

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “A ROMP OF OTTERS”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, November–December 2016, www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine.

Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine is your guide to wild things. Every other month, six times a year, the magazine arrives in your school library. Each one has a story for Young Naturalists like you. **Are you curious about wild things?** Young Naturalists tells true stories that can answer all kinds of questions such as these—

Have you ever heard of a purple wartyback? How about a pink heelsplitter, pimple-back, or monkeyface? All are Minnesota freshwater mussels. Read Young Naturalists stories to learn which species (kinds) of critters live in Minnesota—frogs, salamanders, snakes, wild cats, wild dogs, weasels, mice, and rabbits.

Want to **peek inside the den of a red fox** and see how the kits grow up? Are you a rock hound searching for agates? Have you ever wondered what’s alive under snow? How animals see? Why is a bluebird blue? How birds fly?

Would you like to hear the true story of **giants of the ice age**? Young Naturalists also tells you about the underground universe. You can read the story of a tiny owl that went to a hospital with an injured wing. Find out about a boy who worked in a logging camp. Read the story of Ojibwe children today hunting and gathering like their ancestors did.

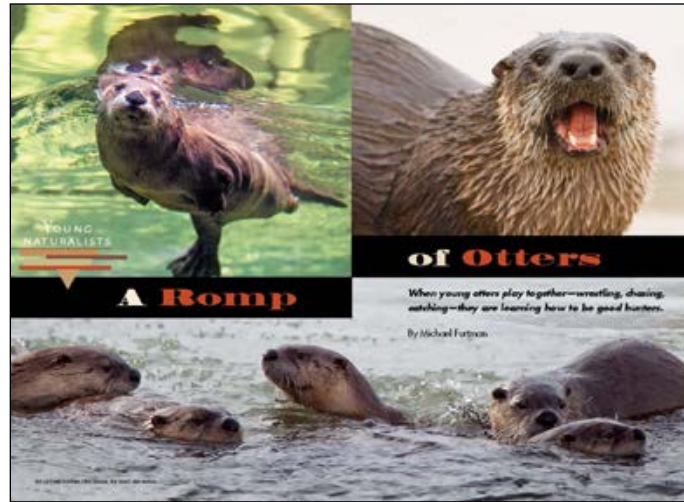
Learn how to get started **camping, snowshoeing, ice fishing, or canoeing**.

Find these stories and more online at www.mndnr.gov/young_naturalists.

Your knowledge of wild things helps you explore and enjoy the outdoors. Have fun!

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1. NAME FIVE ADAPTATIONS THAT HELP RIVER OTTERS LIVE IN WATER.

2. FILL IN THE BLANK: AN OTTER CAN STAY UNDERWATER FOR UP TO _____ MINUTES.

3. HOW DO WHISKERS HELP AN OTTER SURVIVE?

4. NAME SIX THINGS AN OTTER EATS. _____

5. NAME THREE THINGS THAT EAT OTTERS. _____

6. MALE OTTERS MARK THEIR TERRITORY WITH _____ AND _____.

7. HOW MANY OTTER PUPS ARE IN A LITTER? _____

8. HOW DOES A MOTHER OTTER FEED HER NEWBORN YOUNG?

9. WHERE DO RIVER OTTERS LIVE?

- A. rivers
- B. wetlands
- C. ponds
- D. lakes
- E. all of the above

10. WHY DID OTTERS START TO DISAPPEAR AFTER EUROPEAN SETTLERS ARRIVED IN MINNESOTA?

11. WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THEN THAT HAS HELPED OTTERS POPULATIONS RECOVER? _____

12. WHAT DOES THE AUTHOR SAY WE NEED TO DO WE NEED TO DO IF WE WANT TO HAVE OTTERS IN OUR FUTURE?

CHALLENGE: AN OTTER WEIGHS ABOUT 30 POUNDS. WHAT IS THE METRIC SYSTEM EQUIVALENT? _____

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

NAME _____ PERIOD _____ DATE _____

1. Another name for an otter's whiskers is

- A. vibrissae.
- B. vibrators.
- C. glands.
- D. nose needles.

2. AN OTTER CAN GROW TO BE _____ FEET LONG AND WEIGH _____ POUNDS

3. WHY DO YOU THINK GROUPS OF OTTERS ARE CALLED "ROMPS"?

4. True or false: **OTTERS HIBERNATE IN THE WINTER?**

5. A young otter is called

- A. an otterling.
- B. a romp.
- C. a pup.
- D. a kitten.

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE: VOCABULARY

CRAYFISH small, lobsterlike animals that live in lakes and rivers

DAWDLE to move slowly

FERTILIZED (EGG) an egg that is able to grow to become a new animal

GLAND body part that releases hormones or other substances

IMPLANT (EGG) become established inside the mother's body so it can grow

IMPRINT to make a strong impression

JUVENILE young animal

PERISCOPE a device with mirrors that can be used to look above the surface of the water when underwater

POLLUTANT a chemical or other substance that contaminates the environment

RUDDER part of a boat used to steer it

SCOOT to move rapidly

TERRITORY the area in which an animal lives and which it defends

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE: VOCABULARY CARDS

Cut along horizontal lines, fold in the middle and tape or staple. Blanks are provided to allow you or your students to add new words or phrases

What is a
CRAYFISH?

**A SMALL, LOBSTERLIKE
ANIMAL THAT LIVES
IN LAKES AND
RIVERS** is a

FOLD

To **DAWDLE** is

To **MOVE SLOWLY** is to

FOLD

When an egg is
FERTILIZED, it

An egg that **IS
ABLE TO GROW TO
BECOME A NEW
ANIMAL** is

FOLD

What is
a **GLAND**?

**A BODY PART THAT
RELEASES HORMONES
OR OTHER SUBSTANCES**
is called

FOLD

When referring to an egg, to
IMPLANT is to

When referring to an egg,
to **BECOME ESTABLISHED
INSIDE THE MOTHER'S
BODY** is to

FOLD

To **IMPRINT** is

FOLD

To **MAKE A STRONG IMPRESSION** is

A **JUVENILE** is

FOLD

A **YOUNG ANIMAL** is a

What is a **PERISCOPE**?

FOLD

**A DEVICE WITH MIRRORS
THAT CAN BE USED TO
LOOK ABOVE THE
SURFACE OF THE WATER
WHEN UNDERWATER** is called a

A **POLLUTANT** is

FOLD

**A CHEMICAL OR OTHER
SUBSTANCE THAT CONTAMINATES
THE ENVIRONMENT** is a

A **RUDDER** is

FOLD

**A PART OF A BOAT
USED TO STEER IT** is

To **SCOOT** is

FOLD

To **MOVE RAPIDLY** is to

TERRITORY is

FOLD

**THE AREA IN WHICH AN
ANIMAL LIVES AND WHICH
IT DEFENDS IS** its

FOLD

FOLD

FOLD

FOLD

FOLD