**Study Questions**

**to “What Pooped Here?”**


*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, pimpleback, 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!*
“What Pooped Here?” Study Questions


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?
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.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>An object with <strong>chambers</strong> has</th>
<th><strong>Separate spaces</strong> within an object are known as</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A playground that is <strong>devoid of trees</strong></td>
<td>A playground that <strong>lacks trees</strong> is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>An insulator</strong> is something that</td>
<td>Something that <strong>prevents the travel of heat, electricity, or sound</strong> is an</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What your body gets from food</strong> is known as</td>
<td><strong>Nutrition</strong> is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>An oblong object</strong></td>
<td>An object that <strong>is longer in one direction than in other directions</strong> is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When something happens <strong>REGULARLY,</strong> it happens</td>
<td>When something happens <strong>AT SET INTERVALS,</strong> we say it happens</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>To REINGEST SOMETHING</strong> is to</td>
<td><strong>To EAT SOMETHING AGAIN</strong> is to</td>
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