

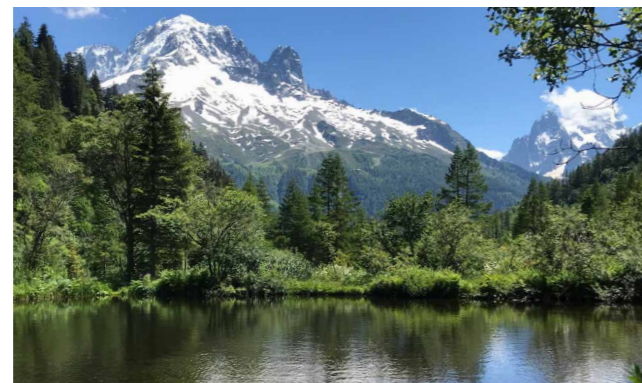
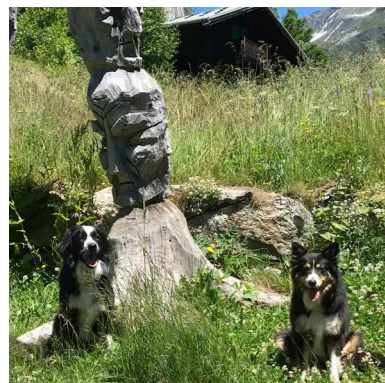
**Thank you for having taken part in our quiz!
We hope you have had a good time.**

You should now be back at the Montroc-le-Planet station.
You might like to know that the picturesque hamlets
of Montroc and le Planet are well worth the visit.
More trails and hidden gems await you!

**Now all you have to do is pop into the Argentière or Chamonix tourist offices
to get your answers checked and hopefully win a prize.**

GOOD LUCK!

YOUR SKETCHES:



Conception : Cybergraph Chamonix

OFFICE DE TOURISME DE LA VALLÉE DE CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

85 Place du Triangle de l'Amitié, 74400 Chamonix • www.chamonix.com • info@chamonix.com • ☎ +33 (0)4 50 53 00 24



CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

NATURE AND HERITAGE QUIZ



**EXPLORE TRÉLECHAMP
AND THE AIGUILLES ROUGES NATURE RESERVE**

**For over a century, the Mont-Blanc-Express links the villages
and hamlets of the Chamonix Valley. Take advantage of this free
service and discover the hidden treasures of our valley!**



For families and friends of all ages
Allow 2h30 to 3 hours, but take as long as you like!
From June to September, depart from Montroc-le-Planet railway station*

SERVOZ - LES HOUCHES - CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC - ARGENTIÈRE - VALLORCINE

*Check the opening hours of the Nature Reserve chalet before you set off

#1 On leaving the station, walk adjacent to the railway line in the direction of the tunnel where you will pick up the path Via des Cutes. On your right you will see an imposing 5-storey building with magnificent wrought iron balconies. Built in the early 1900s in conjunction with the train, this hotel has since been converted to private apartments.

What is the name of the building?



#2 Continue along the path for approximately 300m until you come to an intersection. Take the right-hand path towards the Col des Montets. Immediately on your right meet the totems.

How many are there? What is the inscription on the small wooden sign?



#3 Continue through the meadows and observe the small wooden constructions. In French they are called *grenier*, which translates to grain store.

What is another name for them - of Swiss origin - beginning with M? Choose a grenier and draw it.

#4 You are about to reach the road leading to the col des Montets which you must walk along with caution for 75m until you can get back onto the pathway on your right. You are now in the Aiguilles Rouges nature reserve.

The forest that you are walking through is home to 3 mammals. Can you unscramble their names? DARBEQ • LURQSIRE • XFO

#5 Cross the carpark and follow the botanical trail. The vegetation illustrates how nature has reclaimed its rights on the land. 60 years ago, this area was grazed by cattle in the spring and autumn before and after their summers in the alpine pastures.

Why is this no longer the case?



#6 Just before you reach the stone marker 12, you will see paving stones on the path. You are actually walking along the old mule trail which linked Chamonix with Martigny (Switzerland) via the col des Montets.

How far is the Swiss border from here?



#7 You will soon come across a small lake, look up to the right and you will notice how the cliffs have been eroded by the glaciers that covered this area 10 000 years ago.

Can you name the glaciers which caused this erosion? Look at the rocks and try to work out in which direction the glaciers were flowing.

#8 The Col des Montets can be very hostile in winter due to huge quantities of snow. At the stone marker 16, you will see a large rock on the right of the path. It is known as the *Pierre à Charlet* in memory of locals who perished in an avalanche here.

