

# Lake Mitchell History Quiz

Test your knowledge of Lake Mitchell and its surroundings.

Answers to be found at the end.

1. James Mitchell, the second president of Alabama Power and for whom the dam and lake are named, was born
  - a. in Birmingham
  - b. in Montgomery
  - c. in New York City
  - d. in Canada
  - e. on a farm in Shelby County
  
2. Mitchell, born not long after the end of the Civil War,
  - a. worked for an investment banking house in London
  - b. was responsible for the first electric railway system in Rio de Janeiro
  - c. helped build hydroelectric and steam plants throughout Brazil
  - d. all of the above
  - e. none of the above
  
3. The initial work for Mitchell Dam started in 1920 and included surveying, the clearing of timber, and the construction of three camps above the dam site. The pay for workers at the time started out at
  - a. 15 cents/hour
  - b. 25 cents/hour
  - c. \$1.00 per day
  - d. \$3.75 per day for an unmarried man
  
4. Prior to and during construction vast amounts of timber was cut and processed to create an unobstructed lake bed. This timber was then
  - a. shipped to Montgomery and Ft. Payne for building materials and furniture making
  - b. used to create forms for the dam's concrete to be poured into
  - c. employed in the building of 3 coffer dams in the river bed
  - d. used to build the construction camps
  - e. all of the above
  - f. b, c & d

5. One of the *greatest* threats to the dam's construction workers was
- venomous snakes
  - malaria
  - flash floods
  - falls
  - drunken brawls after hours
6. Ferries that used to cross the river and/or lake included
- Mims
  - Smith's
  - Higgins
  - all of the above
  - a & c only
7. Which was not a fishing camp on the Lake?
- Inman's
  - Wyatt's
  - Big Jim's
  - Little Joe's
  - Dixie's
8. The boy scout camp located just south of Bird Creek was called
- Camp Winnataska
  - Camp Arrowhead
  - Camp Mitchell
  - Camp Heron's Nest
  - Camp Eagle Feather
9. Hatchet Creek was originally called
- Little Coosa
  - Big Sandy
  - Ponchishatchee
  - Weoka
  - Sufkahatchee

10. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, which was not a town/community in Coosa County?
- Dollar
  - Gold Branch
  - Fixico
  - Weogufka
  - All were towns or communities in Coosa County
11. After the completion of the Lock 12 project (Lay Dam), in 1917 Alabama Power formed its own construction company for future projects. This construction company was named
- Lay Construction Co.
  - Alabama Building Corp.
  - Dixie Construction Co.
  - The Great Southern Construction Co.
  - Martin & Mitchell Enterprises
12. Of the thousands of acres purchased for the future Lake Mitchell reservoir, the average cost was
- \$17.50/acre
  - \$21.00/acre
  - \$25.00/acre
  - \$30.00/acre
  - \$32.75/acre
13. A spur line off the L&N Railroad main line was built to bring in the huge amounts of material needed to build Mitchell Dam. This spur had its connection point with the main line at
- Clanton
  - Cooper
  - Marbury
  - Rockford
  - Verbena
14. The sawmill town that once had its own post office and commissary but was going to be covered by the impounded waters of Lake Mitchell was called
- Duncanville
  - Wadsworth Town
  - Salem
  - Enid
  - Rushton

15. The location of Mitchell Dam was at a place originally called
- Albert's Overlook
  - Devil's Staircase
  - Duncan's Riffle
  - The Rapids Race
  - Smith's Ford
16. Alabama Power is constantly monitoring the weather in an effort to maintain a relatively constant level on Lake Mitchell. Full pool on the lake is 312 feet above sea level. However, owing to the technology of the day, pre-dam construction maps in 1919 & 1920 showed the projected full pool at what contour line?
- 302 feet
  - 322 feet
  - 332 feet
  - 352 feet
  - 372 feet
17. Lake Mitchell has approximately how many miles of shoreline?
- 215
  - 150
  - 110
  - 92
  - 81
18. The two rivers that come together in Rome, GA, to form the Coosa River are the
- Oostanaula & Etowah
  - Yamasee & Conasauga
  - Chamberlain & Euharlee
  - Choctawatchee & Pea
  - Little Tensaw & Ocoee
19. Put these creeks in order, going north from Mitchell Dam:
- Blue, Big Y, Cargile, Hatchet, Callaway, Walnut, Mountain
  - Blue, Hatchet, Cargile, Bird, Walnut, Clay
  - Cargile, Walnut, Hatchet, Blue, Higgins
  - Blue, Cargile, Bird, Hatchet, Walnut, Yellowleaf
  - Cargile, Hatchet, Goat, Walnut, Clay, Clear Spring

20. Approximately how many river miles are there between Mitchell Dam and Lay Dam?

- a. 8.5
- b. 10
- c. 14
- d. 16.7
- e. 18

21. The Alabama Hwy./S.R. 22 bridge just below Mitchell Dam was completed in

- a. 1941
- b. 1947
- c. 1953
- d. 1958
- e. 1960

22. The opening of the Hwy. 22 bridge put an end to what ferry?

- a. Smith's
- b. Simms
- c. Mims
- d. Burwell's
- e. Knight's

23. The Salem Cemetery is located where?

- a. Next to the Old Salem Church, of course
- b. Off Poinciana Road in Coosa County
- c. Behind G.R.A.C.E.S. Marina
- d. Just west of Lake Mitchell Marina
- e. On the hill behind Blue Creek Marina

24. The Salem Cemetery has approximately how many graves?

- a. 90
- b. 70
- c. 50
- d. 45
- e. 32

25. Two acres for the Salem Church and cemetery were purchased in 1899 for five dollars. What family sold the church this property?

