



The Fort Snelling Historic Trail has been established in the City of Minneapolis in Minnehaha Falls Park, the Minnesota Fort Snelling State Park, and along the Mississippi River. The Trail is intended to familiarize hikers with the great important history of early Minnesota exploration by Europeans and the US Army.

Start at Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's house:

1. Outside the house find the bench; what date is on the Bench?

2. How many feathers does the Native American Indian standing in the creek above the falls have?

Questions 1 to 21 can be found within the Yellow square as indicated on the map.

Questions 22 through the end can be found within the Blue square as indicated on the map.

The hike begins near the pavilion in Minnehaha Park, crosses Minnehaha Creek, and continues southeast following the bike trails on the bluffs along the creek. (Approximate total distance is 5 miles).

Viewing the Falls can be done from the top or lower walkway, just as Father Louis Hennepin first saw them in 1680. Father Hennepin is considered the first European to see the Falls.

3. Count the steps to the bottom of the Falls.

4. Who does the Native American Mask on the Totem Pole represent?

5. What was the nickname of the Minnehaha Falls train depot?

6. What is written on the bricks on the floor outside the Minnehaha Falls train depot?

7. What was the name of the predecessor railroad to the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway?

8. In whose honor was a tree planted at the Park? Look for a marker on a rock by the tree.

9. What is the translation of "O GUD, SOM STYRER FOLKENS ODEN" found on the statue of Gunnar Wennerberg?

10. What was Gunnar Wennerberg noted for?

11. When was the Gunnar Wennerberg statue presented to the City of Minneapolis?

12. Who made the statue of Gunnar Wennerberg?

13. How many buttons are on the statue of Gunnar Wennerberg?

 14. What is the nickname of the Col. John H. Stevens house?

 15. When did the Minneapolis Journal start a campaign to preserve the house?

 16. Looking to the left there is a building with a moon on it. What is this building?

 17. Why was John H. Stevens important?

 18. In what state was the statue of John H. Stevens made?

- If you are able to take the tour of the John H. Stevens house, answer the following questions (If the Stevens house is closed, skip questions 19-21 and proceed to Historic Fort Snelling):***
19. What was Minnehaha Creek previously called?

 20. Where was the Stevens house originally located?

 21. What is the origin of the word 'Minneapolis'?

As you exit the Stevens house, continue on the hiking and bike trails leading to Fort Snelling and Fort Snelling State Park.

When you get to the bottom of the Fort walk up the hill towards the Visitor Center. On the way up the hill, look at the fort walls and answer the following 2 questions:

22. Count the number of Cannon Openings:

23. Count the number of Musket slots:

West of the Visitor Center along the edge of the parking lot is a single grave site.

The following 2 questions can be found during the Visitor Center movie:

24. What is the name on the gravestone?

25. In what year did construction of the post that would become Fort Snelling begin?

26. What was Fort Snelling originally called?

27. In what year did Fort Snelling finally close for good?

28. How many soldiers came through Fort Snelling during the Civil War?

Exit the Visitor Center and walk to the historic fort to continue the trail.

29. What color are the front doors to the fort?

To complete these questions, you must enter all the buildings and listen to the presentations or demonstrations. Feel free to ask questions.

30. What 4 Dakota bands were native to the region around Fort Snelling?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

31. As relates to the relations with the Indian Nations, what was the role of the Fort and the Indian Agent?

32. Who was the Fort named after?

33. What famous person was brought to Fort Snelling as a slave in 1836?

34. What did this person do in 1856 that received national attention?

35. What is the piece of black leather on the hand of the soldier in the cannon firing squad used for?

36. How far does a six pound cannon recoil when fully loaded?

37. What medical theory did the army use in the 1820's and 1830's?

38. What is below the Laundresses Quarters?

39. The laundresses were generally married to men of what occupations?

The officer's quarters provide very informative displays on archaeology at the fort.

40. How long was the enlistment period?

41. What service did Fort Snelling provide the military during WWII?

42. How was Fort Snelling used during the US/Dakota War of 1862?

43. How much extra pay per month did the soldier's receive for constructing Fort Snelling?

44. What was the punishment for theft?

45. The US military in the 1820's was based on which European nation's military model?

46. What future United States President commanded Fort Snelling in 1829?

47. What was the effective range of the Flintlock Smoothbore Musket?

48. How many apartments were there in the original officer's quarters?

49. Name the architectural styles present in the Commandant's house.

50. Who cooked for the Snellings?

Enter the hospital for a series of interesting exhibits on early medicine, meteorology and libraries.

51. What was the name of the surgeon who served at the beginning of 1833?

52. What is the primary position of the weatherman of the army?

53. What other functions did the Sutler's Store have besides being the fort's only store?

Exit the fort, walk down the hill, and at the bottom of the hill turn right and walk to the Fort Snelling State Park headquarters to find the answers to the remaining questions

54. What two rivers meet below Fort Snelling?

55. What Dakota word means where two rivers meet?

56. What is the translation of the Dakota phrase "Ma-ko-ce-co-ka-ya kin"?

57. The name of our State comes from the Dakota phrase "Mi-ni So-ta", which in English means:

58. In 1805 how many acres did Lt. Zebulon Pike buy from the Dakota and how much did he pay?

The island below the fort is named Pike Island in honor Lt. Pike. The 1805 treaty was signed there. Pikes Peak in Colorado is also named for him.

59 Name the Dakota chief who signed the treaty.

Note: he was the father of the Dakota chief who led the Dakotas in the 1862 US-Dakota war.

60. Name the artist who drew the watercolors of Dakota life near Fort Snelling. He commanded Fort Snelling in the 1840's.

61. How many Dakota were imprisoned here after they lost the 1862 US-Dakota war, and how many died?

62. In 1863, the survivors were shipped by boat to Crow Creek in _____ and then to which other State? _____

Exit the park building and visit the Dakota concentration camp memorial across the trail. Be respectful at the memorial. It recalls the last days of the Dakotas in Minnesota, and the suffering they endured at their holy place.

Date Trail Completed: _____

After completing the trail, we suggest that you visit historic Pilot Knob Hill at the intersection of Highway 55 and 13, across the Minnesota River from Fort Snelling, for excellent views of the Fort and downtown Minneapolis.

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