

# STUDY QUESTIONS

## TO “LITTLE STINKERS”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, November–December 2017, [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 a bluebird is 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!*

# “LITTLE STINKERS” STUDY QUESTIONS

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, January–February 2018, [www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine](http://www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine).



1. **WHEN DOES A SKUNK SPRAY?** \_\_\_\_\_

2. **HOW MANY SKUNK SPECIES LIVE IN MINNESOTA?** \_\_\_\_\_

3. **WHAT ARE THREE CLUES WE CAN USE TO TELL THAT A SKUNK IS A MAMMAL?**

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

4. **WHAT DO YOU CALL AN ANIMAL THAT EATS OTHER ANIMALS?**

- a. herbivore
- b. mammal
- c. furbearer
- d. carnivore

5. **WHAT CHARACTERISTIC OF A SKUNK DO YOU THINK MADE SCIENTISTS NAME IT AFTER THE ROMAN GODDESS OF VOLCANOES?**

- a. it gives off foul-smelling gases
- b. it lives underground
- c. it has black and white strips
- d. it eats dead things

6. **WHERE DO SKUNKS GO WHEN THE WEATHER GETS COLD?** \_\_\_\_\_

7. HOW DOES TORPOR HELP A SKUNK SURVIVE? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. A MALE SKUNK IS CALLED A \_\_\_\_\_. A FEMALE SKUNK IS CALLED A \_\_\_\_\_.

9. TRUE OR FALSE: NEWBORN SKUNKS HAVE STRIPES. \_\_\_\_\_

10. HOW DOES PLAY HELP A BABY SKUNK SURVIVE? \_\_\_\_\_

11. A GROUP OF SKUNKS IS CALLED A:

- a. herd
- b. surfeit
- c. flock
- d. pride

12. NAME THREE THINGS A SKUNK MIGHT EAT. 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

13. WHAT PREDATOR CAN EASILY GET AROUND SKUNKS' DEFENSES, AND HOW DOES IT DO IT? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CHALLENGE:** The striped skunk's Latin name is *Mephitis mephitis*. Why do you think scientists give living things Latin names? Hint: The article mentions two other names for the skunk: skunk and *segankw*. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

# MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

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

## 1. WHERE DO SKUNKS LIVE?

- a. on farms
- b. in towns
- c. in cities
- d. all of the above

## 2. WHAT SENSE ARE SKUNKS MOST LIKELY TO USE TO FIND PREY?

- a. sight
- b. hearing
- c. touch
- d. smell
- e. taste

## 3. HOW DO SKUNKS GET READY FOR WINTER?

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## 4. WHY WON'T A MOTHER SKUNK LET MALE SKUNKS NEAR HER KITS?

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## 5. HOW DO SKUNKS HELP PEOPLE?

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# 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

A **DEN** is

FOLD

**AN ANIMAL'S HOME**  
is called its

**THE PROCESS BY WHICH A BODY BUILDS AND BREAKS DOWN MOLECULES TO CARRY OUT THE BUSINESS OF STAYING ALIVE** is called

FOLD

**METABOLISM** is

**NAUSEA** is the sense that you

FOLD

When you feel like you **NEED TO THROW UP**, you have a sense of

**AN ANIMAL THAT KILLS AND EATS OTHER ANIMALS** is a

FOLD

A **PREDATOR** is

**RABIES** is

FOLD

**A DEADLY DISEASE CAUSED BY A VIRUS THAT CAN INFECT SKUNKS AND OTHER WILD MAMMALS AS WELL AS DOGS AND HUMANS** is called

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**THE AREA AN ANIMAL  
LIVES IN AND DEFENDS**  
is called its

FOLD

A **TERRITORY** is an

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When something  
is **TOXIC**, it is

FOLD

When something is **CAPABLE  
OF POISONING**, it is

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To **VACCINATE** is to

FOLD

To **GIVE A WEAKENED OR  
DEAD FORM OF A DISEASE  
ORGANISM TO HELP  
PROTECT AGAINST  
DISEASE** is to

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FOLD

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FOLD

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FOLD