

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “WEIRD AND WONDERFUL PLANTS”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, September–October 2017, 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!

“WEIRD AND WONDERFUL PLANTS” STUDY QUESTIONS

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1. CHLOROPHYLL HELPS PLANTS MAKE FOOD FROM WHAT THREE INGREDIENTS? _____

2. HOW MANY CENTIMETERS TALL IS A TYPICAL INDIAN PIPE PLANT? (HINT: THERE ARE 2.54 CENTIMETERS IN AN INCH.) _____

3. MATCH THE PLANT TO THE HABITAT IN WHICH IT MOST COMMONLY GROWS:

Indian pipe

Jewelweed

Brittle prickly pear

Mistletoe

Pitcher plant

sandy, gravelly, rocky locations

soggy wetlands

forests

damp, shady spots

branches of a coniferous tree

4. EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF THE TWO COMMON NAMES OF *IMPATIENS CAPENSIS*. _____

5. HOW DOES CLOSING ITS STOMATA DURING THE DAY BENEFIT A PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS? _____

6. COMPARE AND CONTRAST THE WAY JEWELWEED AND MISTLETOE SPREAD THEIR SEEDS. _____

7. NAME THREE KINDS OF ANIMALS THAT EAT MISTLETOE. _____

8. HOW FAR CAN A MISTLETOE SHOOT ITS SEEDS?

- A. 20 inches
- B. 20 feet
- C. 20 yards
- D. 20 miles

9. WHAT BENEFIT DO PITCHER PLANTS GET FROM THE INSECTS THEY TRAP?

- A. the insects keep mosquitoes and midges away
- B. the insects provide nutrients
- C. the insects produce a liquid the pitcher plants need
- D. it keeps the insects from bothering them.

10. _____ AND A _____ MAKE IT HARD FOR INSECTS TO ESCAPE ONCE THEY HAVE FALLEN INTO A PITCHER PLANT'S PITCHER.

11. HOW DOES A PITCHER PLANT ATTRACT INSECTS TO ITS TRAP? _____

CHALLENGE: BOTH TOUCH-ME-NOT AND MISTLETOE SHOOT THEIR SEEDS FROM THEIR SEEDPODS. WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE OF MOVING SEEDS AWAY FROM THE PARENT PLANT WHEN THEY ARE RIPE?

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

NAME _____ PERIOD _____ DATE _____

1. HOW DO INDIAN PIPE PLANTS GET THEIR FOOD? _____

2. DESCRIBE A PLACE YOU HAVE BEEN WHERE YOU MIGHT FIND JEWELWEED.
WHY DO YOU THINK JEWELWEED MIGHT GROW THERE?

3. WHAT DO PRICKLY PEAR LEAVES LOOK LIKE?

- A. flat, thick, green
- B. spines
- C. grass
- D. rocks

4. NAME TWO THINGS A MISTLETOE FRUIT CONTAINS. _____

5. HOW DO HAIRS HELP PITCHER PLANTS TRAP 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

CHLOROPHYLL is

A GREEN MOLECULE THAT USES ENERGY FROM THE SUN TO TURN WATER AND CARBON DIOXIDE INTO SUGAR AND OXYGEN is called

CONIFEROUS plants

Plants that **BEAR SEEDS IN CONES OR SIMILAR STRUCTURES** are

When something is **FAVORABLE** it is

When something is **HELPFUL**, it is

A **FREELOADING** plant or animal

Something that **GAINS BENEFITS WITHOUT GIVING IN RETURN** is called

FUNGI are

PLANTLIKE LIVING THINGS THAT GET THEIR ENERGY FROM OTHER LIVING OR DEAD THINGS are called

To **GERMINATE** is to

FOLD

To **SPROUT** is to

A **MIDGE** is
a kind of

FOLD

A kind of
TINY FLY is

**A SWEET SUBSTANCE THAT
ATTRACTS INSECTS** is known as

FOLD

NECTAR is

NETTLES are

FOLD

**PLANTS WHOSE LEAVES
CREATE A BURNING FEELING
WHEN YOU TOUCH THEM** include

NUTRIENTS are

FOLD

**SUBSTANCES PLANTS NEED
TO LIVE AND GROW** are called

A **PARASITE** is a living thing that

FOLD

**GETS ITS FOOD FROM
ANOTHER LIVING THING**

POLLEN is

FOLD

**THE MALE CONTRIBUTION
TO A SEED** is known as

Another word
for **TENSION** is

FOLD

TIGHTNESS is
another word for

FOLD

FOLD

FOLD

FOLD