**STUDY QUESTIONS**

**to “The Shy Bear”**


*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!**

Prepared by Jack Judkins, Curriculum Connections Minnesota
“The Shy Bear” Study Questions


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?
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

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____________________________________________________________________

7. Why do northern Minnesota bears hibernate?

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____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

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

**Currant**  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 with 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
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