




Campbell Tract Quest

Welcome to the Campbell Tract Quest!

Use this special map and set of clues to complete the Quest.

Are you ready to adventure on the land?
Look closely at the map that's in your hands.
This Quest will take you 'round the Campbell Tract.
No matter where you start it, you'll get back.
Nine stars mark stops that you will need to make
To read a clue and learn what acts to take.
You'll learn about this place along the way
And solve a little riddle if you may.
So now be off and have yourself some fun.
Enjoy the Quest, then share what you have done.

 Head to the nearest numbered star, read the associated clue, and follow the instructions. You can go in either direction.

Be a Courteous Quester:

- Step to the edge of the trail when you stop to read clues.
- Keep your dog on a leash.
- Watch out for wildlife.



RIDDLE:

You will see me on your Quest today,
But where I am I cannot say.
I am known to run but never walk.
I have a mouth but do not talk.
I have a head but never weep.
I have a bed but do not sleep.
What am I?

To solve the riddle, follow the directions after the clues to collect a secret letter at each stop. Then write that letter in the corresponding numbered spot in the solution on page 3.


CAMPBELL TRACT QUEST CLUES

1

Tucked in the woods at the end of the road,
The **CCSC** welcomes young and old.
There you can learn about nature, you know,
From mammals to birds, from glaciers to snow.
They'll teach you to use a compass and map,
Build a snow shelter, and make a tarp wrap.
Field trips and workshops, lectures and classes;
Even events attended in masses.
The woods are their classroom, as is the creek.
Come for a program: they're new every week!

*What is something you would be interested in learning about at the **Campbell Creek Science Center (CCSC)**?*

Riddle Letter: *The first letter of the word that describes what the CCSC uses the woods and creek for in the second-to-last line.*


 *Head to the nearest numbered star, read the associated clue, and follow the instructions. You can go in either direction.*

2

Here is a side trip you might want to take
Out a short trail where an airstrip awaits.
Built in the Forties for World War II planes,
It's still used today in all sorts of ways.
Government staff come and go with their gear;
Pilots in trouble can also land here.
For wildland fires and great big earthquakes
It can be used for a responders' base.
It's also a space with wonderful views
And a trail on one side for you to use.

Imagine what this place looked like during WWII with planes landing and taking off. If you use this corridor for recreation, always use the multiuse trail on the west side and watch for planes.

Riddle Letter: *The first letter of the vehicles that land on what is described in this clue.*


 *Head to the nearest numbered star, read the associated clue, and follow the instructions. You can go in either direction.*

3

Go out on the bridge and watch the creek flow;
Think about all the things living below.
The bugs on the rocks that break down what's dead,
Hunt for their food, or catch it with silk thread.
Small fish that catch the tiny bugs to eat
And birds that hunt them too—it's no small feat!
The fish that swim from sea to creek to spawn,
Some of them caught by bears with stealth and brawn.
It's all connected you must surely see,
The creek, the bugs, the fish, and you and me.

Take a moment on the bridge and think about where the water has come from (the Chugach Mountains) and where it is going (Cook Inlet). What do you wonder as you watch the water?

Riddle Letter: *The first letter in the sixth word of the second line.*


 *Head to the nearest numbered star, read the associated clue, and follow the instructions. You can go in either direction.*

4

When war became a scourge we had to face,
On Campbell Tract the Army built a base.
While the fronts of World War II held steady,
Troops of Campbell Garrison made ready.
They erected barracks in a hurry
As Pacific conflicts led to worry.
Although the threats against them seemed quite bold,
The hardest part to deal with was the cold.
Look close to see the features that remain,
Which time and dirt continue to reclaim.
Except the airstrip, still maintained today
For personnel to leave without delay.

Read the interpretive signs about World War II. What is one surprising thing you learned?

Riddle Letter: *The letter that appears twice in the second word of the name of the army station here.*


 *Head to the nearest numbered star, read the associated clue, and follow the instructions. You can go in either direction.*

5

Stop here to rest and look – what do you see?
You are amidst a special type of tree.
With leaves, or bare, the birch is quite a sight.
Its slender trunk and branches are bright white.
The birch is famous for its paper bark,
But don't go pick and peel it on a lark.
Like skin the bark protects it from disease
And insect bites and winter's harsh deep freeze.
In early spring the sap begins to flow,
A signal that the trees should start to grow.
But people know the sap is tasty sweet,
And tap birch trees to gather up a treat!

Take two minutes to look at and listen to the birch forest around you. What do you notice? What do you hear?

