

# POINT LOBOS STATE RESERVE

“POINT OF THE SEA WOLVES”

“...the greatest meeting of land and water in the world.”

Francis McComas

## Brief History of Point Lobos

Though a permanent settlement was never established in the area now known as Point Lobos State Reserve by the Native Americans due to the lack of fresh water, there is significant evidence to indicate that the American Indians did live here for short periods of time. Once the Europeans arrived, however, in 1769, Point Lobos became much more active, serving as a pasture for livestock, a shipping point for locally mined coal, and the site of a whaling station and an abalone cannery. A portion of the land was even subdivided into residential lots.

In 1898, A.M. Allan bought a large area of land that included portions of Point Lobos and the surrounding residential areas. Fortunately, Allan was not overly avaricious, willing to sacrifice financial wealth in order to protect the area from mass development. In 1933, Point Lobos became part of the new state park system and the park area expanded to include 554 acres of protected land. In 1960, the Reserve added an additional 750 submerged acres of land, creating the first underwater reserve in the nation. In 1973, the underwater reserve was designated as an ecological reserve, thereby granting full protection to all plant and animal life within its boundaries.

To as great a degree as possible, the natural processes occurring at Point Lobos are left undisturbed. Controlled burns, however, are conducted to help reduce the risk of wild fires. Signs are kept to a minimum and strict rules have been established to protect the area and the wildlife which resides there and to help maintain its natural beauty.

## Trails and Hiking

There are thirteen meandering hiking trails that wind through the reserve, allowing visitors to explore the coves and observe the marine life. All trails are designed ONLY for walking. No bicycles, roller blades, or scooters are allowed. There are some trails, however, that are wheelchair accessible.\*

The following are some of the more popular sites:

- **Perimeter Hike** – The perimeter hike is a 6-mile hike that begins at the entrance station. It includes shore trails from Bird Island to Granite Point.
- **Sea Lion Point and Sand Hill Trail** – This 30-minute hike is only .6 miles and is wheelchair accessible. There are a number of cove overlooks allowing one an excellent view of the offshore sea lion rocks. It is a gentle trail through a beautiful seaside garden with natural plants on either side of the trail. One can observe sea otters and harbor seals on the beach or on the low rocks across the cove at the water's edge. A rocky staircase leads to a lower trail and to a rock formation known as Carmelo Formation. This unique formation is over 55 million years old.
- **Whalers Cove & Cabin** – This area was the site of a busy whaling station in the mid-1800s. The parking area at this cove was once an abalone cannery. From this locale, scuba divers may enter the water to enjoy the underwater reserve. The Beechey ground squirrels populate the boulders along the water's edge. Just up the road from the cove is Whalers Cabin, built in the 1850s by the Chinese fishermen who worked as whalers. Adjacent to the cabin is the Whaling Station Museum which first opened its doors in 1994.

- **Bird Island Trail** – Another short 30-minute hike, this trail leads through coastal scrub and it provides access to two beaches, China Cove and Gibson Beach. Colorful wildflowers add to the scenic wonder of this hike. The trail provides an unobstructed view of Bird Island, which is home to a large sea bird colony in spring and summer. Again, one will also be able to observe the sea otters and harbor seals basking in the sun and frolicking in the offshore waters.

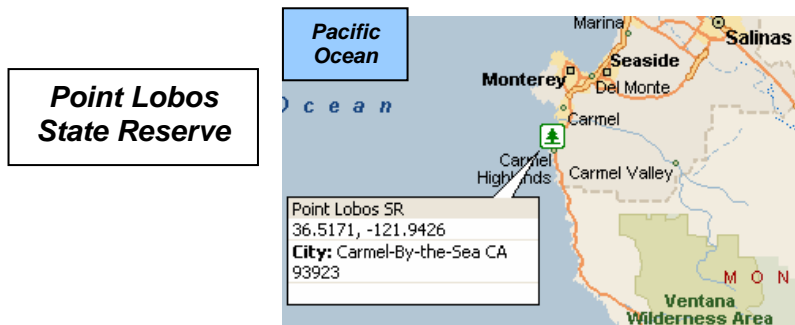
For information on other trails at Point Lobos, visit the website at [www.pointlobos.org](http://www.pointlobos.org).

