

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “THE SHY BEAR”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, Nov.–Dec. 2015, 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.

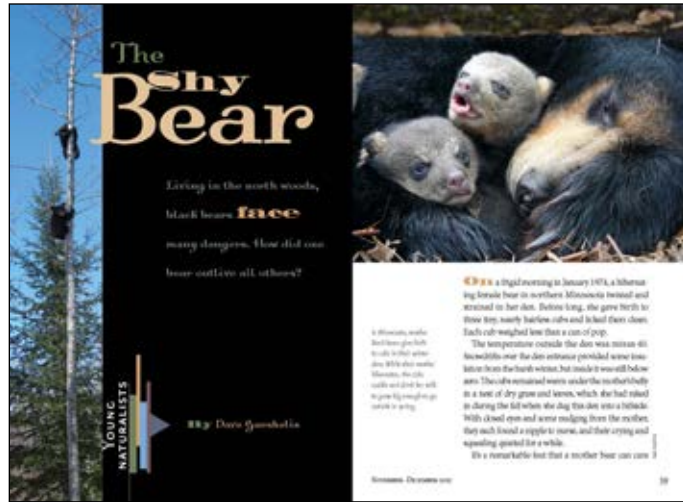
Learn how to get started **camping, snowshoeing, ice fishing, or canoeing**.

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. WHAT PROTECTED THE BEARS' DEN FROM THE EXTREME COLD TEMPERATURE OUTSIDE? _____

2. WHY IS IT AN ADVANTAGE FOR BEAR CUBS' SURVIVAL TO BE BORN DURING WINTER? _____

3. IF A NEWBORN CUB WEIGHS ABOUT AS MUCH AS A CAN OF POP (390 GRAMS), HOW MUCH WEIGHT DO CUBS GAIN BEFORE THEY LEAVE THE DEN? _____

4. HOW OLD WAS BEAR 56 WHEN SHE CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF DNR BIOLOGISTS? _____

5. WHY DID BIOLOGISTS EXTRACT ONE OF HER TEETH? _____

6. WHAT PERCENT OF MALE BEARS SURVIVE THEIR CUB YEAR IN CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST? EXPLAIN HOW YOU GOT YOUR ANSWER. _____

7. WHY DO NORTHERN MINNESOTA BEARS HIBERNATE? _____

8. POLAR BEARS, GRIZZLY BEARS, AND BLACK BEARS ARE ALL CARNIVORES. HOW DO THEIR DIETS DIFFER? _____

9. WHAT TECHNOLOGY DID BIOLOGISTS USE TO STUDY BEAR 56'S MOVEMENTS?

10. WHAT DO BLACK BEARS EAT IN EARLY SPRING? _____

11. DURING THE YEARS SHE WAS OBSERVED, HOW MANY LITTERS OF CUBS DID BEAR 56 HAVE? _____

12. WHAT WAS UNIQUE ABOUT BEAR 56'S 25TH YEAR? _____

13. DESCRIBE CHANGES IN BEAR 56'S PHYSICAL CONDITION AND BEHAVIOR AS SHE NEARED AGE 30. _____

14. HOW DID BEAR 56 DIE? _____

15. SINCE 1974, HOW MANY BLACK BEARS HAS THE DNR TRACKED WITH RADIO COLLARS? _____ WHAT PERCENT LIVED BEYOND 30 YEARS? _____ WHAT PERCENT DIED A NATURAL DEATH? _____

16. WHY DID BEAR 56 LIVE SO LONG? _____

CHALLENGE: CREATE A TIME LINE OF BEAR 56'S LIFE. YOU MAY CHOOSE THE FORMAT, AND YOU MAY WORK BY YOURSELF OR WITH A SMALL GROUP.

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

NAME _____ **PERIOD** _____ **DATE** _____

1. When did bear 56 die?

- A. 2015
- B. 1974
- C. 2013
- D. She is still alive.

2. Why didn't a hunter kill bear 56?

- A. She wore brightly colored ear tags.
- B. She lived in a wildlife refuge, where hunting was prohibited.
- C. The DNR asked hunters not to shoot her.
- D. A and C

3. What was the difference in bear 56's body weight between 1981 and 2006?

- A. 50 pounds
- B. 30 pounds
- C. 112 pounds
- D. 60 pounds

4. Bear 56's home range was the Chippewa National Forest.

- A. true
- B. false

5. Explain the title of this story.

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE: VOCABULARY

BIOLOGIST scientist who studies organisms

CANINE TEETH long, pointed teeth at the front of the jaw, sometimes called fangs

CARNIVORE an animal that eats other animals

CURRENT an acidic berry in the gooseberry family

HABITAT the environment in which an organism lives

HIBERNATION seasonal slowdown of body function that occurs when food is scarce and weather is cold

HOME RANGE area within which an individual animal lives

LARVA wormlike immature insect that hatches from an egg

MIGRATION movement from one area to another

PREDATOR animal that kills and eats other animals

PUPA an insect's developmental stage between larva and adult; usually enclosed in a cocoon

RANGE geographic area within which a species is found

SPECIES a group of animals or plants that are similar and can produce young animals or plants that can also reproduce

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE: VOCABULARY CARDS

Cut along horizontal lines, fold in the middle and tape or staple. Blanks are provided to allow you to add new words or phrases

What is a **BIOLOGIST**?

**A SCIENTIST WHO
STUDIES LIVING
ORGANISMS** is a

FOLD

What are **CANINE TEETH**?

**LONG POINTED TEETH AT THE
FRONT OF THE JAW, SOMETIMES
CALLED FANGS** are

FOLD

A **CARNIVORE** is

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

FOLD

A **CURRENT** is

**AN ACIDIC BERRY IN THE
GOOSEBERRY FAMILY**
is called a

FOLD

What is a **HABITAT**?

**THE ENVIRONMENT IN
WHICH AN ORGANISM
LIVES** is called its

FOLD

What does
HIBERNATION
mean?

FOLD

**A SEASONAL SLOWDOWN OF
BODY FUNCTION THAT
OCCURS WHEN FOOD IS
SCARCE FOOD AND WEATHER
IS COLD** is called

What does
HOME RANGE
mean?

FOLD

The **AREA WITHIN WITH
AN INDIVIDUAL
ANIMAL LIVES** is its

What is a **LARVA**?

FOLD

The **WORMLIKE IMMATURE
INSECT THAT HATCHES FROM
AN EGG** is called a

What does
MIGRATION mean?

FOLD

The **MOVEMENT FROM
ONE AREA TO ANOTHER**
is known as

What is a **PREDATOR**?

FOLD

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

What is
a **PUPA**?

FOLD

**AN INSECT'S DEVELOPMENTAL
STAGE BETWEEN LARVA
AND ADULT, USUALLY
ENCLOSED IN A COCOON,** is a

An specie's **RANGE** is

FOLD

**THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA
WITHIN WHICH A SPECIES
IS FOUND** is its

What is a **SPECIES**?

FOLD

**A GROUP OF ANIMALS OR
PLANTS THAT ARE SIMILAR
AND CAN PRODUCE
YOUNG ANIMALS OR PLANTS
THAT CAN ALSO REPRODUCE** is a

FOLD

FOLD

FOLD

FOLD
