Cape Perpetua
Discovery Loop Trail Quest

Oregon Coast Quests is an Oregon Sea Grant program based at Oregon State University’s Hatfield Marine Science Center.
Use these maps to help you
solve the following Quest!
Cape Perpetua Discovery Loop Quest

Established: The summers of 2008 and 2009 by children attending the Yachats Youth & Family Activities Program’s Recreation PLUS (Passages to Learning, Understanding and Success), and Summer Exploration Program participants Alec, Maya, Leeza, Nika, Gavin, Nina, Stormy, Jack, Dustin, Lilee, Robert, Koa, Quitze, Allen, Merlin, Milo, Kama, Mirna, Lynn, Susan, Robin, Char, Hallie, Marty, Santiago, Danielle, and Jenn; and YYFAP Recreation PLUS Coordinator (2006–09) Mellie Bukovsky.

Box Monitors: Mellie Bukovsky and the Discover Your Northwest Branch Manager (Cape Perpetua Book Store)

The Cape Perpetua Scenic Area is located approximately 3 miles south of Yachats. Follow the brown Forest Service signs identifying the turnoff to the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center. The turnoff is located on the east side of US Hwy 101.

The Cape Perpetua Scenic Area is supported by your Day Use fees ($5/vehicle or with appropriate pass). As you proceed up the slope into the park, you will see the 1/8-mile sign to the parking lot. The lower parking lot is for passenger vehicles, and the upper parking lot is for additional vehicles and recreational vehicles. In addition, there is wheelchair-accessible parking in both lots.

The Discovery Loop Quest is an approximately 2-mile round-trip walk on the Discovery Loop Trail. This Quest is designated as a “moderate” hike. Begin at the Cape Perpetua Visitor Center’s upper parking lot, in the easternmost corner of the lot near the interpretive sign that reads “Discovery Loop/Cook’s Ridge/Gwynn Creek/Cummins Creek Loop Trail.” Follow the directions and collect the letter clues to fill the numbered squares on page 159.
Cape Perpetua... come look around. There are many natural wonders to be found. Up the stairs, and you’ll soon see some large, uprooted, and fallen trees.

This is where your clue collecting begins... have these trees' lives really come to an end? I think not, for the role of these fallen trees is your first clue for square number 3.

Fallen trees provide nourishment; decaying LOGs help NURSE new life. Take the fifth letter from the first word of this two-word answer.

Place the letter where it needs to be. Remember, that was square number 3.

As you continue to walk along the trail, take a moment to experience fresh air, and inhale. Glance up and glance down. Hey, why not glance all around?

Along the bend of this trail, several plants found near the base of trees, sticking up from the ground.

Fronds of dark green, lots to be seen.

Naming this plant with its sword-like edges will help you figure out what the answer to this Quest is.

Take the sixth letter of the two-word name for square number 5 in our game.

**Did You Know?**

Cape Perpetua is a high basalt headland. It is the HIGHEST point you can drive to on the Oregon coast!

**Question for the Curious:**

Does moss grow only on the north side of tree trunks?

The answer is in the Quest Box at the end of your journey!

“*In 1492, he sailed the ocean blue.*” WHO?

**Did You Know?**

On Columbus Day in 1962, a storm hit this area with winds exceeding 160 mph!
Did you peek at how many letters you’ll need to find?  
Not to worry…you’ll have plenty of time.

Start yourself walking  
to find out what is in store.  
Or, if you’d like, just take a moment  
and listen to the waves roar.

Step by step, that’s what you’ll do.  
To climb this trail to find your clues.

A wooden bench  
by now…you’ve found.  
Sit back, relax…and,  
enjoy the sounds.

Where waves meet the surf…  
crashing loud and strong.  
Wind, water, and earth…  
together in song.

Now that you’re rested,  
you can bet you’ll be tested.  
Up the mountain’s slope you tread;  
see the wooden bridge ahead?

Now that you’ve found it, count every plank.  
No, this is no prank.  
Your answer will be clear;  
be patient, my dear.

So, you have a number;  
now what do you do?  
Well, is your answer…  
the product of 3 times 32?

Good! Take the first vowel  
of this number’s written form,  
and place it in squares numbered 2.  
You’re getting warm!

**Question for the Curious:**
How many benches can be found on this trail?  

*The answer is in the Quest Box at the end of your journey!*

Now, note the trail…as it takes another turn.  
Get to steppin’…do your best,  
for at the bend you can rest.

Take a moment,  
enjoy this time.  
Then be on your way,  
heading up as you climb.

Continue to climb at a leisurely pace  
for soon a discovery you’ll soon make.
It grows symbiotically,
two partners that seem glued.
The FUNGUS part gives structure;
photosynthetic ALGAE provide food.

The sixth letter of the answer
naming this alliance
fits square number 10;
It’s an exact science.

Found along the north edge of this trail,
an amazing sight to see:
two linked Sitka spruce trees!
How could this happen?
What caused this to be?

Look up to the sky;
You won’t believe your eyes!

Brought on by foul weather,
two trees came together.

Nature seems to have used a technique
to create something rather unique.

Did You Know?
A *graft* is the opposite of
pruning. Instead of taking
away a limb, it brings it
together.

Can you guess what happened here?
Take the fifth letter of the underlined
word in the box above, and
place it in square number 6.

Here’s a puzzle for you to solve;
an empty square it will resolve.
Sometimes fuzzy, bumpy, or round…
What can be found, even on the ground?

