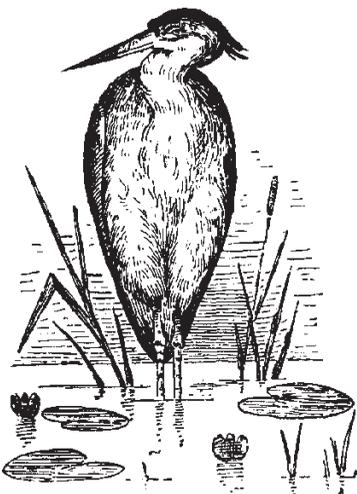


Rowing our boat against the current, between wide meadows, we turn aside into the Assabeth. A more lovely stream than this, for a mile above its junction with the Concord, has never flowed on earth,—nowhere, indeed, except to lave the interior of a poet's imagination.

-- *Mosses from an Old Manse*  
by Nathaniel Hawthorne, 1854

"Fish 4 Fun, Not 4 Food"  
What's fishy about our fish?



If rocks could fly this one would coo.  
I can't see why. Can you?

**Assabet River**

"By the ancient hemlocks,  
grim and gray,  
Our boat drifts slowly on its way."

**Concord River**

"By the rude bridge that arched the flood, Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,  
Here once the embattled farmers stood, And fired the shot heard round the world."

Monument Street

On April 19, 1775, Rev. Emerson watched the beginning of the American Revolution from here. In 1842, Hawthorne and his bride Sophia Peabody made this their home.

In the 19th century, George Bartlett organized floating lantern parades from this "little wharf." We still do.

A grassy ground called Musketaquid by Native Americans

Native Americans lived above this spot where the rivers meet.

Nashawtuc Road

**Sudbury River**

Elm Street

Route 62

**BEGIN B**

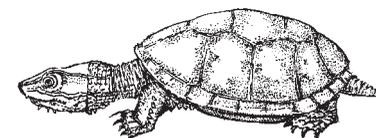
Canoes and kayaks available here, For all to enjoy our rivers!

Academy students keep boats here, ready to explore river reaches.

**Floating Hearts**

By the ancient hemlocks, grim and gray,  
Our boat drifts slowly on its way;  
Down past Egg rock and the meadows wide,  
'Neath the old red bridge we slowly glide,  
Till we see the Minute Man, strong and grand,  
And the moss-grown Manse in the orchard land.

--George Bartlett



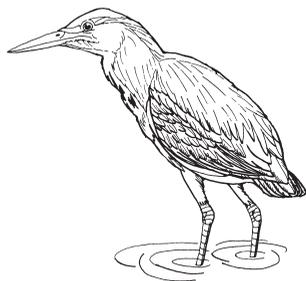
one-quarter mile

## RiverQuest Checklist

Check off what you see. When you can, note the species.

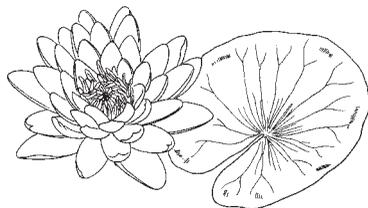
### Animals

- Turtle
- Frog
- Fish
- Snake
- Songbird
- Long-legged bird
- Duck-like bird
- Dragonfly or damselfly
- Insect on water surface
- Mammal



### Plants

- Plant entirely under water
- Plant emerging from water
- Plant with arrow-shaped leaves
- Shrub with clusters of white flowers
- Evergreen tree
- Water lily



### Non-living

- Boulder
- Sand bar
- Steep bank
- Flood plain
- Hole in bank

## History

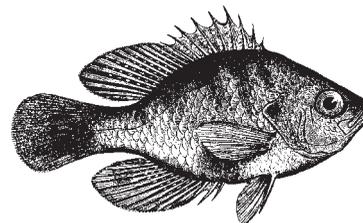
You are paddling where two rivers come together to form a third river: the confluence of the Sudbury and Assabet rivers which, in turn, creates the start of the Concord River. Although it arrived by very different routes, the water under your boat has travelled over 30 miles from Westborough and is now beginning the next stage of its 50 mile voyage to the Atlantic Ocean.

For thousands of years this part of the rivers hosted a landscape that was very different than the forested areas that surrounded it. The flat terrain and the rivers created a large grassy area that was first used by Native Americans and later by colonists from Europe. The Assabet River gets its name from the Algonkian word that refers to the reeds that grew along the banks. The Sudbury and Concord rivers get their names from England, but the Native American name for this place was “Musketaquid” which roughly translates to “Grass Ground.” This “Great Meadow,” stretching over 20 miles along the Sudbury and Concord rivers, was the backbone of the early economies of the local towns.

On April 19, 1775 a confluence of history brought local colonial militia and British redcoats to this area in the opening chapter of the American War for Independence. Cannons and other supplies, brought over the Old North Bridge and hidden in the fields and woods surrounding Col. James Barrett’s farm, lured the British to the area where the first “shot heard ‘round the world” was fired.

Some 65 years after that violent birth of a nation the confluence of the three rivers was the backdrop to a quieter revolution—one of philosophy and spirituality. Beginning with the 1836 publication of Ralph Waldo Emerson’s essay Nature, a movement grew that created a new view of how society might function. Famous authors such as Emily Dickinson, Amos Bronson Alcott, Walt Whitman and Henry David Thoreau were part of this movement.

*In recognition of their unique literary and historical significance, their beauty, and their value for recreation and wildlife, the contiguous segments of the Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord rivers have been designated as National Wild and Scenic Rivers.*



## OARS

Protecting, preserving, and enhancing the Assabet, Sudbury, and Concord rivers, their tributaries, and watersheds.

**OARS**  
**23 Bradford Street**  
**Concord, MA 01742**  
**(978) 369-3956**  
**www.oars3rivers.org**

# OARS

Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord  
RiverFest

## RiverQuest

""Lwpg"4242

To quest the meeting place of all three rivers, paddle the lower Assabet and Sudbury and the beginning of the Concord alert to what you see along the way, gathering information as you go. The Quest begins at the Lowell Road Bridge canoe launch or at the South Bridge Boat House (if you would like to rent a boat.) Paddle on all three rivers! Enjoy a picnic and entertainment at the Old Manse.

Use the clue map on the other side to find the star locations. When you arrive at each star location, you will learn something about our rivers. Take a photo and email to [office@oars3rivers.org](mailto:office@oars3rivers.org). We will send you the round stickers.

Between star locations, keep an eye out for checklist items. How many can you find?

