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Greetings from Moose Creek, MT! Okay, okay, Moose Creek is actually a fictional town, but it’s based on several very real small towns near where I live. I had a hard time coming up with a name for this fictional town that wasn’t already being used by one of the 184 real small towns in Montana. And by small, I mean towns with a thousand people or fewer.

Once I did come up with Moose Creek (thanks to my husband’s help with brainstorming), I totally fell in love with it…which is no surprise because I love small towns AND I love moose! So, here are some fun facts about small towns and moose that you can turn into trivia questions or just share with your group. Have fun!

1. Male moose (bulls) shed their antlers once every year.

2. Almost 20% of the American population lives in a very small community (2500 people or less).

3. The meaning of what a “town” is varies from state to state.

4. In the Algonquin language, the word “moose” means “eater of twigs.” Yes, moose are herbivores and must eat almost constantly to consume their required 10,000 calories per day!

5. One of the most unique ghost towns in America is Igloo City, Alaska, where a giant igloo hotel was built but never opened.

6. One of the grossest small-town attractions is Bubblegum Alley in San Luis Obispo, CA (which *technically* qualifies as a small town only because it’s just under 50k in population), where people stick used chewing gum to a 15-foot-high, 70-foot-long mural.

7. A calf moose can outrun a human when it is only five days old.

8. Here in Montana, there’s a small town called Big Timber that locals like to joke about and call Little Twig due to its surprising lack of trees.

9. Sir Scott’s Oasis Steakhouse in Manhattan, MT is rumored to be the “Oasis” mentioned in Garth Brooks’ famous “Friends in Low Places” song.

10. At 243 days, a moose’s gestational period is almost as long as a human’s.