



Plants, Shrubs and Trees found in Big South Fork

Read the descriptions below. Find the correct picture and write the number beside it. Try to remember the name of each one.

- Big Leaf Magnolia** _____ Huge leaves are 20-30 inches long. The leaves have ear-like lobes at the base. It blooms with single big white flowers.
- Poison Ivy** _____ Leaves of three...let it be! The oil in them can cause a bad, itchy rash. The vines are hairy.
- White Pine** _____ Tall and straight, this tree is often used for building. Needles are in bunches of five. Cones are 4-6 inches long.
- Eastern Hemlock** _____ Very short needles are flat, dark green on top and light green with 2 white stripes below. Cones are 1/2 to 1 inch in length.
- Rhododendron** _____ The Rosebay variety has 4-6 inch long oval leaves that roll under in temperatures below 32 degrees.
- Mountain Laurel** _____ Evergreen shrub with short, 2-3 inch long, oval leaves and clusters of white flowers edged in pink.

1			2		
3			4		
5			6		



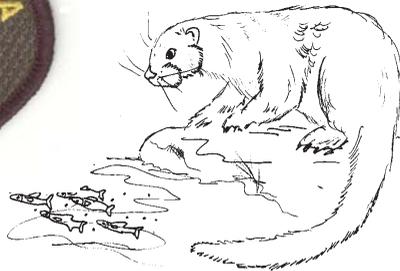
Junior Ranger Activity Book

To become a Junior Ranger you must read this page then, complete the following activities.

1. Children ages 6 and younger must complete at least 6 activity pages with Oscar the Otter in the corner.
2. Ages 7 and older must complete at least 6 pages with Oscar the Otter in the corner and 6 additional activity pages.
3. Visit the Bandy Creek or Stearns Visitor Center or the Blue Heron Mining Camp and **stamp your book in the circle below.**
4. After finishing your Junior Ranger book bring it back to a visitor center or Blue Heron to be checked.
5. Upon completing all the requirements, you will receive a Junior Ranger certificate, badge and patch making you an official Big South Fork Junior Ranger.
6. On weekends Memorial Day through Labor Day talks, walks and other programs are offered in the park. You should attend one of these and get a park ranger to sign your book.



Oscar the Otter



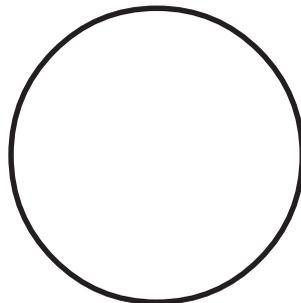
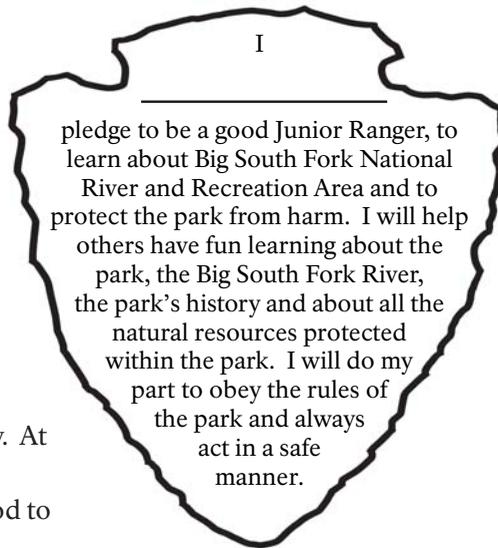
River Otter Facts

Otters are rarely seen. If you do see one consider yourself lucky. At one time, otters were missing from this area. Wildlife biologists brought back otters to Big South Fork in the late 1980s. It is good to know that they live here now.

Otters:

- love to play and slide down muddy river banks.
- have long bodies and rudder-like tails.
- make their homes in dens located in the river banks.
- love to eat fish, small aquatic invertebrates and sometimes even mice!

Date your book with the Eastern National Passport Stamp at a visitor center or at Blue Heron.



Why is this park called Big South Fork?

A fork doesn't have to be an eating utensil. Write down another definition for the word fork. You might need to use a dictionary.

Look at the Big South Fork color brochure map. Find the symbol that points north. Draw it here.