Riddle Letter: *The letter that appears five times in "deep freeze."*


 *Head to the nearest numbered star, read the associated clue, and follow the instructions. You can go in either direction.*

6

You've made it to the top, now take a breath.
Look to your right and then look to your left.
Observe the forces of geology,
Of wind and ice and of orogeny.
That word describes the way that hills are formed,
When plate meets plate and mountain range is born.
It's how the Chugach Mountains came to be
As ancient rock was pushed up from the sea.
Dena'ina people lived here long before
The miners came to prospect for gold ore
Or railway tracks were laid across vast space.
They live here still and help care for this place.

You are surrounded by public land. How do you help care for the public spaces you value?

Riddle Letter: *Last letter in the name of the people who have lived in this area for thousands of years.*


 *Head to the nearest numbered star, read the associated clue, and follow the instructions. You can go in either direction.*

7

Around you are a lot of tortured trees.
Take a closer look and what do you see?
Can you find tiny holes that beetles chewed
To lay their little eggs in clustered broods?
Small larvae hatch and chew the wood with ease,
And all their chew, chew, chewing kills the trees.
Spruce aren't the only trees under attack.
You can see birch and aspen fighting back!
They counter pests with great big rounded burls
That grow upon their trunks like wooden pearls.

Find either a dead spruce tree or a tree with a burl on it. What is one thing you notice about the tree? What is one thing you wonder about the tree? What is one thing it reminds you of?

Riddle Letter: The first letter of the name of the rounded growths on the birch trees.


 Head to the nearest numbered star, read the associated clue, and follow the instructions. You can go in either direction.

8

This spot is named for those who jump from planes
And drop onto the land 'midst smoke and flames.
They fight the fires that come too close to town.
But flames are good for forests, we have found.
Some plants and animals need dense spruce trees.
Some need more open space, like fireweed.
So when fire burns an old growth forest down,
New life will come and sprout on that burnt ground.
The forest has more secrets yet to claim,
For when spruce cones are touched by heat and flame
The seeds inside fall to the forest floor.
They slowly grow; the cycle starts once more!

Imagine you are a smokejumper flying over Campbell Tract in an airplane. What would the forest look like from above?

Riddle Letter: The fourth letter of the name of the trailhead.


 Head to the nearest numbered star, read the associated clue, and follow the instructions. You can go in either direction.

9

Traveling along this trail you may see
People who bike, walk, mush, ride, and ski.
At any trailhead, look for a yield sign,
Then do what it says and all will be fine.
Many creatures put this land to good use,
Including coyotes, bears, squirrels, and moose.
Which means we all should recreate with care
And stick to the marked trails that we all share.
Pick up after your pets; don't set them free.
Keep this place perfect for you and for me!

Though you might not see the animals that live here, you can almost always find evidence they leave behind. What signs can you find (such as scat or tracks) that animals live here?

Riddle Letter: The first letter of the name of this trail.

 Head to the nearest numbered star, read the associated clue, and follow the instructions. You can go in either direction.

★ Answer to the Riddle

Fill in the letters you collected in the numbered blanks below.

Note: Some letters go in more than one spot!

Letter: _____
Quest Stop: 1 6 9 2 7 5 3 3 1 4 5 5 8

Congratulations on completing your Campbell Tract Quest!

You have had experiences and collected memories from your trip around the Tract.
Now use what you learned to create a poem and post it to social media with the hashtag #CTQuest!

Here are some sample poem types.

You can choose one of these, use another, or invent your own.

Whatever you choose to do, we hope you return to the Campbell Tract again to enjoy the woods, creeks, and trails.

Haiku

A three-line poem that follows this structure:

Line 1: 5 syllables

Line 2: 7 syllables

Line 3: 5 syllables

the small river, stilled
we hear its voice translated
in soft bells of melt.

— Freya Rohn

Acrostic

A poem in which the first letter of each line going down is the first letter of a particular word.

SPRUCE

Stately,
Prickly Picea.
Rough-barked,
Ubiquitous,
Cone-laden
Enchanters.

— Jamie Wolf

Free Verse

A poem without rhyme or regular meter.

Impression at Campbell Creek

A flock of waxwings settles
into the birch crowns
like leaves regained –
autumn in reverse –
they chatter, flash,
disperse – bohemian –
converge on another crown –
if birds are leaves
and leaves are thoughts,
waxwings are winter
trees thinking – synapses
tick across –
the same tree, bare
all season can
come to conversation
aware, brilliant –
by luck of boughs and birds –
a flickering feast

— Susanna Mishler

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Riddle Answer: Campbell Creek