



# How deep are your footsteps?

## (A minimal impact knowledge test)

Here is a chance to test your minimal impact knowledge and find out what you really know! Twenty questions relating to minimal impact are detailed. Choose one of the alternatives, in your opinion, best answers each question. If uncertain, make your best guess.

**1. When walking on a graded track system, it is sometimes best to:**

- a. look for short cuts so that you may get to your destination quicker;
- b. walk off the track to take a closer look at objects and features that have caught your interest;
- c. stay on the track and enjoy the sights, sounds and the experience that the walk provides;
- d. whistle or make some other noise to warn off snakes and other creatures that may injure you.

**2. When encountering a muddy patch while walking along a track, it is best to:**

- a. look for a 2 – 3m stout pole, so you may pole vault over the muddy section;
- b. walk around muddy spots in order to keep your boots as dry as possible;
- c. create or look for a short cut that will allow you to bypass the muddy section;
- d. walk through the mud in order to avoid creating multiple paths.

**3. When walking along a track that is poorly defined and has no directional signage, it is best to:**

- a. mark the route to prevent getting lost;
- b. carry a map and compass to check your direction of travel;
- c. ask for directions from other people that you see or pass;
- d. carry a GPS or mobile telephone in case you need to use them.

**4. When camping in an area that has a designated campsite, it is best to:**

- a. set-up your tent on an area that is already impacted;
- b. look for an area that is nice and grassy;
- c. dig drainage ditches to divert rainwater runoff;
- d. construct a fireplace so you can have a fire.

**5. When camping in an area that does not have a designated campsite, it is best to:**

- a. clear an area to set your tent up on;
- b. dig drainage ditches to divert rainwater runoff;
- c. construct a fireplace so you can have a fire;
- d. modify the area as least as possible.

**6. When camping in an area where firewood is supplied, it is best to:**

- a. collect firewood from the surrounding area because the firewood supplied does not burn very well;
- b. have a large fire to provide warmth, social interaction and keep any wild animals away;
- c. keep the fire burning all day just in case you need it;
- d. use a fuel stove for cooking, and if necessary only have a small fire for warmth/relaxation/reflection.

**7. When camping in an area where firewood is not provided, it is best to:**

- a. collect firewood from the surrounding area;
- b. collect firewood from an area well away from the campsite and stockpile for use;
- c. use a fuel stove, because campfires contribute to environmental degradation;
- d. break branches from trees to use and to stockpile for the next person.



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- 8. The best policy with regards to the management of campfires in protected areas is:**
- a. no restrictions except during day(s) of total fire ban (danger of bushfires);
  - b. no campfires at all except for emergencies and management purposes (fuel stove only);
  - c. restricted to fire places and fire pits where provided, fuel stove only in remote/sensitive areas;
  - d. restricted to fire places and fire pits in camping areas, camp fires permitted in remote areas.
- 9. When no bins are provided, rubbish is best disposed of by:**
- a. leaving it at the campsite or picnic area for the Ranger to collect;
  - b. burning, bashing and/or burying it;
  - c. leaving food scraps for wildlife to eat and carrying paper, plastic and tins out;
  - d. carrying it all out and disposing of it off-park.
- 10. When there are no showers or tap/tank water to wash yourself, it is best to:**
- a. use normal soap directly in creeks and rivers;
  - b. wash in creeks etc using biodegradable soap;
  - c. use soap and wash away from creeks etc;
  - d. use no soap, just wash in creeks etc.
- 11. When washing yourself in areas where no facilities are provided, it is best to:**
- a. wash directly in a creek, etc;
  - b. move away from the water source 0 – 10 metres;
  - c. move away from the water source 10 – 50 metres;
  - d. move away from the water source 50 – 100 metres.
- 12. When there is no tap/tank water provided to wash cooking utensils, it is best to:**
- a. use no detergent, just wash in creeks etc;
  - b. wash utensils in creeks using biodegradable detergent;
  - c. use detergent and wash utensils away from creeks etc;
  - d. use a scourer or sand and wash utensils away from creeks etc.
- 13. When washing dishes in areas where no facilities are provided, it is best to:**
- a. wash directly in a creek, etc;
  - b. move away from the water source 0 – 10 metres;
  - c. move away from the water source 10 – 50 metres;
  - d. move away from the water source 50 – 100 metres.
- 14. In areas where no toilets are provided, it is best to dispose of faecal waste by:**
- a. leaving on surface uncovered;
  - b. leaving on surface but covered with leaf litter, sticks or rocks;
  - c. burying amongst soil and humus layer to a depth of 15cm;
  - d. burying in soil layer to a depth of 50cm.
- 15. When in areas where no toilets are provided, it is best to go to the toilet away from:**
- a. Campsites at least ..... metres;
  - b. Streams, creeks, rivers, etc. at least ..... metres.



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**16. Gastroenteritis is a human disease that causes stomach upsets and diarrhoea. On an outdoors trip what would be the most likely cause of someone getting “gastro”?**

- a. drinking contaminated water;
- b. eating food that is not cooked properly;
- c. not washing your hands after going to the toilet then handling food;
- d. from flies landing on exposed faecal matter then on food.

**17. *Giardia* is a human protozoan parasite. If you were diagnosed with *Giardia*, what would your symptoms be?**

- a. headaches, tiredness, nausea;
- b. severe stomach cramps;
- c. diarrhoea and vomiting;
- d. flatulence and a feeling of bloatedness.

**18. On an outdoors trip what would be the most likely cause of someone getting *Giardia*?**

- a. eating food contaminated by flies;
- b. being bitten by infected mosquitoes;
- c. drinking contaminated water;
- d. eating food that is spoiled.

**19. The feeding of native wildlife**

- a. should be encouraged as it promotes people/nature relationships;
- b. should be encouraged because it helps wildlife survive;
- c. should be discouraged because it causes dependency;
- d. should be discourage because it may cause ill health and disease in animals.

**20. Snakes and other wildlife that can cause harm should be:**

- a. killed;
- b. left alone;
- c. scared away;
- d. captured and moved to another area.



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### Scoring

Time to tally your score and see how you measure up. The answers are:

1. C
2. D
3. B
4. A
5. D
6. D
7. C
8. B
9. D
10. C
11. D
12. C or D
13. D
14. C
15. 50 – 100m
16. D
17. C
18. C
19. D
20. B

How'd you go?

**Score: 1 – 5**

*Rating: Walking Disaster*

You may have heard the terms 'Minimal Impact' and 'No-trace Camping' however, your knowledge of these techniques is definitely lacking. Please take a course or read some more to further your understanding of these concepts before venturing into the bush, you are a hazard to its health.

**Score: 6 – 10**

*Rating: Rough Rambler*

While the environment may survive your visit, you are lacking some basic training or have grown rusty as technology and concepts have changed. You need to update your skills and understanding before heading out on your next outdoors trip.

**Score: 11 – 15**

*Rating: Bigfooted Ballerina*

Your outdoor skills are adequate. You have a good grasp of the concepts and skills that are considered desirable and are unlikely to unwittingly trash the areas you visit. However, take care as your footsteps may leave a bigger imprint on the environment than you think.

**Score: 16 – 20**

*Rating: A Lightfooted Tip-toer*

You are extremely conscious of the environment and of ways to minimise your impact while recreating in the out-of-doors. Share your enthusiasm, knowledge and skills with others. Take a Walking Disaster to lunch (but not to a pristine area on the first date).