Lichens absorb pollutants.
Scientists can extract
those toxins and determine
the levels present in
our atmosphere. This is
the science of “lichen
biomonitoring.”

Whether or not you have a pail,
listen for water along this trail.
If you hear its sound,
then you’ll know it’s around.

If not, it’s probably not the right SEASON.
I’m sure that’s the reason.

Can you name this type of stream that
only flows by during certain times of the
year? Place the fourth letter of this word
in the squares numbered 7.

Jack n’ Jill
went up the hill
to fetch a pail of water.

Brought on by foul weather,
two trees came together.

Nature seems to have used a technique
to create something rather unique.

Can you guess what happened here?
Take the fifth letter of the underlined
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Here’s a puzzle for you to solve;
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Sometimes fuzzy, bumpy, or round…
What can be found, even on the ground?
By now you should find the first interpretive sign: “Have You Read Any Good Forests Lately?”

On this sign your next clue is fairly easy to see. What’s a synonym for the fourth word in the first line of this story?

The synonym for “sleuth” can actually be found in the line located closest to the ground.

Place the eighth letter of this sleuth-similar word in square number 1.

Paths that change, narrow, and wind. Up, up to the top you must climb, as you head on up double time.

Peacefulness, tranquility, so many treasures to see. A story centuries old; who knows what will unfold?

“I think I can, I think I can.” I know you can do it, go on and continue to climb.

Your journey is challenging, you’re just the right person for this Quest. Continue on the trail...breathe deep and exhale.

By now it’s in your sights; a little more, you’ll be all right. Head on up the trail; another sign holds a tale: “How The Mighty Have Fallen.”

The National Weather Service issued a warning for “hurricane-force winds” during The Great Coastal Gale of December 1–3, 2007. Wind gusts were clocked at 129 mph!

Question for the Curious:
Can you guess how high Cape Perpetua is?

The answer is in the Quest Box at the end of your journey!

Did You Know?

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Question for the Curious:
How many trails connect to the Discovery Loop Trail? Can you name them all?

The answer is in the Quest Box at the end of your journey!

Question for the Curious:
Can you guess how high Cape Perpetua is?

The answer is in the Quest Box at the end of your journey!
“It’s elementary, my dear _____”
Says Holmes to his sidekick.
The fifth letter of the missing name
Into square 9 will stick.

Proceed on up the trail.
There’s more mystery to unveil.
Take the fork to the right;
toward the Visitor Center you head.

Your next clue can be found
on the interpretive sign ahead:
“A Tale of Two Forests.”

Read “It’s not a question of if
a forest will _____, but when.”
The third letter of the missing word
fits in square number 8.

Along the trail,
take a look around.
Have you noticed the different
fungi to be found?

Along this route
you’ll soon scout
an edible fungus that people
love to talk about.

People also love to eat them!
It’s amazing, but it’s true.
You say it’s not your thing?
Perhaps one day you’ll like them, too.

Look for these fungi
low to the ground.
Or in cool, damp places…
Do you see any around?

The clue for square number 4
Is in the fungi’s common name.
Use the second letter in the word
and continue with the game.

Swaying in the breeze,
what is found on deep forest trees?
It thrives under inadequate light
and often makes trees an eerie sight.

One lichen, *Alectoria sarmentosa*,
has a common name, too.
Once you’ve guessed its other name,
you’ll have your next clue.

Let me give you a hint:
*Scraggly and gray hair*
*flowing through the air.*
*Perched on her broom,*

Did You Know?
Every third weekend in
October, the Yachats
community celebrates fungi
with an annual Mushroom
Festival. Mark your calendar!
Question for the Curious:
True or False: Moss is the same thing as lichen.

The answer is in the Quest Box at the end of your journey!

she flies past a full moon.
The common name has two words.
Its fifth letter is your clue.
Put it in the square where the number matches the sum of 9 and 2.

As you make your way around the loop, you’ll be heading down the mountain.
Be cautious; pace yourself.

Take the time
to find the last sign.
You’ll soon be there,
with time to spare.

Read this sign to find your last clues.
Yes, that means you’re almost through.
So, get ready… here’s what you need to do.

Can you name the letter
(you might have already guessed)
that sounds like the sea?
(If you get this, we’re impressed.)

Question for the Curious:
How many different trees make up this Coastal Rainforest? Can you name them?

The answer is in the Quest Box at the end of your journey!

“By the sea, by the sea, by the beautiful ___!”
Let’s find out where this letter should be.

In the first seven lines of the sign, count the number of C’s.
The total number you find, minus three, is where you’ll put that letter “C,” see?

All right, here comes your final clue…

Did You Know?
You are standing in the midst of the world’s most extensive example of a temperate rainforest.
"Yahoo!"
The last letter lies within the story’s title.
The third letter of the title’s third word fits square 13, my friend.

Your phrase is complete; it should tell you where to be to find the Quest box hidden so carefully.

Hint: Follow the small trail down.

Stamp this page or your book to record your find!

This Quest was created in partnership with the Siuslaw National Forest Service and Discover Your Northwest

If you enjoyed this Quest, check out the Oregon Coast Quests Book, which contains maps and directions for more that two dozen clue directed hunts in Oregon. Collect stamps from them all! For more information, visit hmsc.oregonstate.edu/quests

The Oregon Coast QUESTS Book, 2017–18 Edition
Check website for updates: hmsc.oregonstate.edu/quests