

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “WHAT POOPED HERE?”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, January–February 2019, 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 THREE THINGS YOU CAN LEARN BY STUDYING SCAT? _____

2. WHY SHOULD YOU AVOID TOUCHING SCAT? _____

3. HOW DOES EATING ITS OWN SCAT HELP A RABBIT? _____

4. WHY WOULD YOU BE MORE LIKELY IN THE SUMMER TO FIND MOOSE SCAT NEAR LAKES AND RIVERS THAN IN A FOREST? _____

5. WHAT CLUE WOULD TELL YOU THAT A SCAT LIKELY DOES NOT BELONG TO A BOBCAT? _____

6. NAME TWO ANIMALS THAT USE SCAT TO MARK THEIR TERRITORY. _____

7. HOW MANY WOLVES LIVE IN MINNESOTA? _____

8. EASTERN COTTONTAILS, WHITE-TAILED DEER, MOOSE, AND RUFFED GROUSE ALL HAVE PELLET-SHAPED SCAT. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT WHAT THEY EAT THAT MIGHT HELP EXPLAIN THIS SIMILARITY?

9. WHY MIGHT BEAR SCAT SMELL GOOD?

10. WHAT THREE THINGS MAKE UP THE MUTE THAT A BALD EAGLE PRODUCES?

11. WHY IS IT EASIER TO FIND GROUSE SCAT IN THE WINTER THAN IN THE SUMMER?

- a. Because grouse don't poop in the summer
- b. Because grouse scat looks like other things you find on the forest floor in summer
- c. Because the catkins grouse eat in winter make their scat smell sweet
- d. Because grouse can't hide their scat from predators when snow is on the ground

12. MATCH THE ANIMAL WITH ITS SCAT-RELATED TRAIT:

Eastern cottontail	poops up to 21 times per day
White-tailed deer	scats are 3 to 5 inches long
Moose	has harder droppings in winter than in summer
Bobcat	contents vary a lot because they eat so many kinds of food
Coyote	combines poop with urine and uric acid
Wolf	slightly curved with a white coat
American black bear	eats its own scat
Bald eagle	often smells sweet
Ruffed grouse	hard to tell apart from a coyote, but likely to contain more meat and less fruit and seeds

CHALLENGE: Bald eagles and ruffed grouse are both birds, but their poop is very different. Why?

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

NAME _____ PERIOD _____ DATE _____

1. NAME FOUR KINDS OF ANIMALS THAT USE RUMINATION TO DIGEST THEIR FOOD. _____

2. True or false: Fawns eat their own poop to avoid being detected by predators.

3. NAME TWO WAYS BEAR SCAT AND COYOTE SCAT ARE SIMILAR AND TWO WAYS THEY ARE DIFFERENT. _____

4. THINK OF A SORTING RULE YOU CAN USE TO CATEGORIZE THE VARIOUS KINDS OF SCAT PRESENTED INTO THIS STORY INTO TWO OR THREE GROUPS, THEN LIST THE ANIMALS REPRESENTED IN EACH GROUP. _____

5. FOR SEVERAL ANIMALS FEATURED, SCAT LOOKS DIFFERENT AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF THE YEAR. WHY? _____

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 object with
CHAMBERS
has

FOLD

SEPARATE SPACES within
an object are known as

A playground that is
DEVOID OF TREES

FOLD

A playground that
LACKS TREES
is

An
INSULATOR
is something that

FOLD

Something that **PREVENTS THE
TRAVEL OF HEAT, ELECTRICITY,
OR SOUND** is an

**WHAT YOUR BODY
GETS FROM FOOD**
is known as

FOLD

NUTRITION is

An
OBLONG
object

FOLD

An object that **IS LONGER IN
ONE DIRECTION THAN IN
OTHER DIRECTIONS** is

When something happens
REGULARLY,
it happens

FOLD

When something happens
AT SET INTERVALS,
we say it happens

To
REINGEST SOMETHING
is to

FOLD

To **EAT SOMETHING**
AGAIN
is to

FOLD

FOLD

FOLD

FOLD