

## Hatchet Gary Paulson

1. Where was Brian going and why?  
Brian was flying to the Canadian oil fields to visit his father for the summer. His parents were divorced.
2. What kind of work was Brian's father doing in Canada?  
Brian's father was a mechanical engineer and had invented a self-cleaning, self sharpening drill bit. He was working in the oil fields of northern Canada.
3. What was the purpose of the flight to Canada besides taking Brian to his father?  
The plane was carrying drilling equipment needed in the oil fields.
4. What did Brian's mother give him before he got on the plane?  
A hatchet that hooked onto his belt which he felt made him look silly.
5. What happened to the pilot?  
He had a massive heart attack and died.
6. How did the plane get off course?  
When the pilot had his heart attack, his foot hit the pedal and made the plane go off course.
7. What was Brian's plan for landing the plane?  
He decided to keep flying while trying to make radio contact. Then he would look for a lake and try to land on the water.
8. Why does Brian call the trees "the green death"?  
He knows if he flies into the trees, it will tear apart the plane.
9. What is "the secret"?  
Brian saw his mother in a station wagon with a blond man. She was cheating on his father. He did not think his father knew that this is why his mother had wanted a divorce.
10. After the plane crash, how was Brian physically?  
He had a concussion and was bruised all over but no broken bones. He was swarmed upon and bitten by mosquitoes.
11. Brian's first attempt at making a fire fails. What did he try to do?  
He tried rubbing two sticks together.
12. The birds lead Brian to berries. What is at the berry patch when he gets there?  
A bear
13. After being stuck by a porcupine, what does Brian learn is the most important rule of survival?  
He learns that feeling sorry for yourself doesn't work.
14. Why would Brian's rescue be difficult?  
When the pilot had the heart attack, Brian had kept flying for hours until he ran out of gas and the plane had veered off course. Rescue planes would not know where to look for him because he was nowhere near the original flight plan.

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15. What did Brian use as shelter and how did he make it safer?  
He found a hollowed out ledge that provided a roof. He made it safer by weaving dead branches together to make a wall. The ground was sandy which made a good floor.
16. What did the porcupine and Brian's dream make him realize?  
Brian threw his hatchet at the porcupine. It made sparks when it hit the rock wall. Later he realized he could make fire from the sparks.
17. Why is it important to keep the fire burning at all times?  
It was a lot of work to build a fire and it kept the predators away.
18. What happened when Brian ate a lot of "gut berries" or choke cherries?  
They made him very sick. He had a terrible stomach ache and threw up as well as having diarrhea. Later, he found raspberries but learned to eat few of them.
19. What happened to the skunk who tried to steal Brian's eggs?  
Brian yelled at the skunk, threw sand at it and the skunk sprayed him.
20. Where did Brian learn so much about turtles?  
From a TV show.
21. How does Brian solve the problem of not having a way to cook the birds' eggs?  
He ate them raw.
22. Where does Brian put his signal fire?  
At the top of the ridge so it would have a better chance at being seen.
23. What effect did the first plane that flew over and not rescuing him have on Brian?  
He felt hopeless. At first, he was upset that he cut himself with the hatchet to try to end his life. Then he decided that he did want to live. He forgot about being rescued and concentrated on his survival.
24. After making a spear and a bow and arrow, what other food was Brian able to get for himself?  
Fish, birds that he called foolbirds but are really called ruffed grouse, and rabbits.
25. How did Brian's first bow nearly become a disaster for him?  
It broke and nearly blinded him.
26. Why couldn't Brian hit the fish with the arrows?  
Water refracts light making the fish appear to be in a different place than they really were.
27. What did Brian learn that drives all animals in the forest?  
Food
28. What animal attacks Brian?  
A moose
29. What form of weather almost kills Brian? How does it help Brian?  
A tornado – it brings the tail of the plane to the surface of the lake.

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30. Why does Brian want to go out to the plane in the lake?  
He wants to get the survival pack.
31. How does Brian get out to the plane?  
He builds a raft with the help of his hatchet.
32. When Brian gets to the plane, how does the hatchet help him?  
He chops a hole in the side of the plane since the doors are underwater.
33. When Brian retrieves the survival pack, what does he accidentally do that results in his rescue?  
He accidentally leaves on the emergency transmitter. This leads to him being rescued by a bush pilot.
34. What three animals injured Brian?  
The skunk sprayed his eyes and he was blinded for a couple of days.  
A porcupine stuck four of his quills into Brian's leg.  
A moose attacked him and pushed him under the water in the lake and may have broken his ribs.
35. Many of the changes that happened to Brian lasted a long time or a lifetime. Name some.
- He remained lean and wiry for several years because he had lost 17% of his body fat.
  - He gained immensely in his ability to observe what was happening and react to it.
  - He never lost his wonder for food.
  - When he got back, he researched the game and berries he encountered.
36. How long was Brian in the wilderness?  
54 days