

# STUDY QUESTIONS

## TO “WHAT KIND OF FISH IS THAT?”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, May–June 2020, [www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine](http://www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine).

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*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!*

# “WHAT KIND OF FISH IS THAT?” STUDY QUESTIONS

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1. WHAT THREE THINGS CAN PROVIDE USEFUL CLUES FOR IDENTIFYING A FISH? \_\_\_\_\_

2. WHAT IS MINNESOTA'S STATE FISH?

- a. bluegill
- b. walleye
- c. sauger
- d. northern pike

3. MATCH THE SPECIES OF FISH WITH THE WATER BODY IN WHICH YOU WOULD BE MOST LIKELY TO FIND IT:

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| rainbow trout | St. Croix River |
| sauger        | Lake Superior   |
| walleye       | Mille Lacs Lake |

4. NAME THREE CLUES YOU COULD USE TO TELL A SAUGER FROM A WALLEYE.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. HOW DID THE WALLEYE GET ITS NAME? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO TELL THE THREE MOST COMMON SUNFISH SPECIES APART? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. WHY MIGHT YOU SEE A SUNFISH THAT HAS TRAITS OF DIFFERENT SPECIES?** \_\_\_\_\_

**8. MATCH THE TROUT SPECIES WITH ITS IDENTIFYING TRAIT:**

brook trout	gold color
rainbow trout	pink or red band
brown trout	forked tail
	white edge on the front of fins
	red spot inside blue rings

**9. WHICH TROUT SPECIES ARE NATIVE TO MINNESOTA?**

- a. brook trout
- b. brown trout
- c. rainbow trout
- d. a and b
- e. all of them
- f. none, Minnesota does not have native trout

**10. TRUE OR FALSE:** A catfish got its name because it purrs like a cat.

**11. WHICH OF THESE ARE YOU LEAST LIKELY TO FIND IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER?**

- a. smallmouth bass
- b. brown trout
- c. channel catfish
- d. sauger

**12. WHERE IS ONE OF THE BEST PLACES IN NORTH AMERICA TO CATCH A BIG CHANNEL CATFISH?** \_\_\_\_\_

**CHALLENGE: IF A BLUEGILL WEIGHS TWO POUNDS AND A GREEN SUNFISH WEIGHT 8 OUNCES, HOW MANY SUNFISH WOULD IT TAKE TO WEIGH THE SAME AS THREE BLUEGILLS?** \_\_\_\_\_

# MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

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

1. WHY DOES MINNESOTA HAVE SO MANY FISH SPECIES? \_\_\_\_\_

2. MATCH EACH TRAIT WITH THE SPECIES OF FISH:

spoon-shaped bill	rainbow trout
found in 1,700 Minnesota lakes	pumpkinseed
flecks of bright orange on its sides	muskie
dark lines radiating from its eye	walleye
shaped like a football	paddlefish
eats mammals	channel catfish
not native to Minnesota	smallmouth bass
whiskers	largemouth bass

3. NAME THREE CLUES YOU CAN USE TO TELL A NORTHERN PIKE FROM A MUSKIE. \_\_\_\_\_

4. NAME THREE FISH YOU MIGHT FIND IN THE ST. CROIX RIVER. \_\_\_\_\_

5. NAME THREE FISH WITH WHISKERS. \_\_\_\_\_

6. TRUE OR FALSE: A largemouth bass's mouth is larger relative to its body size than a smallmouth bass's mouth is.

## 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

An  
**ANGLER**  
is a

A  
**PERSON WHO TRIES TO CATCH  
A FISH WITH A HOOK**  
is called an

FOLD

If you are fishing in  
**BACKWATERS,**  
you are fishing in

Another name for  
**THE QUIET PART OF A RIVER AWAY  
FROM THE MAIN FLOW**  
is

FOLD

An animal with  
**FLECKS**  
is an animal with

An animal with  
**SPOTS**  
is an animal with

FOLD

When  
**TWO DIFFERENT VARIETIES  
OR SPECIES**  
mate, they produce a

A  
**HYBRID**  
is the offspring of

FOLD

When something is  
**PROTRUDING,**  
it is

When something is  
**STICKING OUT,**  
it is

FOLD

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Lines that  
**RADIATE FROM A FISH'S EYE**

Lines that  
**EXTEND OR MOVE OUT FROM  
A FISH'S EYE**

FOLD

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An animal that is  
**SLEEK**  
is

An animal that is  
**SMOOTH AND SHINY**  
is

FOLD

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If you've  
**STOCKED UP**  
on candy bars, you've

If you've  
**CREATED A SUPPLY**  
of candy bars, you've

FOLD

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A line that is  
**VERTICAL**  
is

A line that is  
**ORIENTED UP AND DOWN**  
is

FOLD

FOLD

FOLD

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