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# Pinnacle Quest

## APPLETON FARMS GRASS RIDES

### THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

Appleton Farms is owned and cared for by The Trustees of Reservations. We are over 100,000 people like you who want to protect the places we love or who simply like to be outdoors. Since 1891, we have been committed to preserving and sharing the landmarks and landscapes of Massachusetts – a conservation effort funded solely through private support like yours.

Together with our neighbors, we protect the distinct character of our communities and inspire a commitment to special places like Appleton Farms across the Commonwealth. Our passion is to share with everyone the irreplaceable natural and cultural treasures that we care for. **Visit us at [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org).**

### DIRECTIONS:

From Rt. 128 (exit 20A), take Rt. 1A north. Travel about 4.5 mi. north on Rt. 1A and turn left onto Cutler Rd. Follow for 2.2 mi. At intersection with Highland St., turn right, and right again into parking area (20 cars). Horse trailers may not use parking areas.

### HOW TO QUEST

The Quest begins at the Grass Rides bulletin board on Highland Street. Use the clues and map that follow to find a hidden treasure and story at Appleton Farms. At the end of this Quest you'll find a hidden treasure box, where you can sign in, collect a copy of our Quest's stamp, and then replace the box for the next visitor. We recommend you take 1 1/2 to 2 hours to enjoy this adventure. *Happy trails!*

## YOUR CLUES

Welcome to the Trustees' Appleton Farms. Follow the rhyming clue directions to get to each of the stops. At each stop, enjoy. The clues lead you through the designed woodland paths called "Grass Rides." You'll see sculptures, poetry, and art on your way to The Quest Treasure Box.

You leave the parking lot and walk along a line of trees and talk, about this lovely place you've found, where kids and dogs<sup>1</sup> can run around. The line of trees forms an allée to lead you straight along the way. Did nature make a path so fine? No, trees were planted by design.

### Stop A:

At the stone wall opening,  
Grass Rides paths are beckoning.  
Stop here first to read The Trustees sign  
there's more to see than formal design.

On the sign, can you find the Pinnacle?  
What else is seen, if you are quizzical?  
Salamanders, toads, birds, and plants alive,  
in these habitats, many species survive.

Follow the paths where carriages once drove,  
take the first right along the hemlock grove.  
Follow the stone wall — a sure sign of farmland  
or a division of woodlots in New England.

### Stop B:

Samuel Appleton<sup>2</sup>, in 1635,  
was one of the first early colonists to arrive.  
Early colonists cleared old growth forest,  
using timber for warmth and homes to rest.

Trees again flourish in the woodlands here,  
re-growing slowly over many a year.  
Grass Rides<sup>3</sup> designers took trees down too  
and planted trees for them and now you.  
Created for horse and carriage "rides"  
now they are open to all for long strides.

Turn right following the stone wall,  
You'll soon see white pines growing tall.  
The trail dips down through a wetland,  
then up to a pine and hemlock stand.

### Stop C:

What is the difference in the tree?  
Stop here a minute to look closely!  
Eastern white pine has long slender needles  
look up close, five of them in each bundle.  
Eastern hemlock needles are much smaller,  
which tree looks like it grows taller?

Head back on the trail, then left you must turn,  
which left you must take will be of concern.  
Planted trees of pine —  
forming a straight line.  
Pass through the trees, to a wider path,  
at the boulder, is where you turn left.

Ahead you must run,  
to have some fun.  
For the first Pinnacle you should look out,  
if you spot it first, be sure to shout!

### Stop D:

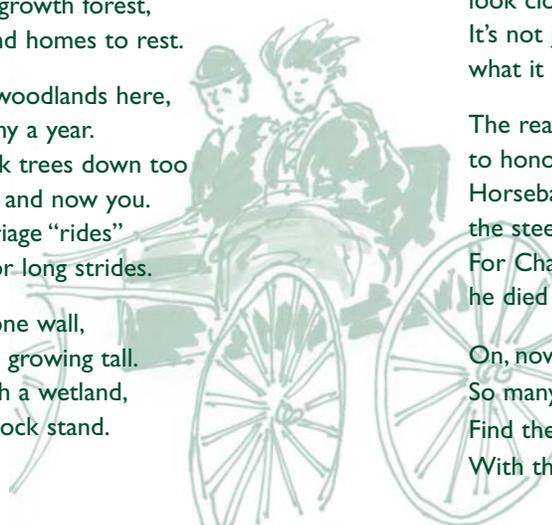
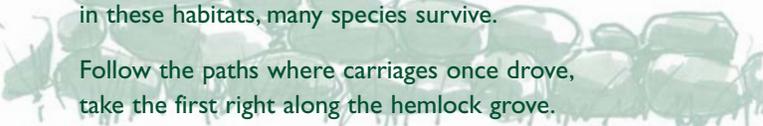
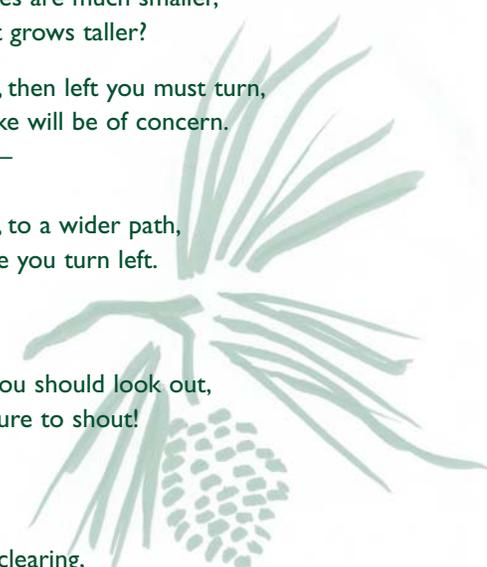
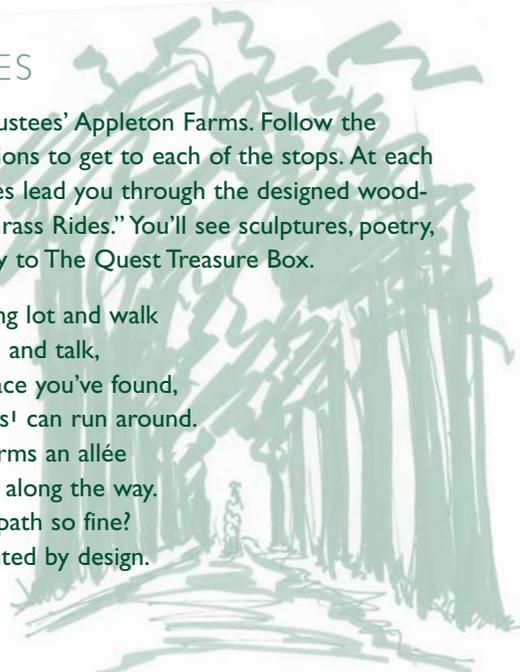
A Pinnacle stands in a clearing,  
visit it — you'll find out its meaning.  
First, you must take a run around,  
count all the paths that does surround.  
(Count them and keep the answer in mind,  
you will need the number later...)