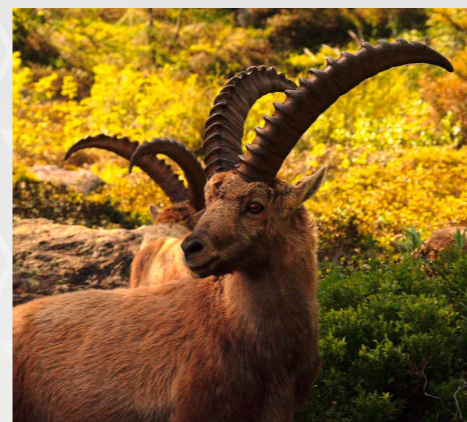
What is the date carved in the stone?

#9 You have arrived at the top of the pass. If you are a keen cyclist, you might like to know that the Tour de France has been this way on 6 occasions since 1947.

What is the altitude of the Col des Montets?

#10 Opposite you is the Aiguilles Rouges chalet-laboratory, which manages the 4,000 hectares of the reserve, created in 1974. Enter the chalet, the staff will be delighted to assist you in your quest.

Find the 3 animals/birds exhibited here, that change colour to adapt to the season.

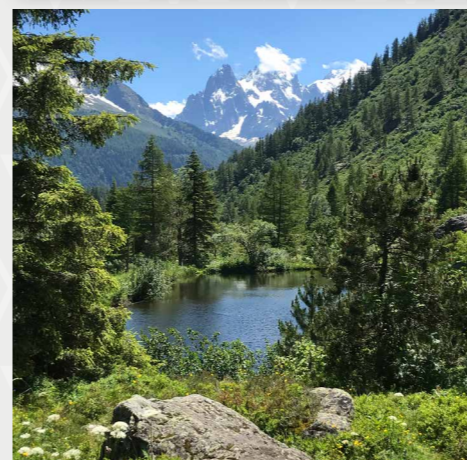


#11 Find the impressive ibex, observe his horns and give an estimation of his age when he died from natural circumstances.

- a. between 11 and 14 years
- b. between 15 and 18 years
- c. between 19 and 22 years

#12 The bearded vulture is a protected bird that feeds on bones and marrow. It is also known as the bone breaker.

What is its technique for breaking the bones that are too large to be swallowed whole? What is the wing span of an adult bird?



#13 Leave the chalet and admire the landscape. In front of you a superb lake is half concealed by massive rocks.

Contrary to the granite of the Mont-Blanc Massif, the Aiguilles Rouges (red needles) are composed of gneiss. The oxidation of one of the components of gneiss produces the red rust colour that have given the mountains their name.

What is this mineral component?

#14 Now take the botanical trail which is on your right as you leave the chalet. You will see a number of plant labels, one of them just before the stone marker 1 indicates the *genévrier* (juniper bush).

What drink is made with juniper berries? Name two other plants in this vicinity which also have edible berries.



#15 From the stone marker 2 you enter into the domain of the green alder (*aulne vert*). This shrub like tree spends 6 to 8 months flattened beneath the snow. It is not affected by the passage of avalanches, contrary to larch and spruce trees which get decapitated each winter.

What is the green alder called in local dialect? Make a sketch of the alder leaf.

#16 Continue straight on and between stone markers 5 and 6, to your right is marmot territory.

These rodent mammals have a very varied diet and feed on over 100 different plants. They live in burrows composed of many galleries and hibernate from end of October to early April.

How do they communicate to alert the colony of danger? Which bird do they fear most?

In French, baby marmots are called:
a. Marmouzets
b. Marmottons
c. Marmites

#17 Continue towards the end of the trail and enjoy the panorama with the Aiguille Verte, les Drus and the Argentière glacier before you.

What is the name of the prestigious ski area beneath the Aiguille Verte?

#18 Now cross the road back to the car park and return back down towards Trélechamps by the same path you took on your way up. When you leave the road to rejoin the path, take the right hand path alongside the stream signposted Argentière?

What is the name of this torrent?

#19 You will arrive in the delightful hamlet of Trélechamps, with its gîte La Boerne, the perfect place for a refreshment stop!

What is a Boerne? What is the etymology of Trélechamps?



#20 Go left in front of the Boerne along the chemin du Cantonier and then continue in the direction of Montroc.

Down to your right you will see the village of Les Frasserands, birthplace of two famous mountain guides: Jean-Esteril Charlet-Straton, first to climb the Petit Dru in 1879 and Armand Charlet.

Which summit did the latter climb 100 times?