

Name(s): _____



The Algonquin Park Visitor Centre Self-Guided Natural History Tour [Answers]

Welcome to the Algonquin Park Visitor Centre. This building was opened in 1993 to celebrate Algonquin's first one hundred years as a Park. Through this activity sheet park visitors will gain a better appreciation of Algonquin Park's fascinating natural history. Please answer the questions or for the statements please fill in the blank(s) or circle the most correct response.

PART A: *Images of Algonquin*

Images of Algonquin is a 12 minute movie focusing on the natural and human history of Algonquin Park.

1. Images of Algonquin

- The two geographic sections of Algonquin Park are the [Highway 60] Corridor and the [Interior].
- Name three activities you can participate in while visiting Algonquin Park. [hike, bike, fish, etc.]
- Name four types of plants or animals shown in *Images of Algonquin*. [Beaver, Loon, Moose, Deer]

PART B: *The Exhibits*

After watching *Images of Algonquin* please now head through the exhibits that start at the top of the ramp near the entrance to the Visitor Centre Theatre.

2. Welcome to the Highlands of Algonquin Park

- Algonquin Park covers [7,600km² in 1993 - currently 7,725]km² and was established in [1893].
- With an elevation of [550] metres, Algonquin's summers are [short] and [cold].
- How many major rivers systems begin in the highlands of Algonquin Park? [six]

3. Where Did these Rocks Come From?

- What are the two major types of rocks found in Algonquin Park? [granite and gneiss]
- Algonquin's two types of rocks are very [**HARD** or SOFT] and [RICH or **POOR**] in nutrients.

4. One Glacier, 3 soils and 3 forests

- How many years ago did the last glacier melt back from Algonquin Park? [11,000 years]
- [Maples] grow on till soils.
- [Pines] grow on sand soils.
- Spruce grows on [peat] soils.

5. Welcome to the Hardwoods

- The dominate tree in the hardwood forests of Algonquin Park is the [Sugar Maple].
- Most hardwood forests in Algonquin Park are found growing on the [NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, or **WEST**] side of the Park.
- Name four common animal species you might find living in Algonquin's hardwood forests. [American Redstart, White-tailed Deer, Ruffed Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher, Barred Owl, (Black Bear - not shown, but claw marks illustrated)]

6. *Living on Borrowed Energy*

a) Name three animals you might find feeding on a dead deer in the winter on a frozen Algonquin Park lake. [Common Raven, Fisher, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Red Fox, Marten, Gray Jay, Wolf]

7. *From Hardwoods to Pine!*

a) What is the second most common forest type in Algonquin Park? [coniferous forest, particularly pines]

b) Which side of the park is this forest type most common? [NORTH, SOUTH, **EAST**, or WEST]

8. *How Much Does She Weigh?*

a) How many Black Bear are there in Algonquin Park? [~2,000]

b) This female bear in the month of June may weigh 65 kilograms, but by mid-October the same bear may have gained [65] kilograms for a total weight of [130] kilograms.

c) Name four things that this female bear may have eaten. [blueberries, acorns, beetle larvae, ants]

9. *How Many Young Do They Produce?*

a) How many offspring can a Red Pine produce? [28,000]

b) How many offspring does a Black and White Warbler produce? [4]

10. *Moose Get Sexy*

a) What is the sole purpose of a male moose's antlers? [to impress female moose and to dominate rival males]

11. *A One-Two Punch for Moose*

a) Name two parasites of moose. [Brainworm and Winter Tick]

12. *How long do they live?*

a) What is the average lifespan of a wolf? [1.2 years]

13. *Heads You Live... Tails You Die*

a) Where is the best place for a female moose to give birth in the spring? [an island - because bears and wolves are less likely to visit]

14. *Why Do Beavers Dam Streams?*

a) How many beaver ponds are there in Algonquin Park? [~2,000]

b) Name four creatures that live in or near beaver ponds [Black Duck, Snapping Turtle, Red-bellied Dace, waterlilies, Belted Kingfisher, Hooded Merganser, Eastern Kingbird]

c) What three structures do beavers build? [dam, lodge, and food pile]

15. *Why Are Rocks Important to Fish?*

a) How many lakes are there in Algonquin? [~1,500]

b) Most lakes in Algonquin Park are [cold] and [deep] and have high levels of dissolved [oxygen].

c) Algonquin Park lakes have [low] nutrient levels because they sit on hard, nutrient-poor [rocks] like [granite] and [gneiss].

16. *Life at the Bottom*

d) Which is a cold water fish found in Algonquin Park? [**LAKE TROUT** or PUMPKINSEED]