### **Point Lobos State Reserve Rules**

*Over 300,000 people visit Point Lobos State Reserve every year. Please read and follow these rules. They are designed to protect the pristine beauty of the area and the general welfare of the wildlife. All rules are strictly enforced.*

- **Speed Limit and Parking** - Drive slowly and cautiously. Do NOT exceed 15 mph. NO parallel parking. Park in designated areas ONLY.
- **Trails** - Remain on trails and within wire guides at all times. Bicycles are prohibited. Do NOT climb on trees or rocks.
- **Fire and Smoking** - Campfires, barbecues, and camp stoves are prohibited. Smoking is permitted only in parking lots and vehicles. **No smoking on beaches or trails.**
- **Dogs** - Pets are not allowed in the reserve. Guide dogs for the blind and certified service dogs are allowed.
- **Wildlife** - All animals within the reserve are wild. Do not disturb marine life or other mammals. Do not feed any of the animals.
- **Collecting** - Do not collect, remove, or disturb any natural object including flowers, mushrooms, wood, rocks, shells, etc.
- **Fishing** - Fishing is prohibited in the reserve area.
- **Diving** - Scuba diving is limited to posted areas. All divers must register at the entrance station upon entering the Reserve.
- **Hours of Operation** - The entrance station opens at 6 a.m. everyday. Visitors must exit the park by closing time. Closing time is 5 p.m. October 1 through April 30 and 7 p.m. May 1 through September 30.
- **Fees** - Passenger cars: \$8.00; passenger car with a senior citizen: \$4.00; small coach or van: \$50.00 (10 to 25 passengers); large bus: \$100.00.  
Annual Day Use Pass: \$125.00 (pass valid for one year from date of purchase).

\*Point Lobos Reserve does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the Department of Parks and Recreation at 831-555-4909.



**READING**  
**Grade 10 – Strands 1 and 3**  
**Reading Process and Informational Text**

1. Read the following summary of “**History of Point Lobos.**”

Because Point Lobos lacked a freshwater source, Native Americans never permanently settled there; however, in 1769 European settlers established the area as a livestock pasture, whaling station and cannery, and a shipping port for coal mined in the area. More than 100 years later, it was purchased by A.M. Allen who sought to retain the natural functions of the land. Eventually, Point Lobos became a state park, further protecting the area from development and maintaining the natural ecological processes to as great an extent as possible.

Why is this an effective summary?

- A** It includes important dates and acreage information.
  - B** It addresses the main ideas using original language.
  - C** It is a much shorter version of the original text.
  - D** It covers Point Lobos’ history from 1898 to the present.
2. Based on the passage, what distinguishes this park from other coastal parks of the 1960s and 1970s?

- A** the amount of land it covers
  - B** its diverse animal and plant life
  - C** a portion of it is underwater
  - D** the difficulty of its hiking trails
3. Which of the following leads to a cabin that was built by Chinese fishermen?

- A** Sand Hill
  - B** Sea Lion Point
  - C** Bird Island
  - D** Whalers Cove
4. Based on the passage, how many hiking trails are located within the Point Lobos State Reserve?

- A** 4
  - B** 5
  - C** 13
  - D** 24
5. What would be the entry fee to the reserve for a passenger car with a mother, father, three children and a senior citizen as passengers?
- A** \$4.00
  - B** \$8.00
  - C** \$50.00
  - D** \$100.00

6. Based on what you now know about Point Lobos Reserve compare this reserve/park to one which you have visited or about which you have knowledge. Identify at least 3 similarities and 3 differences. Consider all aspects.

---

---

---

---

---

7. Which trail leads to an underwater reserve that scuba divers might enjoy?

- A Perimeter Hike
- B Sea Lion Point
- C Whalers Cove
- D Bird Island

8. Which of the following trails will lead to a natural rock formation that is over 55 million years old?

- A Whalers Cove
- B Bird Island
- C Perimeter
- D Sand Hill

9. Read the following sentence from the passage:

There are thirteen meandering hiking trails that weave through the reserve...

Based on its use in the sentence, which of the following words or phrases best defines the word meandering?

- A steep
- B winding
- C challenging
- D downhill

10. Based on the passage, what can the reader infer about A.M. Allan's intent when he purchased the area of land which included Point Lobos?

- A to build residential developments
- B to open up the area to coal miners
- C to establish a state park for camping
- D to maintain the natural environment

11. The name of the reserve is Point Lobos which translates to Point of the Sea Wolves. (Sea lions were often referred to as sea wolves.) It was so named in the early 1700's. Do you feel this is an appropriate name for the reserve based on the information presented in the passage? Use specific details from the passage to support your answer.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

12. Which of the following statements would a Point Lobos State Reserve ranger **most likely** say to a visitor planning on walking the Perimeter Hike?

- A Keep your dogs on a leash while in the park.
- B Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes.
- C Make sure you use local firewood for your campfire.
- D Take some extra bread and peanuts for the wildlife.

