

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “SPLENDID FLIERS”

Multidisciplinary classroom activities based on the Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, Sept.–Oct. 2015, 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!

“SPLENDID FLIERS” STUDY QUESTIONS

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1. HOW LONG DO EASTERN BLUEBIRD NESTLINGS STAY IN THE NEST?

2. WHY DID THE YOUNG BLUEBIRD JOIN THE FLOCK OF MIGRATING SONGBIRDS?

3. WHAT WAS HIS WINTER DESTINATION?

4. MINNESOTA BIRDS FLY SOUTH IN WINTER MAINLY TO FIND WARMER WEATHER. TRUE FALSE (EXPLAIN YOUR CHOICE)

5. FISH-EATING MIGRANTS INCLUDE _____ AND _____ . THEY ARE LOOKING FOR PLACES WITH _____ .

6. WHAT MAKES MINNESOTA SUCH A GOOD PLACE FOR MIGRATING BIRDS TO SPEND THE SUMMER?

7. LIST SEVERAL CHANGES IN ITS ENVIRONMENT THAT TELL A BIRD IT WILL SOON BE TIME TO MIGRATE: _____

8. HOW DOES A BIRD'S BODY CHANGE BEFORE IT MIGRATES? _____

9. PURPLE MARTINS TRAVEL A LONG WAY TO THEIR WINTER HOME. WHERE DO THEY GO? _____

10. SOME SPECIES OF MIGRATING BIRDS FLY AT NIGHT. WHY? _____

11. DESCRIBE WEATHER CONDITIONS THAT MIGHT CAUSE MIGRATING BIRDS TO CHANGE THEIR TRAVEL PLANS?

12. WHAT IS THE RANGE OF ALTITUDE (IN FEET) THAT MIGRATING BIRDS FLY? _____

13. IT TAKES BALTIMORE ORIOLES FROM _____ TO _____ WEEKS TO REACH THEIR WINTER HOMES IN _____, _____, OR _____.

14. WHAT DOES THE MAP ON PAGES 40-41 TELL YOU ABOUT MINNESOTA'S MIGRATING BIRDS? _____

15. EXPLAIN HOW BIRDS KNOW WHICH DIRECTION TO FLY WHEN THEY MIGRATE. _____

16. OF EVERY 10 MIGRATING WATERFOWL, HOW MANY WILL USE THE MISSISSIPPI AS A NAVIGATIONAL AID? _____

CHALLENGE: IF AN EASTERN BLUEBIRD FLIES AT AN AVERAGE SPEED OF 25 MPH, HOW LONG WILL ITS JOURNEY FROM ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA TO BRANSON, MISSOURI TAKE? _____

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

NAME _____ **PERIOD** _____ **DATE** _____

1. Why should bird feeders be located near trees and bushes?
 - A. Birds can hunt for insects.
 - B. It's cooler in the shade.
 - C. Birds can hide from predators
 - D. A and C
2. House cats kill an estimated _____ birds each year.
 - A. one thousand
 - B. two billion
 - C. one million
 - D. one billion
3. Chickadees are year-round residents of Minnesota.
 - A. true
 - B. false
4. Red-winged black bird males and females migrate together.
 - A. true
 - B. false
5. A bird's body fat may increase by as much as _____ before it migrates.
 - A. 10%
 - B. 35%
 - C. 50%
 - D. none of the above

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE: VOCABULARY

CALORIE a measurement of the amount of energy in food

GULF COAST refers to the Gulf of Mexico

HABITAT natural environment where an animal or plant lives

INSTINCT behavior that animals do not learn, but are born with

MAGNETIC FIELD energy created by electric currents in Earth's core

PREDICTABLE expected, especially on the basis of previous events

PREDATOR animal that kills and eats other animals

SEASONAL MIGRANT an animal that moves from one area to another when seasons change

SOLO something done alone

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
CALORIE?

FOLD

What is **A MEASUREMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY IN FOOD**?

Where is the
GULF COAST?

FOLD

THE COASTLINE OF THE GULF OF MEXICO is called

An organism's **HABITAT** is

FOLD

The **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WHERE AN ANIMAL OR PLANT LIVES** is its

An organism's **INSTINCT** is

FOLD

BEHAVIOR THAT IS NOT LEARNED, BUT IS PRESENT AT BIRTH is called

What is a
MAGNETIC FIELD?

FOLD

The **ENERGY CREATED BY ELECTRIC CURRENTS IN EARTH'S CORE** is called its

What is a
PREDATOR?

FOLD

An **ANIMAL THAT KILLS AND EATS
OTHER ANIMALS** is a

What does
PREDICTABLE
mean?

FOLD

When something is
**EXPECTED, ESPECIALLY ON THE
BASIS OF PREVIOUS EVENTS** it is

What is a
SEASONAL MIGRANT?

FOLD

**AN ANIMAL THAT
MOVES FROM ONE AREA
TO ANOTHER WHEN
SEASONS CHANGE** is called a

What does
SOLO mean?

FOLD

To do **SOMETHING
ALONE** is to be

FOLD

FOLD
