

Reading

Surviving an Animal Attack

Read the text and match 1-5 to (A-H). There are 3 extra variants you don't need to use.



No matter how well prepared you are as a traveller, animals can still attack you. Our advice? Keep your distance!

1 _____. Colin Bristow

I was working as a safari guide in Borswana with four American clients. There was a sudden movement to my left and a charging elephant crashed through some small trees less than 20 feet away. I turned to face it and was immediately knocked over by one of the clients, who was screaming 'run, run' at the top of his voice. I landed on my back between the exposed roots of a large acacia tree. My backpack tangled with one of the roots so that I couldn't move. The elephant was kneeling over me and his thick trunk was smashing into the roots of either side of my body. I managed to free myself from my backpack. A very loud single enraged trumpet pierced the silence as I ran flat out to safety.

2 _____. Craig Bovim

I was attacked by a great white shark while snorkelling off Scarborough beach, south of Cape Town. I was about 80 metres out and had started swimming for shore when I saw it coming towards me at speed. Before I knew it, this huge mouth had taken both my arms, and then its body hit me. It was the thought of dying without saying goodbye to my children that made me fight back. I got my hands free and I knew that unless I got back to the beach quickly, I'd die. I thought the shark would come back for me, but somehow I made it.

3 _____. Chris Haslam

I was camping on a beach in Mexico. It was sunset and I was walking along the coast looking for firewood. Then I noticed a dead cactus which was perfect for the fire. I bent to lift it and felt the slightest prick against my middle finger, which I thought I'd brushed against a cactus spine. It was a scorpion. The pain was intense and sudden. By the time I arrived back at camp, my lips were numb and I was shaking. In the absence of qualified medical opinion, my companions carried on with their game of cards. The next morning, I showed the sting to a local. "Did you play cards with the others last night?" "Of course not; I replied. "I was too ill." He raised his eyebrows. "Too bad. Scorpion stings are very lucky, muchacho."

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4 _____. Baz Roberts

On our penultimate night on the ice, I was just falling asleep at about 11.30 pm when Paul's voice woke me: 'Guys, there's a bear in the camp. I'm serious!' I leant forward on my knees to unzip the tent door. Directly in front, there was a polar bear about ten metres away. It heard the sound of my tent zip and turned to face me, all 600 kilos of him. I started screaming and waving my arms. When he got about one metre away, we grabbed pots and pans and threw them at him. I threw a large jar of coffee powder into the bear's face. If he hadn't turned and walked off at that moment, we wouldn't have survived.

5 _____. Zebedee Ellis (aged six)

I was at a zoo and dinosaur park with mummy and daddy two years ago. I had eaten about 400 tons of ice cream and now I wanted to see more animals. In a large open area next to a pond, daddy saw some big fat pelicans, all full of fish, 'There you are!' he said. 'Some animals for you to annoy.' I was very pleased and danced up and down in front of them. The pelican was very big close up and looked at me for a long time. Then he tried to eat my T-shirt. It didn't really hurt and daddy got this great picture while mummy and somebody else's daddy had to rescue me. I wish it had made some kind of scratch on my skin to show my friends.

Which person:

- A ... was warned about danger by a companion?
- B ... was sorry he wasn't injured?
- C ... was saved by his parents?
- D ... was searching for something when he was attacked?
- E ... accidentally put his client's life at risk?
- F ... was prevented from escaping by a piece of equipment?
- G ... was badly injured by a plant?
- H ... was expecting to be attacked again?

