

## [Pikes Peak River Runners](#)

### **The Weakest Link Grand Canyon**



*By Christina King*

*Explanation of Game:* The game is played using the TV concept but we did not bother with voting people off. We had one person calling on everyone in the group equally. I explained that each person was competing by answering the most correct answers and winning a "semi-valuable" prize. The entire group voted several people winners for answering the most correct answers at the end of the game.

It really gives the group a more in-depth appreciation for the area we are traveling through and even our Grand Canyon veterans were "incorrect" some of the time. It was a lot of fun.

#### **State information:**

- What is the capitol of Arizona? Phoenix
- What is the population of Arizona? 7.3 million
- What is Arizona known as? The Grand Canyon State
- Highest elevation? Humphreys Peak, 12,643 feet, located in the San Francisco Mountains north of Flagstaff
- Lowest elevation? Colorado River (Yuma Co.), 70 ft.
- State Flower? Saguaro Blossom
- How long can the Saguaro tree live? Up to 200 years
- State Bird? Cactus Wren
- State Gem? Turquoise
- State Fossil? Petrified wood
- State Tree? Palo Verde
- State Mammal? Ringtail
- State Reptile? Arizona Ridgenose Rattlesnake
- State Amphibian? Arizona Treefrog
- State Neckware? Bola tie
- State Fish? Arizona Trout
- When did Arizona become a state and what number state was it? 1912, 48<sup>th</sup>
- How many hours does it take to drive from Colorado to Lee's Ferry? ~17 hours
- Lee's Ferry is named after who and how many wives did he have? John D. Lee, 19
- What do the initials stand for in Canyon REO? River Equipment Outfitters
- Name one of Arizona's most famous residents? Former U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater, broadcaster Hugh Downs, Watergate figure G. Gordon Liddy, cartoonist Bill Keane, singer Glen Campbell, actress Sean Young, rock star Alice Cooper, actor Leslie Nielsen, US supreme court justice Sandra Day O'Conner and hotelier Leona Helmsley, Senator John McCain
- What is virga? Rain that evaporates before reaching the ground.
- What is non-virga? Getting dipsticked!

## Plants

- What plants cover the walls at Elves Chasm? Ferns
- What is the introduced plant that tastes like salt? Tamarisk or salt cedar
- How long does a Century plant live? 15-25 years
- What cactus can be used to make jelly, syrup and candy? Prickly pear
- What plant has dangerous hallucinogenic properties? Sacred Datura or Jimsonweed

## River:

### About the park and permits

- When was the Grand Canyon National Park established? 1919
- What is the phone number to the river permits office? 800-959-9164
- How many private launches are there per year? ~500
- How many private boaters run the canyon per year?
- How many commercial launches are there per year?
- How many commercial customers are there per year?
- Can a person apply anytime to put their name on the private wait list? NO
- What is the new management system to get a permit? Weighted lottery
- How much does it cost to apply for the lottery ? \$25, either another \$200 or \$400 immediately if you win.
- What is required 90 days before you launch? \$100/person in permit fees
- What is required if your boat is more than 16 feet long? A throwable cushion
- How many spare oars are required per boat? Two
- What emergency signaling equipment is required? Two orange panels (3'x10') and a US Air Force signal mirror
- Name one restricted area for camping? Redwall, Little Colorado and Salt cliffs area river left, Phantom Ranch, Shinumo Creek, Elves Chasm, Tapeats, Deer Creek Falls, Matkatamiba, Havasu, Kanab, river left below Lava Falls
- What are the maximum number of days you can take on the Grand under the permit season? 16 in Summer, 18 in Fall/Spring, 25 in Winter.
- How old do you have to be to be a permit holder on the Grand? 18 at the time of the permit.
- Where does the Colorado River end up? The Gulf of California in Mexico
- How wide is the canyon? The widest point along its 277-mile length is 10 miles.
- What is the narrowest point of the river? 76 feet at Granite Narrows, Mile 136
- How deep is the steepest part of the Grand Canyon? 1 mile deep
- How long is the Grand Canyon trip? 224 miles, 277 miles if you go to Pearce Ferry which is closed, ? miles if you go to South Cove
- Where are the headwaters of the Colorado River? Grand Lake in Colorado
- What was the Colorado Rivers' first name? Rio Colorado by the Spanish then renamed The Grand by early pioneers
- What is the river ranger's name? ??????Peggy???
- Who wrote the best Grand Canyon waterproof river map guide? Larry Stevens (blue cover- out of print) & Duwain Whitis/Tom Martin at RiverMaps
- How many visitors does the Grand Canyon National Park average per year? ~6 million
- What is the temperature of the water coming out from Glen Canyon Dam? 46 F and it warms up 60 degrees by Lake Mead
- Where is the Grand Canyon put-in? Lee's Ferry

