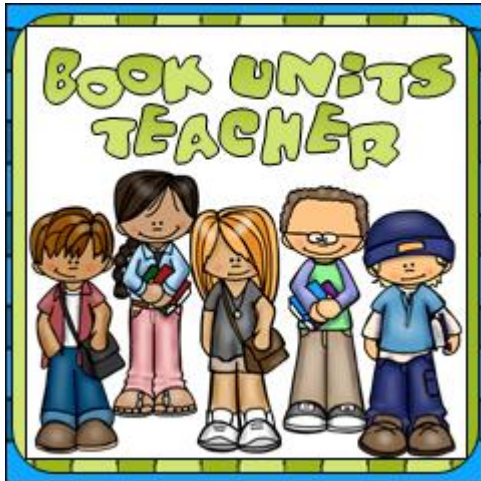


# Ten Interesting Facts . . .



# Survival

This is part of the Ten Interesting Facts Series. It was created by Gray Miller as part of Book Units Teacher educational blog which provides ideas, activities, fun stuff, posters, photos, and printables to aid in classroom instruction.



The blog may be found here:  
<http://bookunitsteacher.com/wp>

You may also be interested in visiting me at these locations:

The Book Units Teacher Website contains teaching resources for math, reading, science, and social studies. Start your exploration here:

<http://bookunitsteacher.com/>



At my Pinterest site, you'll find over a dozen boards devoted to many topics.

<http://www.pinterest.com/lindagaymiller/>

# Ten Interesting Facts . . . . Survival in the Wilderness

## 1. Water

- Humans need eight cups of water each day.
- When 1% of the total water weight of a person's body is lost, the person will feel thirsty.
- Sixteen drops of bleach will treat one gallon of water.
- Approximately 4000 people are treated annually from drinking contaminated water in the United States.
- A person can survive without water for three to five days.

## 2. Food

- A person can survive without food for approximately 30 days.
- Insects and bugs are high in protein and are great survival foods.

## 3. Temperature

- Most hypothermia cases develop between 30 to 50 degrees. Body temperature only has to drop 2° for hypothermia to begin.
- Add 37 to the number of chirps a cricket makes in 15 seconds to determine the approximate temperature.
- The body loses heat twenty-five times faster in water than it does in air.

## 4. Universal Distress Calls

- Three is the universal signal number for distress.
- When you discover you are lost stay where you are and yell "Help!" or blow a whistle 3 times to signal you are lost. Wait several seconds then turn 90 degrees and try again. Keep doing this. If someone yells back, let him come to you. Sometimes echoes may cause you to lose your orientation. Even if someone sounds far away keep yelling. They may sound this way because they are turned away from you.

5. At the moment you realize you are lost you should **S.T.O.P. (Sit, Think, Observe, and Plan)**. The first ten minutes of being lost is when most search fatalities make their deadly mistake. Stay calm and use your head not your feet. Staying calm is important to surviving. Use this acronym to remember:

**S** ⇒ Sit down.

**T** ⇒ Think.

**O** ⇒ Observe your surroundings.

**P** ⇒ Prepare for survival by gathering materials.

6. According to the Charley Shimanski of Mountain Rescue there are ten essential items that every hiker and backpacker should carry. They are:



U. S. Geological Survey topographic map and magnetic compass



flashlight with extra batteries and bulbs



extra clothing including mittens, hat, jacket, and rain gear



sunglasses



extra food and water



waterproof matches in a waterproof container



candle/ fire starter



pocket knife



first aid kit



space blanket or two large heavy-duty trash bags

7. From 1992 to 2007 there were 78,488 individuals involved in 65,439 search and rescue incidents in the United States National Parks.

- 2659 fatalities
- 24,288 ill or injured individuals
- 13,212 saves

8. Search and rescue operations are expensive. On average the United States National Park Services responds to 11.2 incidents daily. This costs around \$895 per operation.

- In 1998 Denali National Park in Alaska rescued eight climbers by helicopter over the course of five days. This rescue cost more than \$220,000. At the time this was the most expensive rescue in history.
- Grand Teton National Park had a record high of more than \$219,000 in 2011. The park completed 33 major searches.
- Rocky Mountain National Park spent \$41,000 to rescue a hiker in May 2014.

9. Most Common Types of Rescues

- Hiking ~ 48%
- Boating ~ 21%

10. Approximately twenty percent of the National Park Service search and rescue missions result in fatality.

Most Common Fatalities Requiring Search and Rescue

- Hiking ~ 22.8%
- Suicides ~ 12.1%
- Swimming ~ 10.1%
- Boating ~ 10.1%

Information Sources

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This post is a great addition to your Hatchet Unit. If you need additional resources to use with the book Hatchet by Gary Paulsen check out [Hatchet Book Unit at Teachers Pay Teachers](#).



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