

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_



## The Algonquin Park Visitor Centre Self-Guided Human 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 human history. Please answer the questions, fill in the blank(s), or circle the correct response.

### **THE PARK AND US**

Many people imagine that Algonquin is an untouched wilderness. In fact, we humans have been associated with the Park area for thousands of years. During this time we have both changed it and been changed by it. Tour the second half of the exhibits and discover the people who have helped to shape Algonquin Park.

#### ***1. The First Visitors***

- a) Name three food items the Grandfather is preparing. [juniper berries, blueberries and fish (Lake Trout)]
- b) During what season did many families disperse into the rugged highlands of the Park to hunt? [SPRING or SUMMER or AUTUMN or **WINTER**]

#### ***2. Avoidance, Delusions, and Dreams***

- a) Which of the following explorer(s) set foot inside the current boundaries of Algonquin Park? [CHAMPLAIN (1615) or **CATTY** (1818) or **SHIREFF** (1829) or **THOMPSON** (1837)]
- b) "Only in the [1800s] did the first [Europeans] push into what is now the Park. Some came looking for '[canal routes]' to link the Ottawa River with Georgian Bay."

#### ***3. The Sound of Axes***

- a) Logger's arrived in the Algonquin area in [1830s], [60] years before the Park was established.
- b) Name two species of trees lumbermen were interested in cutting. [White Pine and Red Pine]
- c) Today about [three quarters] of the Park area continues to be logged.

#### ***4. Why a Park?***

- a) In what year was Algonquin Park established? [1893]

#### ***5. Farms and Villages in Algonquin?***

- a) [Depot] farms were areas of cleared land used to grow basic crops.
- b) Algonquin Park has had 10 [lumber mills] within its borders and 3 associated [villages].
- c) What happened to the Staniforth Company mill in the village of Kiosk? [Burned in 1973 and the lumber mill was then moved outside the Park]

#### ***6. A Ranger's Work Was Never Done***

- a) Name four tasks an early Park Rangers might accomplish. [chasing poachers, killing wolves, repairing telephone lines, clearing portages, guiding visiting dignitaries]

- b) In 1933 what helped to reduce the problem of illegal trapping in the Park? [winter air patrols]
- c) “Until 1958 rangers, shot, trapped, and sometimes even poisoned wolves in the mistaken belief that this would [necessarily increase the deer population].”
- d) Name 6 species of animals that rangers have shipped to areas outside Algonquin Park to help restore wildlife populations. [beaver, deer, moose, fisher, marten, otter]

### **7. All Aboard!**

- a) What railway was completed by timber baron J.R. Booth in 1896? [Ottawa, Arnprior, Parry Sound (OAPS)]
- b) Name four things these trains would have carried. [timber, grain, troops, and tourists]
- c) The last train chugged out of the Park on this rail line in [1959].

### **8. Will that be Fishing or Tennis?**

- a) “The way we humans enjoy Algonquin have changed dramatically since 1893. Once we came by [train]; now we come by [car]. Once we all stayed in [lodges]; now most of us [camp] or just come for the [day].”
- b) “Between 1905 and 1954, the Ontario government leased over 600 [cottage lots] in Algonquin and about [300] remain today.”
- c) “The first [girls’ camp] in North America opened in 1908 on Cache Lake. A dozen other [youth camps] have followed.”

### **9. Tom Thomson**

- a) Name three occupations that Tom Thomson was noted for? [artist, woodsman, guide]
- b) Where and when did Tom Thomson die? [Canoe Lake, July 8, 1917]

### **10. A Lonely Job But A Great View!**

- a) These tall towers located throughout the Park were used to locate [fires].
- b) Who visited the man in the Crow Lake tower? [two wolves and 6 canoe trippers from Rochester - (Hint: Did you listen to the man in the Crow Lake tower?)]
- c) Towers were eventually replaced by less costly and more efficient [airplanes].

### **11. Fighting the Enemy**

- a) “Forest fires are a natural part of the environment and some trees and wildlife species even [depend upon periodic burning for their perpetuation].”
- b) In todays Algonquin, modern techniques have made fire almost [extinct].

### **12. How You Got Here**

- a) “Over [6,000] people and [3,500] cars visited Algonquin Park when [Highway 60] was completed in 1936, as a make work project in the Great Depression.”
- b) Today “you are one of over [250,000] who will use Highway 60 this year to visit and stay in a Highway 60 Corridor campground, or set out on a canoe trip into the Park Interior.”