

Week 1 (April 12)

## Natural Sites and Hiking

CLB 7/8

1.5 Hours

### Reading

Comprehending Information CLB 7

- Understand moderately complex extended descriptions, reports and narrations on familiar topics.
  - Distinguishes facts from opinions.
  - Evaluates ideas in text to draw conclusions.
  - Identifies organization of text and links between paragraphs.

Warm Up - (5-7 mins groups) (5-7 mins as a class)

Break-out rooms discussion:

1. What is your favorite season? Why?
2. What kind of activities do you like to do outside?
3. Have you ever been to any natural attractions in Canada? Where?
4. Have you ever gone camping before?
5. Have you ever seen any rare Canadian wildlife before? What was it? Where did you see it?

Vocabulary - (5-7 mins)

**Maintained:** When something is continually taken care of

**Incline:** an upwards slope

**Decline:** a downwards slope

**Glacier:** A very large ice sheet that stays frozen in winter

**Repel:** to stop something from getting near you (or a place)

**Switchbacks:** a path that goes back and forth (typically on steep hills)

**Scenic:** A beautiful view of an area of land

**Ascent:** the journey upwards

**Outhouse:** very small toilets that are built near hiking trails and campsites

Reading - (10-15 mins to read) (10-15 mins review)



1. The trail is well maintained, and there is shade for most parts of the hike. It starts off with a good incline and you complete 2/3rds of the total incline during the first half of the hike up. It's an easy hike after that, and after a few meters of hike down, you will reach the lake.

The lake is beautiful and the hike feels totally rewarding once you see the lake and glacier.

It took me 3 hours to get to the lake, and I spent 1.5 hours there **soaking up** the view and another 2 hours 20 minutes to get back to the parking lot. I used poles to hike down to make it easier on my knees, but I might have been faster if I was not using poles. However, I would still recommend using hiking poles, especially if you have bad knees.

2. We started at 6:40am. The hike was tiring in some parts but not as extreme as I expected. It just seemed like a very long walk for me because I don't hike often. We made it to the lake around 10am (3 hrs 30 mins to get there), and the view of mountains and the lake were breathtaking! Only about 10 others were there when we reached the top. I was surprised to see a nice sized dock for swimmers, and we went on to a little beach that we had all to ourselves. We had lunch and swam for the next 3 hours and then started walking back. I'm not going to lie...the hike down was rough on my knees and they were hurting pretty bad. Even though it was not an extreme decline, the 2 hours of non-stop downhill was the most difficult part of the hike.

There were a lot of bugs, including my favorite: Horse Flies, but it was nothing that some bug spray won't repel.

Next time I will bring less with me, and will make sure I wear hiking boots (running shoes probably made the knee pain worse). Overall, I think it's **the best bang for your buck** for hikes around here.

**3.** If the parking lot is full, there is plenty of space along the road to park. We arrived around 10:30am in early August.

The switchbacks in the beginning can seem to go on forever, and be careful of your knees on the way back down the switchbacks. The dirt path is well maintained all the way to the end.

I strongly recommend taking the Taylor Meadows route on the way there for an incredibly scenic journey filled with mountains in the background and wildflowers of different colours in bloom.

The lake and the surrounding mountains are as spectacular as everyone says it is.

**4.** Great trail! It is very well maintained, and the ascent is gradual. The hike is long but moderate. This is the most beautiful lake I have seen in BC, a truly world-class destination. The trail is very boring as it mostly goes through a forest, but there is a good view once you get to Lesser Garibaldi Lake. At the end of the trail you will be rewarded with the bluest lake you have ever seen in Western Canada. There were no bugs at the lake either. With the new day pass system due to covid, the trail is a lot less busy now so you might consider carrying bear spray. Walk the entire lake shore if you have time, as the end section is more beautiful with the small islands. By the time I got back to my car, my phone said I walked 22 km.

**5.** Despite the limited day passes available, this is still a super busy hike. I did this hike alone and it was so beautiful! It took me 2.5 hours to get to the top and 1.5 to go back down (I was huffing it pretty hard). The bugs were only bad if you stopped for the first half of the hike, but they disappeared once I was near the top. The first 6km are a series of switchbacks which eventually flatten out as you approach the lake. I've never seen water that blue and that clean in my entire life! You could spend hours here and still feel like you didn't get enough time to enjoy all the beauty surrounding you. There are lots of flowers, birds, and chipmunks around to keep you company too. The only negative thing I'll say about this hike is about the toilets at the top: I've never seen outhouses as filthy as those ones in my entire life, **brace yourselves** and pack extra toilet paper just in case.



- List some of the features that they mentioned about the hike: How does the trail look? How long is it? What amenities (parking, outhouses, picnic tables) are there? Will you see any wildlife? How crowded is the trail?
- What are some things the reviewers liked about the trail?
- What are some things they didn't like?
- What are some things you might want to bring on this hike? How would you prepare?
- Based on these reviews, would you rate this trail as "easy" "moderate" or "difficult"? Why?

### Finding a Trail (7-10 mins)

What information should you look for?

- Overall distance
- Elevation
- Difficulty Rating
- Estimated time
- Day pass/ Camping pass needed
- Wildlife nearby

Task for homework: Find a trail that you would like to try and hike in the summer.