

Hidden Bottle Hunt 2023

Explanations for Zone 5 Clues



BottleDrop
Oregon Redemption Center

CLUE 1

The Bottle Hunt always generates a buzz
Could the bottle be found early? Last year it was

Nine counties total, but which will deliver?
Stick to the three named for a river

SOLVE 1

“Buzz” is an early reference to the park’s former use (the town of Milton’s power plant). There are nine counties in Zone 5, and three of them are named after rivers (Malheur, Wallowa, and Umatilla). So this clue narrows to three, and includes a subtle hint about the park.

CLUE 2

Still too many counties in which to search...
Let’s narrow, so you can fast break to the merch

Rank the state by population
You’ll get an assist from trailblazing generations

Put Mo and Bill into a slumber
Search the spot that is twice The Natural’s number

SOLVE 2

This clue narrows to the county. “Fast break,” “assist” and “trailblazing generations” tells us we’re talking about the Portland Trail Blazers. “Mo” and “Bill” are references to Maurice Lucas and Bill Walton, who played together on the Blazers 1977 championship team. Lucas wore jersey number 20, and Walton wore number 32. If we put Mo and Bill into a “slumber” we eliminate those two numbers.

“The Natural” was the nickname given to a more contemporary Blazer great, Brandon Roy, by the team’s former radio announcer, Brian Wheeler. Roy wore jersey number 7, so twice The Natural’s number =14. If you rank Oregon counties by population and you eliminate #20 (Malheur) and #32 (Wallowa), that leaves #14 (Umatilla), where the bottle is hidden.

CLUE 3

This is a story about Jean Baptiste’s mom
Who amidst a crisis kept her calm

Our memory of her stands out in a crowd
Of rugged pioneers and, the nearby lands they ploughed

SOLVE 3

The most famous child named Jean Baptiste in Oregon history is Jean Baptiste



Charbonneau, the son of Sacagawea. However, a contemporary of Sacagawea, Marie Dorion (legendary in her own right, but maybe not as widely known as Sacagawea) also measures prominently in Oregon history, and also had a son named Jean Baptiste. I'll be honest, my hope here was to send you down a bit of a Lewis and Clark rabbit hole, and to demonstrate how hard it is for the mind to move off of a hypothesis when it provides a simple explanation. The real solve is to Marie Dorion. "amidst a crisis kept her calm" is a reference to Dorion heroically keeping her infant children alive for 50 days in the Blue Mountains during the winter. The bottle is hidden at Marie Dorion Park near Milton Freewater. Her memory "standing out in a crowd" of "rugged pioneers" is a reference to the stairway at Marie Dorion Park, on which each stair memorializes a pioneer, and which leads to a large memorial at the top, dedicated to Marie Dorion.

CLUE 4

Did yesterday's clue feel like a lark?
Think a few years later than Lewis and Clark

It's hot outside, so watch your migration
Search near a place known for crimson staplers and affordable hydration

Once at the place, accolades will be earned
By those who leave no stone unturned

SOLVE 4

In case you took the previous clue down the Lewis and Clark rabbit hole, this clue tells you that's not the correct solve. The crimson stapler pays homage to Milton from the movie Office Space, and the reference to "affordable hydration" solves to Freewater. The bottle is hidden at a park near Milton Freewater. Leaving no stone unturned is a hint about how the bottle is actually hidden (behind a stone bench, and under a couple of rocks).

FOUND!

CLUE 5

Muddy frogwater will help you win the game
But you'll need to search near a river with a double name

It once helped illuminate the night sky
But now it memorializes a woman with Tender Ties

Ascend with the help of hundreds of pioneers
Search near the memorial and earn some cheers!

SOLVE 5

"Muddy frogwater" is a local nickname for Milton Freewater. A "river with a double name" is the Walla Walla river, which passes by the park. The park was formerly the home of the Milton power plant, so that's why it "once helped illuminate the night sky." Ascending with the help of hundreds of pioneers is another reference to the staircase memorial at the park, and the "woman with Tender Ties" is a reference to the book trilogy about Marie Dorion. The bottle was hidden right next to her memorial.