Circle the correct answers or fill in the blank:

On this map, South is at the: left side, right side, top, bottom.

North is at the: left side, right side, top, bottom.

East is at the: left side, right side, top, bottom.

West is at the: left side, right side, top, bottom.

Looking South on the map, find the **confluence** of two rivers.

What two rivers come together? _____ and the _____.

What fork of the Cumberland River do they form?

_____ Fork.



Congratulations! You have discovered the origins of the Big South Fork.

In which general direction do all these rivers flow? north, south, east, west

Looking north on the Big South Fork map, find two river forks that come together outside of the park boundaries. They are called _____ Fork and _____ Fork.

Look at a Kentucky map. This water empties into the Cumberland River at _____, KY, a town named for a Union general in the Civil War who was known for his sideburns. The Corp of Engineers built a large lake here and named it Lake _____.

Extra question for map-readers who like to see the bigger picture:

Look at KY and TN maps. Go with the flow. Does the Cumberland River always flow north? _____ The Cumberland River empties into the _____ River near P_____, KY. This river merges into the _____ River at RCIAO, SLLIINO. This unscrambledspells _____, _____. Eventually, this large body of water enters the Gulf of _____ and the _____ Ocean.

Whew! You have floated a long way from the Big South Fork!

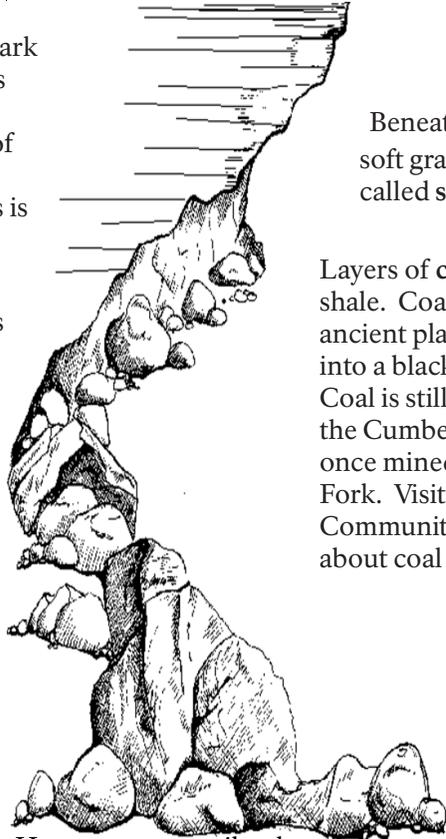


Big South Fork Rocks!

The Big South Fork of the Cumberland River runs north through the Cumberland Plateau. It flows out of Tennessee into Kentucky where it becomes part of the Cumberland River. Over millions of years the river has carved a gorge into the rocks of the plateau more than 500 feet deep. The rocks that make up the Cumberland Plateau were all deposited by water long, long ago. This type of rock is known as sedimentary rock. The sedimentary rock here is stacked one layer on top of another just like the layers in a cake.

The most common type of rock in the park is **sandstone**. It is the rock which makes up the cliffs, arches, rockshelters and boulders. Sandstone is made of grains of sand and sometimes small pebbles. Sandstone that contains a lot of pebbles is called conglomerate.

Under the coal, **limestone** is found. It is made up of the shells of ancient sea creatures. Sometimes fossils of this ancient sea life can be found in the limestone. Most of the limestone is still below the ground and can only be seen in a few places.



Beneath the sandstone is a layer of soft gray rock formed from clay called **shale**.

Layers of coal can be found below the shale. Coal is made of the remains of ancient plants that have been turned into a black rock which actually burns! Coal is still mined in some places on the Cumberland Plateau. Coal was once mined in what is now Big South Fork. Visit the Blue Heron Mining Community in Kentucky to learn more about coal mining.

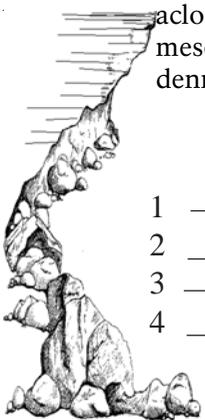
Here are some trails where you can really see the rocks of the Big South Fork.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

Please remember that all plants, animals and rocks in Big South Fork are protected. You may not take them from the park.

