

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CUMBERLAND GAP:

Imagine trying to travel to what is now Nashville from the east long before there were roads. How could you do it? Let's find out!

1. Carefully examine the 1796 Map of Tennessee.
2. Locate Nashville, the Cumberland Mountains, and the Cumberland River.
3. Locate Knoxville and the Holston River.
4. How could you travel from Virginia to Knoxville without crossing any mountains?
5. How could you travel from Virginia to Nashville?

The Cumberland Gap was used by Native Americans long before Walker named it in 1750. Animals probably traveled through it before the Native Americans did.

6. Examine the Map of the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park. Note that "Cumberland Mountain" is not shaped like a cone! It is shaped more like a long snake. Note that the "ridge" that runs along the mountain forms part of the boundary between Virginia and Kentucky.
7. A "gap" is a lower altitude place along a ridge. Viewed from the side, it forms a "gap" in the ridgeline. How many named gaps are shown on this map in the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park?
8. Use clay to make a model of Cumberland Mountain, showing the ridge line and the gaps.