- Where is our Grand Canyon take-out? Diamond Creek, you can also take out at Pearce Ferry
- This lake was created by Glen Canyon Dam? Lake Powell
- This lake was created by Hoover Dam? Lake Meade

### Culture

- What Native American tribe that inhabits the area near the Grand Canyon? Navajo
- What Native American tribe inhabits the Havasu drainage? Havasupai
- What Native American tribe inhabits the Diamond Creek drainage? Hualapai
- What does pai mean? The people of...

### History, people and rapids

- Estimated highest flows in the last 4000 years? 250,000 cfs
- Typical pre-dam flows in June? 85,000 cfs
- What Civil War veteran first ran the wild Colorado and when? John Wesley Powell, 1869
- What was his rank? Major
- Where did he lose his right arm? Battle of Shilo, Civil War
- Who first developed the stern first technique of running Grand Canyon rapids? Nathaniel Galloway
- Who were the first women to traverse the river? Dr Elzada Clover and Lois Jotter in 1938
- Who was the first kayaker to run the Grand? Alexander "Zee" Grant in 1941
- Who was known as the "First woman of the River" and the inventor of the "G" rig? Georgie White for running large G-rig commercial trips.
- What was Georgie's typical river attire? A white pitch jungle helmet and leopard skin bathing suit.
- Who was the first person to row the Grand Canyon alone? Buzz Holstrom in 1937, Green River, Wyoming to Hoover Dam
- When was the first jet boat up-river run in the Grand? 1960
- What is a pontoon boat used for? Haul lots of gear and people by commercial outfitters
- What was Martin Litton's choice of boat in the Grand Canyon? Dory
- In 1980, the Fund for Animals safely removed over 500 of these from the Grand Canyon? Burros
- What was "Bright of the Grand Canyon"? A Burro
- Who first swam the entire Grand Canyon and when? John Daggett and Bill Beer in 1955 using water wings
- Where is mile 0? Lee's Ferry
- When was the road to Lee's Ferry built? 1871
- When was the Navajo bridge built? 1929
- What is the (world's largest) bird that can be seen in the Grand Canyon? The condor and do not feed them.
- What state is the condor named after? California
- What rapid sneaks up on the careless drifter? Badger Creek
- What was Soap Creek named after? The dead boiled fat of a raccoon
- Where are the first Anasazi ruins on the Grand? North Canyon
- These cats are fairly common in the canyon and are nocturnal and rarely seen? Ringtail cats
- What can be found at Nautiloid Canyon? Fossils in the limestone
- What is just below South Canyon? Redwall Cavern
- The Anasazi built these to protect their harvests from rodents and hungry strangers? Granaries, the ones are Nankoweep are great
- Who died at mile 24.5 rapid? Bert Loper in 1949
- What does MNA rapid stand for? Museum of Northern Arizona, first discovered the rapid.