Unscramble the letters for the names of these types of rock. Then, place the rock layers in their proper order by using the information above.

- ahles _____
- aclo _____
- mesoetnli _____
- denntsosa _____

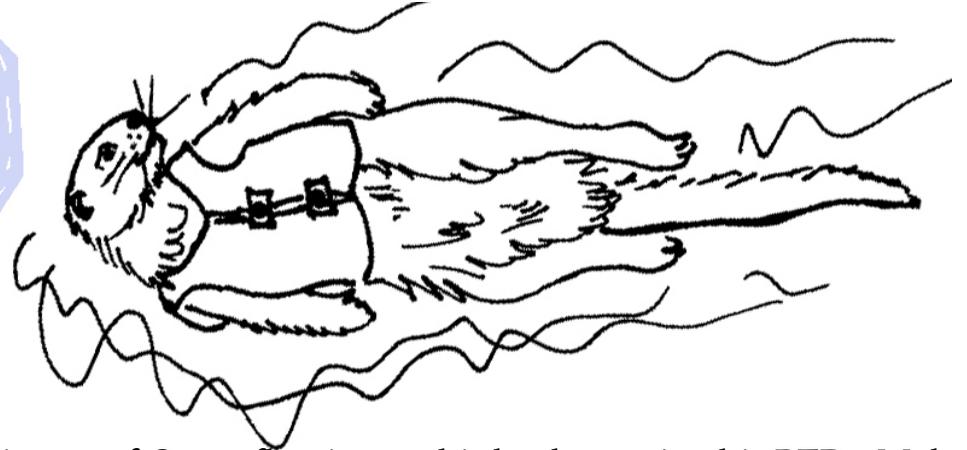
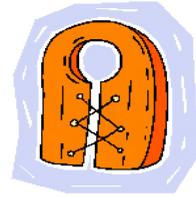


Safety First!

Oscar says...Be safe around water.



The Big South Fork is a free flowing river. You can canoe, raft, fish or swim in the river, but there are certain things you must do to be safe. A "PFD" is a personal flotation device. You may know it as a "life jacket".



Color the picture of Oscar floating on his back wearing his PFD. Make his life jacket orange or yellow.

You "otter" do these things:

Fill in the blanks from the words in the box.

- Learn how to _____.
- Always swim with a _____.
- Wear a _____ jacket when you are in a _____ or around rivers or ponds.
- Obey the _____ at the swimming pool and listen to the life guards.
- Throw something that will _____ to someone that is in trouble. Never jump in to help them!
- Know how to dial ___ for help.

boat
float
life
swim
911
buddy
rules

On the trail

Good choices lead to a successful finish.

You may encounter many different situations along the trail. Circle the things you should do to obey park rules.

Carry out all of my trash

Talk loudly

Pick a flower

Keep my dog on a leash

Stay with my group

Take a shortcut

Run ahead

Follow the trail markers

Let my dog chase a deer

Take a picture of a flower

Leave food for the animals

Listen for nature sounds



Trail Checklist

Always take these things in your backpack if you are hiking, biking or riding your horse.

Water



Whistle



Snack



Rain Jacket



CD-Reflector



Plastic Trash Bag



Why should you tell an adult where you are going? _____

Why should you drink water and not a cola? _____

What color of rain jackets are easier to see in the woods? _____

Why should you not just yell "HELP?" _____

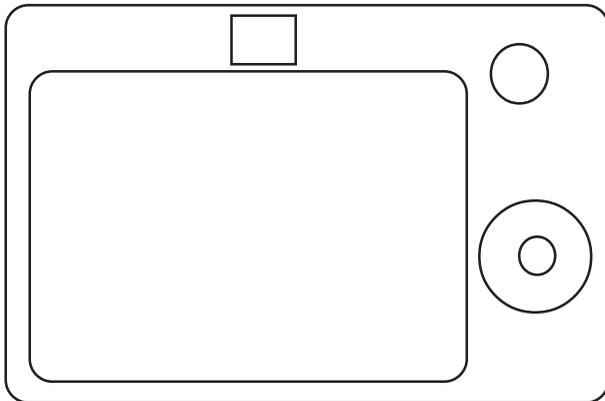
Why should you not eat berries you find along the trail? _____

Be prepared to talk with the ranger about why you need these in your pack.

