

N.C. State Parks Junior Ranger Program

LAKE NORMAN STATE PARK

Historically, Lake Norman State Park was home to hardwood trees so big you couldn't put your arms around them! And before the lake was made, the Catawba River flowed through a valley.



Pick a spot in the park and draw how you think it looked hundreds of years ago.



Take a hike on the Alder Trail and answer the questions below.

1. North Carolina's state tree is the pine tree. There are four different types of pine tree found in the park. Can you find two different types of pine tree along the trail? Compare and contrast the differences between the two. Look at the bark and pine needles along the base of the tree.
2. The Blue Heron is often seen around Park Lake. They nest on islands in Lake Norman. This bird stands about 4 feet tall and looks for food in the shallow waters. Can you spot a Blue Heron on Park Lake? If so, what do you think they are hunting for? If not, where do you think the Blue Herons could have gone?
3. Yellow-bellied Sliders are a type of turtle that love to bask in the sun on logs around Park Lake but quickly dive under water when animals or people walk by. Why do you think sliders dive under water when people come by?
4. Park Lake dam was built in the 1960's to create a lake on Norwood Creek. This was the park's original swim beach. How do you think the making of Park Lake affected the animals that lived in Norwood Creek?
5. Find an interesting plant or animal along the trail that you have not seen before. Write down descriptive words to describe your plant or animal and give it a name!



Acorns cached on this activity: _____