- What colors can the Little Colorado river run? Brown, red, blue and white
- The Little Colorado drains how many square miles? 36,900
- Where can a river runner first spy the Desert View watchtower? Near Tanner Rapid area.
- What happened at 21,000 feet above Chuar Butte? TWA and United jets collided in 1956 killing all 128 people aboard.
- What can be found at on the Unkar Rapid delta? Many Anasazi ruins
- Where does the Inner Gorge start? Nevill's rapid
- Why is it called the Inner Gorge? From the river it is not easy to see the outer rim of the Grand Canyon
- What does Sockdolager mean? A knockout blow
- Who had their only flip in 20 years here? Pete at Sockdolager
- This ranch is named after a tributary of Bright Angel Creek? Phantom Canyon
- When was the Kaibab suspension bridge built? 1928
- What day do we pass Phantom Canyon? Typically Day 6
- What three inner-gorge Grand rapids are considered very difficult? Horn Creek, Granite and Hermit
- Who was swept off their raft and swam this rapid? Christina at Granite
- What rapid has the highest waves? Hermit
- What are the section of rapids starting with Crystal rapid known as? The Gems
- When was Crystal rapid formed and how? 1966, during a flashflood
- Where is the Dollhouse? Just above Bedrock, river right.
- What is so hard about Bedrock rapid? Pulling to the right side of the river-wide rock
- What waterfall is located just below Deubendorff Rapid? Stone Creek
- What are the 3 camps that access the Thunder River hike? Racetrack
- According to Pete, what is the best campsite in the Grand Canyon? Ledges
- Where can poison ivy be found? Vasey's Paradise and on the Deer Creek waterfall trail
- Who capsized in Upset Rapid, giving the rapid its name? Emery Kolb
- What chemical forms the pools at Havasu Creek? Travertine
- Vulcan's Anvil is actually the core of a what? Volcano
- Christina has flipped here? Deubendorff & Lava Falls
- What is the origin of the camp named Cremation Creek? Native Americans used to throw the ashes of cremated bodies over this cliff area.
- Where do commercial outfitters commonly exchange and/or takeout passengers? Phantom Ranch and helicopter out customers at Whitmore Wash.
- Where are the last pictographs on the Grand? Three Springs
- What honeymoon couple disappeared from the Grand Canyon while running their sweep boat down the river in 1928? Glen and Bessie Hyde
- What Grand Canyon hot springs are named after a fruit? Pumpkin
- When does the Grand Canyon get the most rain in the form of summer monsoons? August
- What are the odds that the road at Diamond Creek will be washed out? 1 in 30 in August
- What mountain is named after a precious gem? Diamond Peak
- Eat here and get gas....slightly used and abused napkins and straws signify what? Lunch at Delgadillo's in Seligman
- Name 6 rapids that are a very good idea to scout? House Rock, Hance, Granite, Crystal, Deubendorff, Upset, Lava Falls

### **River knowledge:**

- What is river flow measured in? CFS

- What does CFS stand for? Cubic Feet per second
- How do you dispose of dishwater on the Grand? Strain and broadcast in the river current
- Does bleach go in every dish bucket? Yes
- How much bleach goes in the dish buckets? 1 capful each, no more
- Where do you crush cans? Below the high water line
- Where do you urinate? In the river
- What do you do if you have to poop during the day? Tell someone and the toilet will be pulled out. Do not cheat or wait too long.
- Where are good places to get drinking water? Vasey's Paradise, Phantom Ranch, Tapeats Creek and Deer Creek
- Which sidestreams do you generally avoid to collect drinking water? South Rim drainages
- How do you treat the drinking water gathered at open creeks? Add a small amount of bleach (the smallest you can add), mix and let stand overnight before using OR Filter
- Where do you bathe with soap? In the river, NOT in the side streams
- Is any trash biodegradable in the Grand? NO. All trash gets carried out with us.
- Where does ash go? In the ashcan, not in the river.
- Can you burn firewood? Only in the winter season

### **Sports:**

- Who is the KC Chiefs head coach? Andy Reid
- What years did KC Chiefs win the Superbowl? 1970 and 2020
- Quarterback? Patrick Mahomes
- Running back? ??????
- Wide Receiver? Tyreek Hill
- Finest football coach of our time? Marty Schottenheimer
- What is the name of the Chief's football stadium? Arrowhead
- What is the name of the Kansas City professional baseball team? Royals
- What is the University of Kansas mascot? Jayhawk
- What is a Jayhawk? Mythical bird, pioneers associated the word with lawlessness.

### **Misc:**

- What does AARP stand for? American Association of Retired Persons
- How old do you have to be to join AARP? 50, unless someone gives you a gift membership.
- Where does the word "groover" come from? In the early days of rafting we sat directly on rocket boxes to poop and it left grooves on our behinds