



TENNESSEE: Great Smoky Mountains National Park Activity

SMOKY MOUNTAIN SILLIES

Are these strange facts about the Great Smoky Mountain region true or false?

- 1. **T or F** The largest type of salamander in the Great Smoky Mountains can grow to be 29 inches long!
- 2. **T or F** The fireflies can all blink at the same time.
- 3. **T or F** An insect that looks like cotton balls, called the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, helps the hemlock trees absorb water through their leaves.
- 4. **T or F** Once a year, dogs are allowed to roam the park off-leash at a special event called BarkFest.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid



Black Bear

- 5. **T or F** A rare kind of algae called Rock Snot is invading the streams and riverbeds in East Tennessee.
- 6. **T or F** The black bears in the park can run 50 miles per hour.
- 7. **T or F** Some regions of the park receive more than eight feet of rain in a year.

Write down a few more wild, wacky, or wondrous facts that you learn while visiting the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Can you stump your family and friends with your own True or False quiz?

1. True: It's called a hellbender. There are so many salamanders in the park on any given day that they outnumber all of the other vertebrates (animals with backbones), including humans. That's why the Great Smoky Mountains are known as the Salamander Capital of the World!

2. True: Certain fireflies found in the Elkmont area of the park can coordinate their flashing-light pattern so that they all blink at the same time.

3. False: The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid does look like a group of tiny cotton balls, but the bug is harmful and could kill all of the hemlock trees in the Great Smokies if left untreated.

4. False: Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times.

5. True: Thick mats of Rock Snot can smother a stream in no time, which is dramatic waterfalls throughout the park.

6. False: The bears can run 30 miles per hour, which is a lot faster than you! Be sure to keep your distance.

7. True: The average rainfall in the high Conte and Clingmans Dome can get 8 feet in a year. All that rain creates dramatic waterfalls throughout the park.

nothing to sneeze at!