Take Only Pictures and Leave Only Footprints...

Park visitors should never pick up or collect anything to take home with them. You can remember your visit by taking pictures of the things you see. Draw a picture in the camera viewer below of something that you saw at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

Help keep the park beautiful!
Pick up trash at your campsite
and along trails. Leave only your
footprints behind.



Bandy Creek Scavenger Hunt

Where can you get a map of Big South Fork?

Find the plaque that dedicated the Bandy Creek Campground. Write down the date.

How many campsites are in Area A?

How many horse stalls are at the Bandy Creek Stables?

Find a tree that has star shaped leaves. What is the name of this tree?

Name an animal on display in the Bandy Creek Visitor Center.

How long is the trail from Bandy Creek to Blue Heron Mining Community ?

How deep is the Bandy Creek pool?

Find a tree that has needles instead of leaves. Write down the name of the tree you found.

Draw a picture of the needles.

Find the track of an animal. What animal would make this type of track?

Find a park ranger and ask them to let you look at the National Park Service arrowhead emblem. Describe what you see in this emblem. Draw a picture of it inside the arrowhead.

The arrowhead is the symbol of the National Park Service. It stands for the way that parks protect plants, animals, scenery and human history all across the United States.



Draw a picture of you here.



All Aboard the K & T Railroad !

A trip to the Blue Heron Mining Community either by riding in on the Scenic Railway or driving by car is a great way to spend a day. Blue Heron allows visitors to view life in a company-owned mining town in the 1940s and 50s. As you walk through the community of Blue Heron, or Mine 18 as it was also called, study the exhibits and answer the questions in the scavenger hunt. If you do get stumped, you can ask one of the park rangers for help.



Blue Heron Depot

On the railroad display at the Blue Heron Depot find the 1928 timetable for the K&T railroad. It shows train departure and arrival times for towns along its route. It's Sunday and your mother says you can ride the train and visit a friend in Oz for the week. **Read the timetable carefully so you won't miss your train!**

What time on Sunday will the train leave Stearns? _____

When will you arrive in Oz? _____

Mom wants you home on **Friday**. You don't want to be late because she's cooking your favorite dinner.

What time will the afternoon train leave Oz on Friday? _____

When will you arrive back in Stearns? _____



Courtship, marriage and family

As you leave the depot, take the paved path left up the hillside to the house which talks about courtship, marriage and family. Stop there and listen to the narration. One of the men talks about being married wearing a hickory-striped suit. Why would a suit go by that name?



The Mine Entrance

Look at the machinery and read the sign beside the coal mine entrance. Find the **Joy Loader**. How did this piece of machinery change the way coal was processed from the Blue Heron Mine?



How did the Joy Loader affect the way miners were paid?

The Schoolhouse

The year is 1944 and your dad is a coal miner working at Mine 18. Your family lives in a company house perched on a hillside above the Big South Fork River. Every morning after you do your chores you attend school down in Blue Heron.

Each morning you and almost twenty other students arrive at the little _____ schoolhouse. Some of the students are older and some younger than you since grades _____ through _____ are in that one schoolhouse. You like school and hope to go to high school and college.

Some of the girls want to become a _____ when they grow up. You're trying to save spending money for college, but have heard of one boy who was accepted at _____ College but did not go because he didn't have _____.

If you leave Blue Heron to go to a university, do you think you will come back here to live after you graduate? _____
If not, why not? _____

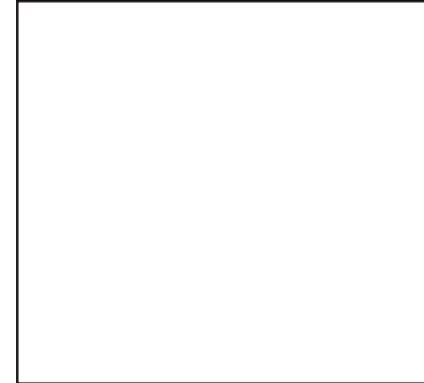
Take a hike in the Big South Fork

Make a list of trails that you hiked or places that you visited.



