

## See if you are a Purgatory Trail expert

**Directions:** Write or circle your answers below. See who can get the highest score.

**No peeking! Answers are on page 2.**



1. Why is the mountain called Purgatory Mountain? This is the mountain Purgatory Trail is found on.
2. The first part of the trail is handicap accessible. True  False
3. The trail starts on the far left side of the Africa parking lot. True  False
4. Even though the trail goes up a mountain, part of the trail goes through a Piedmont Prairie. True  False   
**Bonus Points** - Explain what a prairie is.
5. The trail goes past a number of large rocks that protrude out of the earth. These rocks are really hard so they do not wear down very much over the course of time. They are called Adirondacks after a Native American tribe. True  False
6. There are some soggy bottomlands on the trail called Carolina Bays. True  False
7. The trail runs through an area that is home to an endangered wildflower. The wildflower was first described by the naturalist John Lawson during his colonial-era travels through North Carolina. True  False
8. Children can earn prizes by getting their adults to create an account for them on ecoExplorer. True  False   
*EcoExplorer is a free program for children that are too young to sign up for iNaturalist. The program encourages children to snap photos of animals and plants, send them into ecoExplorer and try to identify what they saw. It is a great citizen science project that is fun and helps scientists track what lives where. Purgatory Trail is an ecoExplore Hot Spot (place where you can get bonus points).*
9. Purgatory Trail is free. True  False
10. Purgatory Trail is dog friendly. True  False
11. At the top of the trail, you might see an old tree with a large oval hole characteristic of the Ivory Billed Woodpecker. True  False
12. Purgatory Mountain is part of which mountain range?
13. That mountain range is the youngest on this continent. True  False
14. There is a geocache near the top of the trail. True  False   
**Bonus Points:** Explain what a geocache is.
15. Sometimes on early fall mornings, you can hear coyotes howling. True  False
16. The trail is not too long or hard, so it makes a great nature walk for families. True  False
17. Purgatory Mountain is the center of North Carolina. True  False

1. **10 points** if you got any of this—The trail goes up Purgatory Mountain. There are a couple of stories about the name. Many of the early European settlers of the area were Quakers. Quakers are pacifists so during the Civil War, young men who were drafted to fight in Confederate army, ran away and hid out on the mountain. The other story says that moonshiners hid their stills on the mountain but folks could see the fires at night. Most of the folks who lived in the area did not understand what Purgatory meant and falsely associated it with the after-worldly place that is said to be hot and full of flames.
2. **5 points—True!**
3. **5 points—False.** It's on the left side of the N. America parking lot.
4. **5 points—True.** It does go through a patch of Piedmont Prairie. **Bonus 5 points—**Literally it means foothill meadow or fairly flat grassland that is great for wildflowers.
5. **10 points— False.** Those big rocks are monadnocks (a Native American word). Adirondacks is a mountain range in New York State.
6. **6 points— False.** The wet spots are called seeps. Just enough water for amphibians to lay their eggs.
7. **6 points— False.** This endangered wildflower is called Schweinitz's Sunflower named after an early Moravian naturalist who first described it.
8. **5 points—True! Give ecoExplorer a try!**
9. **5 points—True.** What a deal!
10. **5 points—True,** but please practice good doggy etiquette, by keeping your dog on a leash and cleaning up any poop!
11. **5 points—False.** It's characteristic of the equally big Pileated Woodpecker.
12. **6 points—** Purgatory Mountain is part of the **Uwharrie** (another Native American word) Mountain range.
13. **5 points— False.** That mountain range is the oldest on this continent. (That's why it's so short in comparison).
14. **6 points— True.** A geocache is a box that is hidden, and you must use a GPS to locate it by its coordinates. Fun for families to do together.
15. **5 points— False.** (They are night howlers.) But you might hear the Zoo's pack of Red Wolves howling.
16. **5 points— True.** The trail is not long or steep. It is fun for even the youngest in the family.
17. **6 points— True.** Purgatory Mountain is the true center of North Carolina. That is why the North Carolina Zoo is located there.

*Add up your points and see where you land: 100 points—you are a true Purgatory Trail expert (do you work at the Zoo?), 80-99 points—you are pretty smart (have you hiked Purgatory Trail?), 48-79 points—you probably live in Randolph County don't you?, 20-47 points—not bad, try the hike sometime! 0-19—don't feel bad, you just need to hike Purgatory Trail!*