13. Based on the passage, which of the following statements about Point Lobos is **true**?

- A Visitors in wheelchairs will be unable to access any of the trails.
- B A visitor will find many signs posted throughout the reserve.
- C Visitors to the reserve will see otters and seals on the rocky shores.
- D Most of the wildlife on the reserve are tame and will approach visitors.

14. Read the following sentence from the passage:

Fortunately, Allan was not overly avaricious, willing to sacrifice financial wealth in order to protect the area from mass development.

Based on the context clues, which of the following words is an appropriate definition for the word avaricious?

- A rich
- B ambitious
- C confident
- D greedy

15. Francis McComas said that Point Lobos State Reserve is "...the greatest meeting of land and water in the world." Which of the following statements best summarizes McComas' attitude about Point Lobos?

- A She found the area to be awe-inspiring and beautiful.
- B She was angered by all of residential building in the area.
- C She found the natural environment of the area to be interesting.
- D She was impressed by all of the hiking trails within the reserve.

16. What is the primary purpose of this passage?

- A to provide a detailed history of Point Lobos and the surrounding area
- B to convince scuba divers to come to Point Lobos and enjoy the underwater reserve
- C to provide details about all of the trails and coves located on the reserve
- D to encourage visitors to protect the natural environment within the reserve

17. The Alonso family purchased an Annual Day Pass to the reserve. The family consists of mom, dad, and 2 children. What would be the minimum number of visits within the year's time the Alonso's must make to the reserve before they begin to save money with their pass?

- A 8
- B 12
- C 15
- D 31

18. In what year did all plant and animal life within the reserve gain full protection?

- A 1933
- B 1973
- C 1898
- D 1960

19. Based on the passage, what can the reader conclude about the whalers of the mid-1800s in the Point Lobos region?

- A Some of them were of Chinese descent.
- B Most were killed by European settlers.
- C They also mined for coal in the local mines.
- D They were trained by the American Indians.

20. Identify the following inferences as **Supported (S)** or **Unsupported (U)**.

\_\_\_\_\_ a) The Point Lobos State Reserve is one of the most popular tourist attractions in California.

\_\_\_\_\_ b) Effort has been made to maintain the natural environment within the Point Lobos State Reserve.

\_\_\_\_\_ c) The Department of Parks and Recreation feed the wildlife that live within the reserve.

\_\_\_\_\_ d) The coves and rock formations within the reserve were created by man after the area was designated as an ecological reserve.

\_\_\_\_\_ e) Visitors will be able to see a variety of birds and other wildlife in the reserve.

**21.** Using specific details from the passage, explain why the Department of Parks and Recreation enforces strict regulations.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**READING**  
**Grade 10 – Strands 1 and 3**  
**Reading Process and Informational Text**  
**Answer Key**

Question	Answer	PO
1	B	S3C1PO1
2	C	S3C1PO7, PO2
3	D	S3C1PO3
4	C	S3C1PO3
5	A	S3C1PO3
6	<p><b>Similarities may include that the parks strive to protect the natural environment; they have strict rules designed to protect the ecosystem and wildlife; they are designed for people to enjoy; they have natural flora and fauna; they have restricted areas; they are wheelchair accessible; many more possibilities</b></p> <p><b>Differences may include that the PLR is located on the coast; it has sea life; it does not allow for overnight camping; it prohibits one from bringing their pets; many more possibilities</b></p>	S1C6PO4
7	C	S3C1PO3
8	D	S3C1PO3
9	B	S1C4PO2
10	D	S3C1PO7
11	<p><b>Name is appropriate. The people who came to this site in the early 1700's would have immediately noticed the sea lions, otters, and seals resting on the rocks and swimming in the off shore waters. Not knowing their specific classifications, they would have viewed them as "wolves of the sea." This was probably one of the areas most dominant characteristics.</b></p>	S3C1PO8

12	B	S3C1PO7
13	C	S3C1PO3
14	D	S1C4PO2
15	A	S3C1PO7
16	C	S3C1PO7, PO8
17	C	S3C1PO6
18	B	S3C1PO3
19	A	S3C1PO7
20	a) U b) S c) U d) U e) S	S3C1PO2
21	<p><b>Answers will vary but may include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>To maintain the natural beauty of the park</b></li> <li>- <b>To protect the wildlife and the plants</b></li> <li>- <b>To minimize stress and trauma to the animals that live there</b></li> <li>- <b>To minimize littering, disturbances, and destruction to the environment</b></li> </ul>	S3C1PO8