If you get lost, you should "Hug a Tree." It helps you stay in one place!

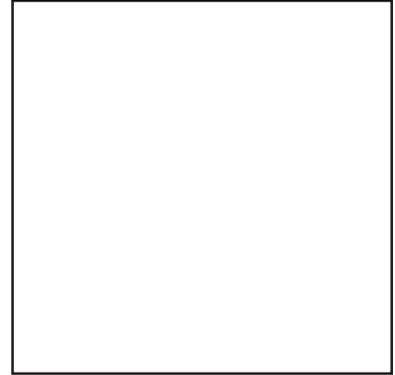
In the box below, draw a picture of you hugging a tree.



Draw the shape of your tree's leaves in the box to the right.

What kind of tree is it?

What does the bark feel like?



This is me, hugging a tree.

Decoding the Big South Fork

Learn Oscar's secret to staying safe on the trail.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
16	12	7	21	24	3	5	1	9	14	26	18	23
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
10	4	8	11	25	19	15	22	13	6	2	17	20

4 19 7 16 25 10 24 13 24 25 5 4 24 19 16 18 4 10 24

6 1 24 10 1 9 26 9 10 5 16 15 25 16 9 18 16 18 6 16 17 19

3 4 18 18 4 6 19 15 1 24 12 18 16 20 24 19 10 24 13 24 25

6 16 10 21 24 25 19 4 3 3 16 10 21 1 22 5 19 16

15 25 24 24 9 3 18 4 19 15

Animal Tracks

Can you identify animals that live in the Big South Fork from their tracks? Draw a line from the animal to its track.



Great Horned Owl  

Whitetail Deer 

Raccoon 

Grey Fox 

Great Blue heron 

Black bear 

Bobcat 

Skunk  

Wildlife Safety

Circle the correct answer or answers. There may be more than one that is correct.

You should not try to pet a baby wild animal because (a) It might be sick. (b) It might bite you. (c) An angry mother might be watching you. (d) It might follow you and become your pet.

If you see a black bear (a) Run away as fast as you can. (b) Stand tall, wave your arms and yell "No Bear!" (c) Throw your food at it.

If you see a snake on the trail (a) Kill it. (b) Take a stick and move it off of the trail. (c) Back up and walk another way.

If you are bitten by a snake (a) cut the bite and suck the venom out (b) seek medical help (c) tie a rope or piece of cloth very tightly above the bite.

If you see a fawn laying in a grassy field (a) Pick it up and take it to a ranger. (b) Leave it alone because its mother is nearby. (c) Take it to the zoo.

If you camp in the backcountry (a) hang your food high out on a tree limb (b) leave your leftovers for the animals to eat (c) pack out everything that you took with you.

If you see a wild baby piglet (a) back up, be very still and quiet until it walks away (b) throw sticks and try to make it squeal (c) try to catch it.

Let's Do Lunch



Help these animals select an item from the menu. Write the number of the item from the menu on the plate beside each animal.

Did you know that animals that eat only plants are called **herbivores**? Meat eaters are called **carnivores**. Animals that eat both plants and meat are called **omnivores**.

What kind of eater are you? _____ . Write a description of your favorite foods.

What would you pack for a picnic lunch? Write down your lunch on line #6 below and draw a picture of it on the plate.



Raccoon



Gray Squirrel



Little Brown Bat



Red-tailed Hawk



Black Bear

M E N U

1. A medley of ripe acorns, shelled walnuts and hickory nuts served on a bed of fresh beechnuts.
2. Fresh stew with field mice, voles, and rabbits seasoned with various snake types.
3. A stir fry of cucumber beetles, green stink bugs, June bugs, and leafhoppers garnished with a few moths.
4. Large house salad with twigs, buds, nuts, fruit, corn, grubs, and ants tossed with fresh sprouts, served on a tray of rotten log with a yummy honey dressing. In season: Left-over carrion (dead animals).
5. Boiled crayfish, frog, and turtle eggs with a side salad of mixed berries, nuts and grapes.
6. _____
your picnic lunch

your picture

6. _____
your name

Big South Fork Word Search



Can you find the names of interesting places to see and things to do at Big South Fork?

