



Canal/White River State Park Cultural District Scavenger Hunt

Welcome to the Canal/White River State Park Cultural District in downtown Indianapolis! We are happy you are here and we hope that you have a fun time learning about and exploring our wonderful canal. This scavenger hunt is a great way to do both things...learn and explore! You will visit a number of sites along the canal, beginning at McCormick's Rock on the White River and ending at the St. Clair Street Bridge. You will use the following clues to fill in the blanks and uncover the secret answer to the question below. Use the attached scavenger hunt map so you don't lose your way. Have fun!

What arrived in Indianapolis in 1847 that led to an explosion in the number of people living and working in the city?

$$\frac{7}{12} \frac{11}{13} \frac{6}{2} \frac{5}{8} \frac{9}{10} \quad \& \quad \frac{5}{10} \frac{2}{5} \frac{6}{10} \frac{1}{6} \frac{9}{4} \frac{5}{8}$$

- 1) You are standing at what is called McCormick's Rock. This rock commemorates the spot where pioneer John McCormick and his family lived in a cabin. John and his family were some of the first white settlers in Indiana and came in February of 1820. Look at the picture on the rock. What is tied up to the tree behind the cabin?

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From McCormick's Rock walk down the brick sidewalk toward downtown. Stop in front of the NCAA Hall of Champions.

- 2) You are now standing in front of the NCAA Hall of Champions. This museum is dedicated to student athletes who are excellent at their sport and are also good students in the classroom. Go inside the front doors and straight above you will see a large red scoreboard with a quote on the underside that says...

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Exit the museum and turn left following the concrete (not brick) sidewalk along the canal. Turn left at the National Federation of State High School Associations and continue along the sidewalk (the Indiana State Museum will be on your right).

- 3) On your right is the Indiana State Museum. On the outside walls of the museum there are 92 sculptures which represent the 92 counties in Indiana. The sculpture for Delaware County consists of three shelves with jars of canned vegetables. Look at the jar on the bottom row all the way on the right. Jim Davis created this famous, lovable cartoon character in Delaware County. The name of the cartoon character is...

Continue walking north along the sidewalk, following the turn, and walk under the bridge. On the left is the Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial. Walk up the ramped walkway.

- 4) You are standing at the Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial. The Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest award for bravery that anyone in the United States military can receive. Over 3,000 people have received this award (19 people have received it twice) and their names are listed on this memorial. Only one woman, who served as a field surgeon during the Civil War) has received this award. Her name, listed alphabetically under the “Civil War, 1861-1865” section, is...

Follow the sidewalk down along the canal, under the West Street Bridge and past the basin, and past the Indiana Historical Society.

- 5) Many of the bridges along the canal have murals on them. If you look at the New York Street Bridge you will see that an artist painted a scene of a beach. On the west side of the bridge there is a black and white striped post that has been painted to resemble a structure you sometimes see on the beach—a...

Continue walking north along the canal to the arched bridge at the Vermont Street basin. Walk to the bridge and stop halfway across so that you are in the center of the bridge. Turn and look at the skyline of downtown Indianapolis.

- 6) From this spot on the Vermont Street Bridge you can get a very nice view of the buildings in downtown Indianapolis. Underneath one of these buildings is an underground river, which provides water that is pumped into the canal. The building that the river runs under has an American flag on the roof and is one of the tallest buildings in downtown. This building is named the One...

Still standing on the bridge, look at the old red brick church on the west side of the canal.

- 7) The old red brick church is called Bethel AME church and is over 100 years old! This is the oldest African-American church in Indianapolis and some of the members of this congregation were active in the Underground Railroad, which helped slaves escape to find freedom. How many chimneys can you see on the church?

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Head back down to the sidewalk on the west side of the canal and continue to head north. Stop before walking under the Indiana Avenue/Michigan Street bridge.

- 8) If you look up to the street level you will see a bright piece of art called “Convergence” that was placed on the canal in 2005. Some times called the “French Fries,” this piece of art represents the canal, White River, and downtown all coming together. What color are the “French Fries?”

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Continue walking north along the canal until you come out on the other side of the Indiana Avenue/Michigan Street bridge.

- 9) If you look at the red brick building on the right you will see the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. This organization works to save and protect old buildings and landmarks in the state of Indiana. The front part of this building used to be the home of a German butcher and was built in the 1870s. It was originally located on the other side of the canal! How many windows are above the green-striped awnings on the historic part of the building (section close to Indiana Avenue)?

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Continue walking north up the canal, walk under the Walnut Street Bridge, and make a left up the curving path that will take you over the Walnut Street Bridge. Cross the bridge and walk down to the USS Indianapolis Memorial.

- 10) This memorial remembers the sailors of the *USS Indianapolis* who were killed when a torpedo sunk their ship in the summer of 1945. Of the approximate 1200 sailors who were on the ship, about 900 survived the torpedo and escaped the ship before it sank. However, no one knew the sailors were in trouble and the rest weren’t rescued until 5 days later. By that time only 317 sailors were still alive because many died due to the extreme heat and a lack of food and water. Also, there were many sharks in the water in which they were swimming. The first panel of information states that the *USS Indianapolis* was the personal Ship of State for what US President?

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Continue walking north up the canal to the St. Clair Street Bridge. This is the last stop on the scavenger hunt.

11) This is the St. Clair Street Bridge, the site of information about the history of transportation in the state of Indiana. At first many people traveled in wagons on dirt paths, then people thought it might be a good idea to travel on boats down the canal. Next, people traveled farther and faster on the railroad, and today we like to travel in cars on the streets and highways. Look at the four different types of transportation noted on each panel. There is information on water, rail, road, and

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Congratulations! You have completed the Canal Scavenger Hunt! We hope you have learned a little bit more about all the things that are on the canal. Match the letters associated with each number and place the letters in their corresponding place to find out what came to Indianapolis in 1847!