Separate paths like a wheel with spokes,  
"Round Point" where gathered a lot of folks.  
The Appleton's family, friends,  
and royalty from England,  
came to enjoy these recreational  
rides through the woodland.

This Pinnacle, now, you must look upon it,  
look closely — feldspar and quartz — this is granite!  
It's not just a rock, someone shaped it so,  
what it looks like to you, we'd like to know.

The reason it's here, let us take a moment,  
to honor a young man with a monument.  
Horseback riding he greatly pleased,  
the steeplechase was a mile measured.  
For Charles Lanier Appleton they are aptly named,  
he died young after WWI where he was maimed.

On, now go, but which path to take?  
So many trails, make no mistake.  
Find the word Quest-ing in the poem you just read.  
With that word at your back, go straight ahead.



## Stop E:

Low wetlands protected on either side,  
a fine stone bridge raises the bed of this “ride.”  
Daniel Fuller Appleton, Charles’s grandfather,  
built these for drainage, he was a wise farmer.

Ahead now, in view, a very steep hill.  
Gather your energy, summon your will!  
Soon you will glimpse more signs of the past,  
and visit a pasture that’s quite vast.

## Stop F:

At the top of the hill another stone wall  
look and listen for a special bird call.  
Soon you will be able to enter the pasture  
and enjoy the view and a bit of nature.

Go left on this trail which is tight,  
with the stone wall on your right.  
Farther along, find a pillar of granite,  
notched in the side with a big H upon it.  
(Count the drill holes, add that number to the other.)

## Stop G:

Quarrymen used hand-tools to split stone,  
this one marks the boundary of the town.  
Selectmen come each year from Ipswich and Hamilton,  
the Farm crosses both and you will too before you’re done.

Follow the trail, and keep your bearing,  
you will come to a fenced in clearing.  
Enter this area called “Pigeon Hill”  
stand by the Pinnacle, stop, and be still.  
Look for livestock, meadowlarks you will hear  
and bobolinks<sup>4</sup> nest here year after year.

## Stop H:

You’ve reached the highest point where you were bound,  
gaze over the pasture and look around.  
133 acre Great Pasture is slated,  
maintained with care, open space designated.

The Appleton family had a plan  
to change the landscape where they can  
improve the place, and by their deeds  
create a place to suit their needs.

This Pinnacle celebrates our benefactor,  
who left us this gift of land forever after.  
Colonel Francis Appleton Jr. was the man,  
whom helped create this recreation land.  
He wanted us to preserve it for pleasure,  
now you are close to the Quest Box Treasure!

Add up all the numbers you’ve collected,\*  
sleuth for the quest box to be detected.  
Look up, look under, look all around,  
the Treasure Box is here to be found.  
(\*Multiply that number by 2. Take your answer in steps back  
towards the stone wall opening, then look for the Quest  
Treasure Box!)

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

You found it, peek inside for treasures.  
Discreetly return it for others’ pleasures.

To return to the parking lot:  
Continue along the trail that is tight,  
keeping the stone wall on your right.  
After the bench, go back towards the wall,  
then go left at the bottom of the hill.

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- <sup>1</sup> Not everyone feels the same way about dogs. To bring your dog to Appleton Grass Rides you must have a Green Dog permit. Contact the farm at 978.356.5728 or email [appletonfarms@ttor.org](mailto:appletonfarms@ttor.org)
  - <sup>2</sup> Emigrated from Little Waldingfield, Suffolk, England. The first Appleton of nine generations to live and farm here, he received an original Ipswich land grant.
  - <sup>3</sup> Grass Rides is an English term for Carriage Paths.
  - <sup>4</sup> Bobolinks migrate each year from Argentina. Listen for their melodious courtship song from May to mid-July.

*This quest made possible through a generous gift of the New England Biolabs Foundation. Artwork courtesy of Katrina Hart.*