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

Angel Falls
 Charit Creek Lodge
 Mountain Laurel
 Bandy Creek
 Cumberland Plateau
 Rafting
 Big Leaf Magnolia
 Deer
 Rhododendron

Big South Fork
 Devils Jump
 River
 Black Bear
 Fishing
 Scenic Railway
 Black Rat Snake
 Horseback Riding
 Tennessee

Blue Heron
 Kayaking
 Trail
 Box Turtle
 Kentucky
 Twin Arches
 Canoeing
 Maudes Crack
 Wild Turkey

Horse Play

Horses and mules played an important role in the area. Historically these animals were used to move lumber, coal, rock and clear land for farming. Circuit preachers, school teachers, mail carriers, country doctors and midwives traveled the mountainous terrain to remote homesteads and communities.

Horseback riding is one way to see Big South Fork today. Here is a horse for you to color. You may want to copy this page later and cut out the tack to dress your horse. Give your horse a name _____ . What color is your horse? _____

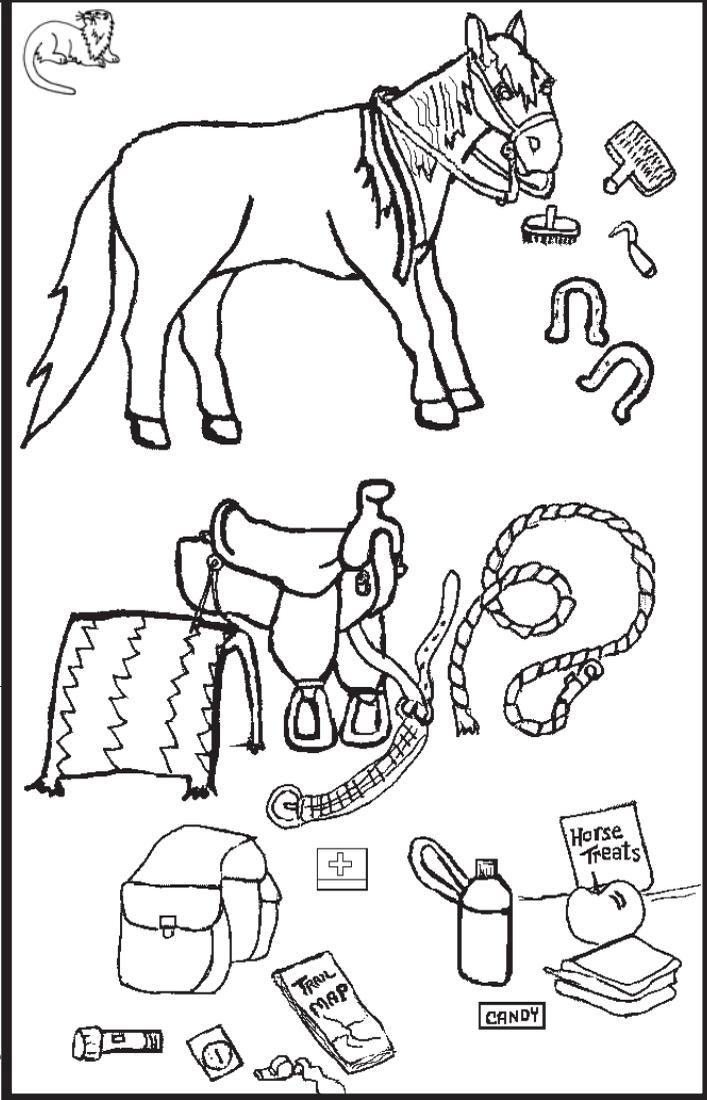
Where will you ride at Big South Fork? List a name of a horse trail that you'd like to ride. Look at a horse trail map to find the trail name.

What does a horse wear? Can you list the different pieces of horse tack (equipment used on a horse) that are in the picture?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Look at the picture. What kind of things should you take with you in your saddle bags?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.



Rangers and other park staff work with horses at Big South Fork. Park horses carry equipment for trail maintenance, plow historic fields and patrol trails with the rangers. Where do the park horses live? _____ . What are their names? _____ and _____ .