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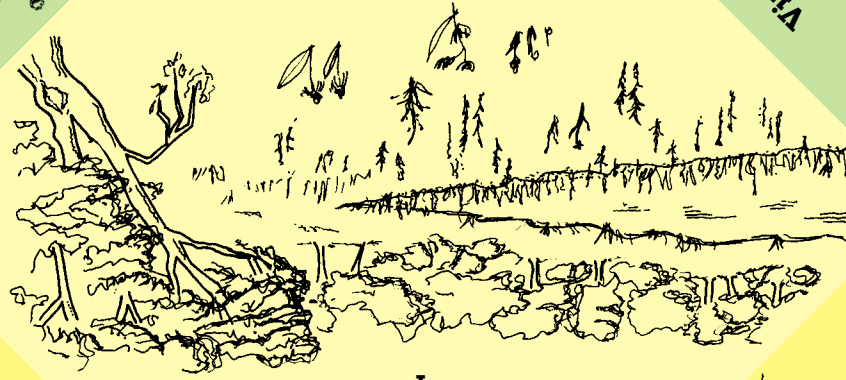
Sensitive Joint Vetch
Aschynomene virginica
A rare plant with yellow pea-shaped flowers and red veins. It lives in tidal, freshwater marshes in eastern Virginia.

Marshes improve water quality by trapping sediment and filtering pollutants. Wild rice in these natural communities was an important food for early Virginia Indians.



Tidal Freshwater Marsh Wild Rice-Mixed Forbs Type

Shenandoah Valley Sinkhole Pond Montane Depression Wetland



These wetlands are found at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains. These natural communities have formed over the last 15,000 years.

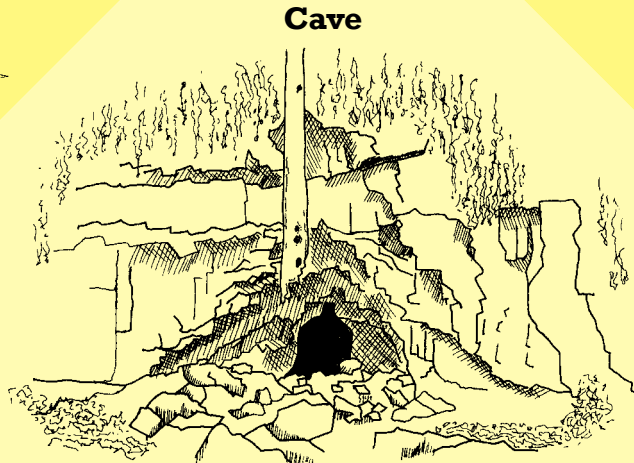
Virginia Sneezeweed
Helium virginicum
A rare plant found in Augusta, Rockbridge and Rockingham counties in Virginia. Its habitat is sinkhole ponds that flood part of the year.



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Indiana Bat
Myotis sodalis
A rare mammal that hibernates in caves during the winter. It can migrate more than 300 miles between winter and summer homes. White-nose syndrome threatens these and many other bats.

Groundwater dissolves limestone to form these natural communities in western Virginia. Crayfish, bats, spiders and other animals live in caves.



Cave



Sandy Beach



Tiger beetles live on wide, sandy beach communities between the dunes and high-tide line.

Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetle
Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis
A rare insect that lives on sandy shores of the Chesapeake Bay. Larvae live in burrows and ambush prey with their large jaws.



FLORA



Natural heritage (năch'ərəl hěr'ĩ-tij)

n. the legacy of the natural world that is inherited from the past and maintained for the benefit of current and future generations

Virginia Natural Heritage Program

Drawings on this activity represent just a few of the natural heritage resources protected by the Virginia Natural Heritage Program. Botanists, zoologists, ecologists and other staff work to conserve the state's rare flora and fauna (those are fancy words for plants and animals), as well as natural communities.

They accomplish this by:

- Identifying Virginia's unique biodiversity
- Managing information about rare species, natural communities and open space
- Reviewing possible impact to rare species habitats and natural communities
- Conserving important natural areas through a variety of management tools

The Virginia Natural Heritage Program also is responsible for Virginia's Natural Area Preserve System. Natural area preserves range from the beaches to the mountains of Virginia and protect some of the best examples of natural communities and rare plants and animals. There are currently 63 natural area preserves. Many offer opportunities for short hikes and nature study.

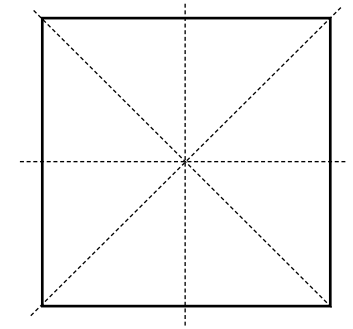
The Virginia Natural Heritage Program is part of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. To learn more, visit www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage.

Plant and animal drawings courtesy of Megan Rollins.

How to Fold

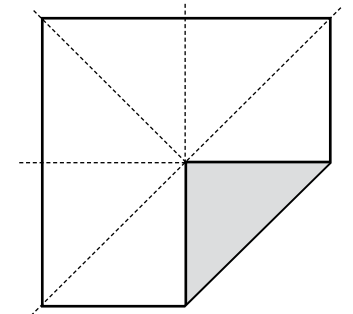
Step 1

Create creases as shown in the diagram by folding the paper in half vertically, horizontally and diagonally. Unfold.

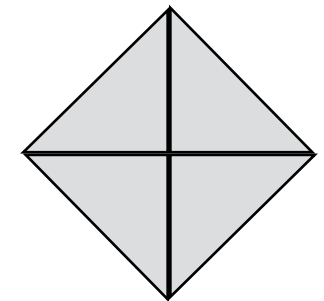


Step 2

With colored side down, fold the corner to meet the center point. Repeat with the other 3 corners.

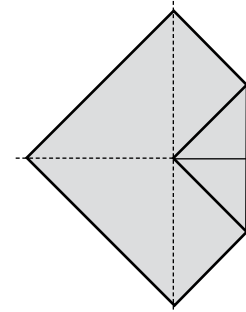


Your project should now look like this.



Step 3

Flip. Again, fold the corner to meet the center point. Repeat with the other 3 corners.



Step 4

Flip. Gently pry open the pockets to make room for your thumbs and index fingers to operate.