- a. Driver
- b. Cleckler
- c. Calloway
- d. Smith
- e. Holley

26. According to a 1915 U.S. Dept. of the Interior map, the ridge above Mitchell Dam on the Chilton County side was called

- a. Albert's Overlook
- b. Carroll Bluffs
- c. Duncan's Folly
- d. Callaway Crest
- e. Dead Man's Ledge

27. In 1887, Benjamin Franklin Higgins, Sr., bought House's Island, formerly known as The Big Island, for \$750. Sitting in the middle of the river almost opposite the present-day Higgins Ferry boat launch, the island encompassed slightly more than

- a. 75 acres
- b. 54 acres
- c. 33 acres
- d. 11 acres

28. The County Road 55 bridge just below Lay Dam was completed in

- a. 1938
- b. 1943
- c. 1957
- d. 1966
- e. 1979

29. The opening of the County Road 55 bridge put an end to what ferry?

- a. Smith's
- b. Simms
- c. Mims
- d. Burwell's
- e. Inman's

30. Which of these streams do *not* find their way into **Hatchet Creek**?
- Weogufka Creek
  - Noneless Creek
  - Fixico Creek
  - Pennymotley Creek
  - Cove Branch
  - b & e
31. Historical western Coosa county post offices once existed in the communities of Callaway, Dollar, Fixico, Gold Branch and Varnerton. Gray's 1886 New Map of Alabama shows this last town was located
- At the mouth of Hatchet Creek
  - Close to Mt. Moriah Church
  - Midway between Traveler's Rest and Rockford
  - Where Smith's Ferry landed, opposite Cargile Creek
  - Near present-day Barrett's Fish Camp on Hatchet Creek
32. What earlier name for, or spelling variation of, Cargile Creek, has not been used on a map?
- Cargle
  - Gargyl
  - Calloway
  - Cargyl
  - All have been used at one time or another
33. The Creek Indian **Poken (Pakan) Tallassee Council House** appeared on an 1837 map of Alabama. The approximate present day location of this meeting place would be
- At the mouth of Hatchet Creek
  - Above and behind Blue Creek Marina
  - Between Barrett's Fish Camp and Pennymotley East near Bee Branch Creek
  - Near the rapids on Weogufka Creek
  - At the back of Bird Creek
34. Peaches were first introduced to the Creek Indians by
- English traders
  - Riverboat men from Mobile
  - Spanish explorers
  - Fur trappers from the Georgia territory
  - Priests travelling with French explorers

35. In 1901 there was a community on the road that ran from Salem Church on Cargile Creek (near present day G.R.A.C.E.S. Marina) to the western terminus of the Higgins Ferry. This community was just north of the back of present day Pumphouse Slough. This community was called

- a. Callaway
- b. Moriah
- c. Poplar Springs
- d. Enid
- e. Wadsworth

36. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century you would take the Higgins Ferry from the Chilton County side of the river to the Coosa county side. Following the road that led towards the northeast, the first community you would encounter would be on Weogufka Creek. It was called

- a. Weogufka
- b. Dollar
- c. Gold Branch
- d. Weoka
- e. Moriah

37. What explorer and his entourage were the first Europeans to enter the Coosa valley in 1540?

- a. Hernan Cortez
- b. Christopher Columbus
- c. Vasco da Gama
- d. Hernando DeSoto
- e. Giovanni da Verrazzano

38. A century after the explorer referenced above entered the region, the vast kingdoms encountered earlier had been reduced to a number of smaller bands. This was due to

- a. Native Americans being taken away as slaves
- b. An alternating series of droughts and floods
- c. A lengthy war with the marauding Chickasaws
- d. Diseases carried by the European explorers for which the Indians had no immunity
- e. A forced relocation to more western lands by the English



39. In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, who enjoyed a virtual monopoly of trade with the Indians of the region?

- a. The English
- b. The French
- c. The Portuguese
- d. The Spanish
- e. The Dutch

40. Waterways being of prime importance for the transport of goods and trade, in 1717 a fort was built where the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers joined to form the Alabama River just below present day Wetumpka. This fort was named

- a. Fort Strother
- b. Fort Toulouse
- c. Fort Mims
- d. Fort Bienville
- e. Fort Conde

Answers: 1.d, 2.d., 3.b., 4.f, 5.b, 6.d, 7.c, 8.b, 9.c, 10.e, 11.c, 12.d, 13.b, 14.e, 15.c, 16.d, 17.b, 18.a, 19.d, 20.c, 21.d, 22.e, 23.c, 24.a, 25.c, 26.b, 27.b, 28.e, 29.c, 30.e, 31.e, 32.e, 33.c, 34.c, 35.d, 36.b, 37.d, 38.d, 39.a, 40.b

Sources include *Putting "Loafing Streams" to Work* by Harvey H. Jackson III; *Images of America / Alabama Power Company* by James L. Noles, Jr.; *Lake Mitchell* by Alan T. Rogers, Esq., July 1997;

BridgeReports.com.; Lake Mitchell map by Atlantic Mapping, Inc.; Courtney Pinkard w/Ala. Dept. of Archives & History; Amy Moon of Dacula, GA; various maps from <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu>; Wikipedia; <http://aaes.auburn.edu/wrc/resource/rivers-of-alabama/coosa-basin/history>.