



CAMP INDIANA SPRING 2021

FALLS OF THE OHIO STATE PARK

Along the Ohio River in Clarksville, Indiana, Falls of the Ohio State Park is a geological and historical wonder. The park features the largest exposed Devonian fossil beds in the world, and was a key stop in the history of American westward expansion. Today, the park is home to an innovative interpretive center, hiking trails, and fossil hunting.

390 million years ago, the Falls of the Ohio State Park was covered in a shallow sea. This time period was known as the Devonian, also known as the Age of Fishes. The Devonian period saw a large diversity of fish, molluscs, trilobites, and coral reefs. A large extinction event occurred 375 million years ago, mostly affecting organisms living in shallow seas. Their skeletons were forever saved in stone as they fossilized, and can now be seen at the park. The Falls of the Ohio State Park is the home of the largest exposed Devonian fossils in the world. Visitors to the park can walk along the ancient sea bottom and see the different kinds of fossils that can be found there. It is important to leave the fossils where they are so others can see them in the future. There are collecting piles near the interpretive center where you can take a piece of ancient history home with you!

Long after the area was thriving with prehistoric fish, the area became the meeting site of two of America's most famous explorers. In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Territory from the French, and hoped to find a water route from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Jefferson appointed Captain Meriwether Lewis and Lewis's friend, William Clark to make the journey. Lewis had a large keel boat built to hold the crew and all of their supplies. Lewis traveled down the Ohio River and picked up Clark in Clarksville. Normally, when boats had to go over the falls, everything had to be removed from the boat, and the boat needed to be taken apart, carried around the falls, and then put back together. However, a strong crew of men were able to keep the keel boat together and ride it over the falls, saving the expedition weeks of time.

Visitors to the park get a great opportunity to see various times in history on display as well as that beautiful Indiana wilderness.



Name: _____

Fossils Word Search



EVOLUTION

ABSOLUTE AGE

PALEONTOLOGIST

RELATIVE AGE

FOOTPRINT

PALEOZOIC

SUPERPOSITION

PETRIFIED

DINOSAURS

SHARK TOOTH

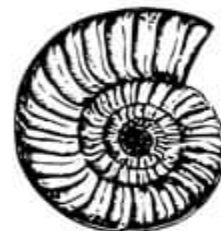
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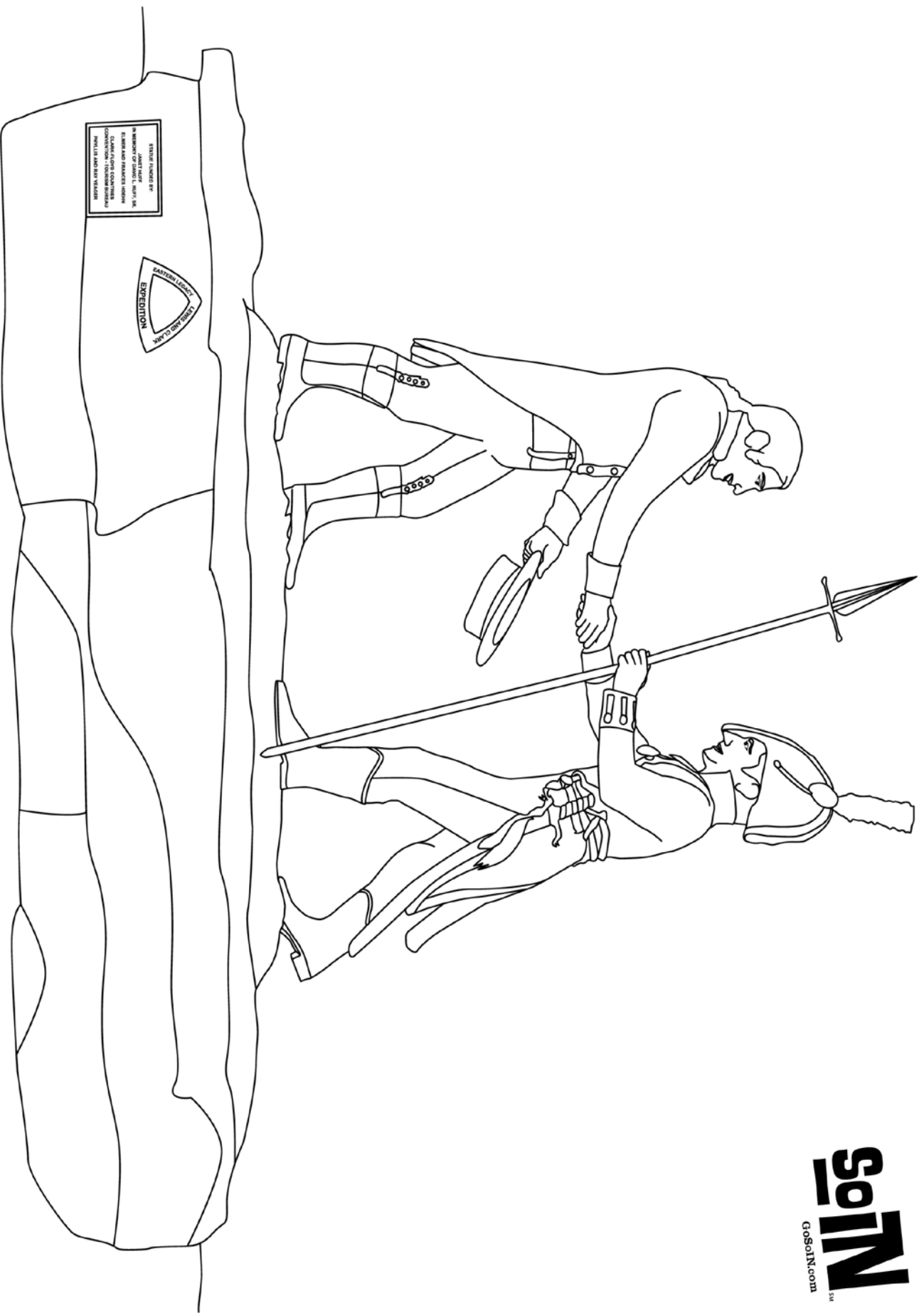
PETROLEUM

BRACHIOPOD

GASTROPOD

CARBON FILM





Lewis and Clark Handshake Statue, Falls of the Ohio State Park