

# STUDY QUESTIONS

## TO “FLESH EATERS!”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, May-June 2019, [www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine](http://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](http://www.mndnr.gov/young_naturalists).

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

# "FLESH EATERS" STUDY QUESTIONS

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, May-June 2019, [www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine](http://www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine).



**1. THIS STORY MENTIONS THREE KINDS OF INSECT THAT EAT DEAD THINGS. WHAT ARE THEY?** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. NAME THREE THINGS BESIDES DEAD ANIMALS BURYING BEETLES EAT.** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. HOW DOES A BURYING BEETLE FIND ITS MEAL?**

- a. It flies around looking for a dead animal.
- b. It flies around searching for the scent of a dead animal.
- c. It hitchhikes on the back of a mite.
- d. It hides in a trap under a tree until an animal falls in and dies.

**4. True or false: Dozens of burying beetles work together to bury and eat a carcass.**

**5. HOW DOES BURYING ITS MEAL BENEFIT A BURYING BEETLE?** \_\_\_\_\_

**6. WHY WOULD A SCAVENGER BEETLE RUN AWAY IF IT FEELS VIBRATIONS?** \_\_\_\_\_

**7. HOW DO MITES BENEFIT BURYING BEETLES?**

- a. They help dig a hole for the carcass.
- b. They eat fly eggs and maggots that compete for the carcass.
- c. They create the smell that lets beetles know where to find a carcass.

**8. A WIN-WIN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO KINDS OF LIVING THINGS IS CALLED A \_\_\_\_\_.**

**9.** True or false: Burying beetles use their antennae to detect the scent of a carcass.

**10. WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CARCASSES THAT BURYING BEETLES BREAK DOWN? \_\_\_\_\_**

---

---

**11. WHAT TWO WAYS DOES THE AUTHOR USE TO FIND BURYING BEETLES?**

---

---

**12. WHY DO SCIENTISTS THINK WE CAN NO LONGER FIND AMERICAN BURYING BEETLES IN MINNESOTA? \_\_\_\_\_**

---

---

**CHALLENGE: NAME THREE WAYS BURYING BEETLES BENEFIT OTHER LIVING THINGS: \_\_\_\_\_**

---

---

# MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PERIOD \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**1. WHY ARE BURYING BEETLES CALLED BURYING BEETLES?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. NAME THREE KINDS OF SCAVENGERS MENTIONED IN THE STORY.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. HOW DO PHORETIC MITES HELP BURYING BEETLES?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. HOW DO BURYING BEETLES BENEFIT THE MITES?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. PUT THE FOUR LIFE STAGES OF A BURYING BEETLE IN ORDER, STARTING FROM EGG.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**6. THE WAY THAT BURYING BEETLES FEED THEIR YOUNG IS MOST LIKE THE WAY:**

- a. people feed their young
- b. birds feed their young
- c. fish feed their young

**7. WHAT DO BURYING BEETLES DO DURING THE WINTER?**

- a. they hibernate
- b. they fly south
- c. they overwinter as pupae
- d. they keep finding and eating dead things, because things die all year round

**8. WHY MIGHT YOU NEED A STRONG STOMACH TO IDENTIFY BURYING BEETLES?** \_\_\_\_\_

**9. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS ONE OF THE MAIN IDEAS OF THE STORY:**

- a. Kids like insects more than adults do.
- b. You can get sick if you touch dead things.
- c. Burying beetles are part of a complex system that helps recycle dead animals.
- d. Scientists can use traps to catch insects.

# 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

---

**SOMETHING THAT WAS INJURED  
OR KILLED**  
is called a

FOLD

A  
**CASUALTY**  
is

---

**A BODY PART THAT SENSES THE  
PRESENCE OF SPECIFIC  
CHEMICALS** is known as

FOLD

A  
**CHEMOSENSOR**  
is

---

Another name for a  
**DEAD BODY**  
is

FOLD

A  
**CORPSE**  
is

---

**THE SETTING IN WHICH A PLANT  
OR ANIMAL LIVES**  
is called its

FOLD

**HABITAT**  
is

---

**MICROBES**  
are

FOLD

**BACTERIA AND OTHER LIVING  
THINGS TOO SMALL TO SEE  
WITHOUT A MICROSCOPE**  
are called

---

---

**PARTS OF FOOD THAT LIVING THINGS NEED TO SURVIVE**  
are called

**NUTRIENTS**  
are

FOLD

---

When an animal is  
**REGURGITATING**  
it is

When an animal is  
**THROWING UP**  
it is

FOLD

---

**A SCAVENGER**  
is

**AN ANIMAL THAT EATS GARBAGE AND DEAD THINGS**  
is

FOLD

---

**ANOTHER NAME FOR PLANTS**  
is

**VEGETATION**  
is

FOLD

FOLD

FOLD

---