As a reminder, he drew a map to indicate where the treasures were hidden (and left clues) and buried it in a place he knew he could remember. He set off for rescue and to this day, he has not returned.

This was exciting! Unfortunately, the group had to return to camp and there was no extra time for treasure hunting. Erik secretly hid the map while the group set out.

Twenty years passed but Erik always kept the map close to his heart hoping that someday he would have the chance to find the treasures. That day arrived when Erik received a job opportunity to return to Brighton State Park to do some conservation research. Without a doubt Erik knew this was not just going to be a job-related journey but one that will finally fulfil his dream. Once he completed his job research he did not hesitate to pull out the map from his pocket. Before he began his search, he noticed there was a dome shaped bark-covered house near the pond. As he drew closer there was a Native American woman with dark long braids with a flower in her hair. The woman was spearing for fish when she felt his presence but she was not fearful. Her name was, "Vela Alakws" which meant, "A Star Named Vela." As Erik listened to her life story, he gathered she was the great granddaughter of N'mitougues. He told her as a little boy he had found a treasure map while camping in the park years ago. He asked her if it was possible for her assistance. She heard the story of the lost map from her great grandfather but thought it was just a legend. Three years later after they found the treasures, they married at Spectacle Pond and now live on the Wooden Walk Trail where Vermont's largest red pine tree stands. Until today they still reminisce about their adventure and are very thankful each day for the treasure map. For if it wasn't for the map, they would have never met. Since then, they continue to leave secret treasure hunt codes throughout the park so others too could enjoy the hunt. Have Fun and Good Luck!

Clue #1: Escaping on foot would have been a challenge for N'mitougues and his group so they grabbed one of their group's hand-carved canoes and headed across Spectacle Pond. Hidden where most of the Park's boats are housed and where many guests frequent for swimming, boating and picnicking you will find the first clue.

Z Y G M W R P I R B B M A C T
D R I P S C A C T X H V S J O
L W D W E N W K S H K M B C W
S R A O R D I P E G P O J J E
K S N L F O A A V C A J K U L
D A J D R A Y L T T R G U C E
C D N A S R P G L N K O J I N
A W V C Q P O N D D U T W N E
B A T N K J Z D V O E O G C G
Y Y E P Z V S S P K A F M I T
K A Y A K P E L K G O P I P D
N P F O W C O F Y Z T M Y L V
V U W S G C E J X O R I W N S
R S R N U D N W K Q D Y A P Y
M L M G F O H J L N O K A Y D

BOAT
LIFE
PEDAL
ROW
TOWEL

CANOE
MOUNTAINS
PICNIC
SAND
VEST

KAYAK
OAR
POND
SWIM

Draw a Picture of the token you find below:

Write the code letter(s) below:

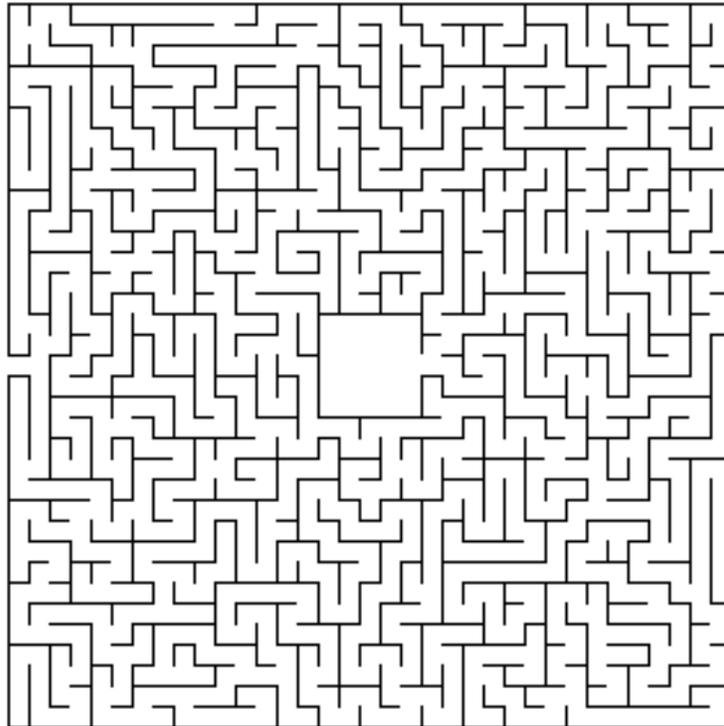
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Clue #2: After he rowed ashore, he walked a short distance to a place his ancestors would all gather for tribal events and skits. This location is also a place where some of our park activities take place and is a short distance down the Interpretive Trail. You can find the next token at this location.
(Unscramble):

MAPTHIRAHETE

Draw a Picture of the token you find below:	Write the code letter(s) below:
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Clue #3: As N'mitougues moved through the land making his way more closely to the town (the entrance), he then stumbled down a path that loops around a bog. This path begins near our main bulletin board. On one of the lookouts, you will find your next clue. Take time to look out into the bog and to see how unique this ecosystem really is.



Draw a Picture of the token you find below:	Write the code letter(s) below:
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Clue #4: At the end of the bog loop trail he passed a small building that was once used to hold native tools and belongings. Through the years it has been transformed from a pump house to a place where those of us today go to learn about natural and cultural history. This building is named after an Abenaki world champion wrestler and the former owner of this land. Unscramble the words and reveal the location of the next puzzle piece.

TIAVEN RANMECIA
1

KULLSS
2

ILNASAM
6

PALNST
3

SUGB
5

RYHTOSI
3

LONO
4

BEEVAR
4

1 2 3 4 5 6

Draw a Picture of the token you find below:

Write the code letter(s) below:

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Clue #5: Finally, after searching and searching for his way through the woods, upon an abandoned cabin and behind it a small shed. Today, next to the building where many of our activities take place (behind the Ranger Station), a display case rests there for guests to borrow and enjoy books, games, crayon and sporting equipment, while staying at the park. This location holds the last token in your search before finding N'mitougue's hidden treasure.

BOKSO	<input type="checkbox"/>											
SAGME	<input type="checkbox"/>											
SPZUEZL	<input type="checkbox"/>											
LEVLOY LLAB	<input type="checkbox"/>											
TAIBOMNND	<input type="checkbox"/>											
SECROC	<input type="checkbox"/>											
NARCSOY	<input type="checkbox"/>											
TIAYICT KOSBO	<input type="checkbox"/>											
GANLYIP DARCS	<input type="checkbox"/>											

<input type="checkbox"/>													
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Unscramble each of the clue words.

Take the letters that appear in boxes and unscramble them for the final message.

<p>Draw a Picture of the token you find below:</p>	<p>Write the code letter(s) below:</p>
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CONGRATULATIONS! You've done it! As you can probably tell, each token contains code letter(s). Take the letter(s) and put them altogether to reveal the message from N'mitougues and his pet bobcat, Bezo. Bring this back to the Ranger Station and the key to Erik and Vela Alakw's treasure chest will be presented to you. Enjoy your treasures!

(Write code letters here)