

Great Smoky Mountains National Park Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, straddling the mountainous borders of Tennessee and North Carolina, is America's most visited national park, attracting over 11,000,000 people annually. Established in 1934, Great Smoky Mountains National Park was the second national park established east of the Mississippi River.

Located at the southern end of the Appalachian range, the Smoky Mountains are named for the bluish fog that hovers over its peaks and valleys. The Cherokees called the region Shaconage, or, "place of the blue smoke." Great Smoky Mountain National Park features many of the highest peaks in the Appalachian Range, including Clingman's Dome, which rises to 6,643 feet, making it the second highest peak east of the Mississippi River. A total of 16 peaks in the park rise to 6,000 feet or higher.

Because of its varying elevations, the park is home to a wide range of wildlife including thousands of plant species, over 200 species of birds, 50 species of fish and 43 species of amphibians. The park is also inhabited by at least 1,500 black bears. Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a wonderland for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts and features more than 850 miles of trails and unpaved roads.

1. Great Smoky National Park ...

- A. was the first national park established east of the Mississippi River
- B. is located in two states
- C. is located at the northern end of the Appalachian Range
- D. has one peak above 6,000 feet in height

2. What does the following sentence suggest?

Great Smoky Mountain National Park features many of the highest peaks in the Appalachian Range, including Clingman's Dome, which rises to 6,643 feet, making it the second highest peak east of the Mississippi River.

- A. That Clingman's Dome is the highest peak in the Appalachians
- B. That Clingman's Dome is not located in Great Smoky Mountain National Park
- C. That the Mississippi River has many tall peaks
- D. That there are probably higher mountains west of the Mississippi River

3. What does “varying” mean in the following sentence?

Because of its varying elevations, the park is home to a wide range of wildlife including thousands of plant species, over 200 species of birds, 50 species of fish and 43 species of amphibians.

- A. Changing
- B. High
- C. Strong
- D. Uncertain

4. What question is NOT answered in the passage?

- A. Are there fish in the park?
- B. How were the Great Smoky Mountains named?
- C. How many peaks are there in the park?
- D. Where is the park located?

5. What is an “enthusiast” as used in the final sentence?

- A. Somebody who enjoys something
- B. Someone who is used to hard work
- C. Someone who tries things
- D. Someone who had a lot of wisdom

6. What is NOT explained about Clingman’s Dome?

- A. Its rankings in terms of height among North American mountains
- B. How high it rises
- C. Whether or not it is within Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- D. Where it is located relative to the Mississippi River

7. “Shaconage” could be the answer to what question?

- A. What does its name mean?
- B. What was the original name of the park?
- C. What native group lived in the region?
- D. What was the region called by the Cherokee?