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As you leave the cemetery, on your right you will notice the workshop of a talented craftsman who carves wood and stone.

For the final question, head left down to the Maison du Village. This historic building houses the public services, but also nature exhibitions. During holiday periods there is a full programme of nature outings, illustrated talks and film projections.

Up until the end of the last century, what was the vocation of this building?



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

In the entrance hall of the Maison du Village, you have no doubt admired the handsome silhouette of the emblematic guide Michel Croz. Conqueror of many summits across the Alps, he sadly died at the age of 30 after the first ascent of the Matterhorn. He is buried in Zermatt, his legacy is far-reaching. You can discover his family home in the charming village of le Tour.

**Now all you have to do is pop into the Argentière tourist office,
or any tourist office to see how well you have done.**

GOOD LUCK!

YOUR SKETCHES:



Conception : Cybergraph Chamonix

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

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CHAMONIX-MONT-BLANC

NATURE AND HERITAGE QUIZ

Vers un Pays
d'art et d'histoire



En route!



RAIL & TRAIL

DISCOVERING ARGENTIÈRE

**Take advantage of the historic Mont-Blanc Express
and explore the villages and hidden treasures
of the Chamonix valley!**



For families and friends of all ages.
Allow approximately 2 hours, but take as long as you like!
All year round, start from Argentière train station direction the village square.

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

#1 Exit Argentière train station and take the first pathway to your right, indicated chemin des VELARS. Follow this path for approximately 300m. You will walk up into the village with the river on your right-hand side until you come to the tourist office (on your left). Go left to the village square and you will reach the Maison de la Montagne. Alpinism has been an integral part of Argentière's heritage for over 200 years and many illustrious guides originate from this part of the Chamonix valley. The main street of Argentière is named after one of these famous guides and he is also honoured on the facade of the Maison de la Montagne. **What is his name? Indicate one of his climbing achievements and give the date.**

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#2 If you look towards the main Argentière street you will see a hotel called «Le DAHU».

What is a «Dahu»? Make a sketch to illustrate it (back page)

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#3 Leave the village square in the direction of the river and cross the bridge. This river takes its source at the Col de Balme, the natural border with Switzerland.

What is the name of the river? What major river does it flow in to?

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#4 Ahead of you on your left you will see the catholic church of Saint Pierre. It was built by the Argenterauds (inhabitants of Argentière) in the pure alpine Baroque style and consecrated in 1724. Enter the church and it will be illuminated by your presence. Admire the baroque style and the twisted columns of the central altar-piece. These columns are painted to imitate marble, but they are sculptured in a native wood.

Find the name of the tree by decrypting this anagram: sisws nipe. What is the latin name for this tree?

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#5 Baroque alpine art reserved a place of honour to cherub angels, who often represented the children of the parish.

How many angels can you count on the right-hand altar-piece? Who is the saint represented in the middle of this altar?

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#6 Leave the church and continue your way left which will take you into the heart of the old village. On your right you will see a charming granite water trough, in local dialect «le bachal». This is where the cows used to drink on their way to and from the fields. You can drink too!

Can you find the name of this source:

- My 1st syllable is a diminutive of Grandma
- My 2nd is the third letter of the alphabet
- My 3rd is water in French.

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#7 You will notice that granite from the Mont-Blanc Massif is present in many constructions (churches and chapels, old farmhouses etc.)

Admire the small building to the right of the water trough with granite framing the windows and the fine granite steps. We call this construction un grenier, which translates to granary. Before tourism, this is where peasant farmers would store their grain and seeds, important documents, their best clothes etc.

Peasants kept these items separate from their homestead to protect from ?

- a. Eagles • b. Rodents • c. Fire • d. Wolves (2 correct answers)

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#8 Behind the water trough you will see large flat stones, standing like menhirs. Observe well, you will see others on your walk. Remember also for later the name of the path on the sign!

Continue your way through the village and follow the sign indicating chapelle protestante. Just before you reach the railway bridge, look to your right and you will see the charming protestant church. It was built in 1920 by a philosopher and writer called Raoul Allier, in memory of his son who died in combat in the first World War. This church remains unchanged since its origins and celebrated its 100th birthday in August 2020

What is the inscription on the facade? What is the form of the window beneath the eaves?

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#9 Now take the path under the railway bridge and turn right after the river (follow the sign for the «Crémérie d'Argentière»). You are walking through the forest of the moraine. The definition of moraine is an accumulation of unconsolidated glacial debris. **What is the name of the glacier in question?**

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#10 Approximately 200m along this path, you will reach the nature play area - an enchanted spot. At the entrance to the play area, you will see a tree with an unusual form.

What does it resemble? Take a picture souvenir to show you were there.

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#11 Continue into the play area, keeping the stream on your left. You will see a huge rock, covered in lichens and moss. This is a very old rock!

How do you think it got there? (1 correct answer)

- a. Towed by elephants
- b. Dropped by helicopter
- c. Transported by the glacier
- d. It's a meteorite

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#12 In this play area, you will see many forest tree species.

Can you find the names of these 3 native conifers: PURSEC • CLAHR • IRF

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#13 Locals call this enchanted area «la mare aux têtards» (the tadpole pond). **In which season are you likely to meet these amphibians?**

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#14 Now retrace your footsteps back towards the village.

After passing under the railway bridge, ahead of you on both sides of the street you will see the large flat stones.

They are called 'gires'. In the old days, the majority of paths and cart-roads were lined by these stones.

What do you think was their purpose?

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#15 On your right you will see a street sign indicating the «chemin des Courtes» **What does «les Courtes» evoke ? (1 correct answer)**

- a. A plot of land • b. A mountain summit
- c. Some straw • d. Garden gnomes

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#16 Can you recall the name on another sign that evokes the same subject?

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#17 Continue in the direction of the village centre and when you reach the Maison du Marti, head right along the chemin du Vieux Four. You will pass by an old farmhouse on the right which is called les Marmottes! Observe the wooden gallery, which is not wide enough to be a balcony.

What do you think was its purpose in agro-pastoral times? Sketch the motif on the shutters

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#18 Now head to the cemetery ahead on the left. As you enter, turn immediately left. You will see two monumental granite stones which commemorate the guides who have perished in the mountains. Admire the emblem of the ice-axe and rope, symbols of Alpinism.

What do the letters S.G.C stand for? Who is the first named guide on these monuments? In which year and on what summit did he perish? In which country is this summit?

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#19 As you cross the cemetery, admire the magnificent onion steeple with its octagonal gallery. In 1988, the steeple was restored using the traditional material supplied by the English company «London Tinning». It took six months for 2 skilled craftsmen to do the job.

How many tin tiles cover the steeple? a. 1 000 • b. 3 000 • c. 5 000

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