

MOYJIL

POINT RITCHIE

The Point Ritchie-Moyjil quiz - Answers

- 1. What does Moyjil, the Aboriginal name for Point Ritchie, mean?**
Long drag net or fishing basket
- 2. What is a midden?**
Refuse from human activity such as food consumption or preparation.
In the case of Point Ritchie-Moyjil there are extensive shell middens among nearby dunes and within the geological layers of the rocky headland.
- 3. Can you name one of the dating techniques being used at Moyjil?**
Optically stimulated luminescence and radio carbon dating have been used to try and date the archaeological material at Moyjil.
- 4. What is tuff?**
Geological material comprising volcanic ash, which at Moyjil has come from the eruptions at Tower Hill.
- 5. How long does calcrete take to form?**
Calcrete takes 30,000 to 40,000 years to form. Calcrete is formed from calcium carbonate which is the material contained in shells.
- 6. How long ago did Tower Hill erupt?**
The initial eruptions are thought to have been about 30,000 to 35,000 years ago.
- 7. What is the name of the shell commonly found in the middens at Moyjil?**
The wavy turbo. It's scientific name is Turbo undulatus
- 8. What is the name of the Aboriginal nation whose territory includes Moyjil?**
Gunditjmara.
- 9. Moyjil is in which Victorian coastal city?**
Warrnambool.
- 10. What are the branches of science which are helping tell the story of Moyjil?**
Archaeologists and geologists are interested in helping unlock the secrets of Moyjil.
- 11. For how long do some scientists think Moyjil has been inhabited by people?**
Perhaps 60,000 to 80,000 years.
- 12. What special protection has been applied to the site?**
An Ongoing Protection Declaration had been made for the site – including shell middens. This is the highest level of protection available of Aboriginal heritage protection available. Point Ritchie-Moyjil is also listed on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register.

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13. **What is the name of the river at Moyjil?**
The Hopkins River.
14. **What is the name of the ocean that lies to the south of Moyjil?**
The Southern Ocean.
15. **What is a glacial period?**
An ice age or a period of time in which the earth is considerably cooler and the extent of the polar caps is much greater and there are more glaciers.
16. **What is an interglacial period?**
A time between glacial periods when the earth is warmer.
17. **Are sea levels higher or lower during a glacial period?**
Sea levels are lower during a glacial period with more of the earth's water locked up in the polar ice caps.
18. **Name the Warrnambool naturalist who sparked modern scientific interest in Point Ritchie as an Aboriginal site of significance.**
Jim Henry.
19. **Why are scientists cautious about declaring with absolute certainty that Point Ritchie-Moyjil is the oldest Aboriginal site in Australia?**
There remains a possibility that the shell deposits were not made by humans although there is little doubt that more recent shell aggregations are evidence of human activity.
20. **In more recent Aboriginal history, what type of fish was an important food source in the Hopkins River?**
The short-finned eel.