Study Questions to “Tiny Travelers”


*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!
**“Tiny Travelers” Study Questions**


1. **Caterpillars are worms that turn into insects.** True False

1. **How do scientists classify land snails?** ______________________________________

2. **Where are gastropods found?** ______________________________________

   ______________________________________

   ______________________________________

3. **How many species of land snails live in North America?** ______

   About how many species of land snails live in Minnesota? ______

4. **Another name for a land snail’s tongue is** ____________________.

5. **Minnesota’s smallest land snail is 1/16 inch long and its largest land snail is 2 inches long. How many times longer is the largest snail than the smallest snail?** ________________

6. **True or false: Snails use gills rather than lungs to breathe.**

7. **How does mucus help a land snail survive?** ____________________

   ______________________________________

   ______________________________________

8. **Dead plants provide __________ and __________ for snails.**
9. What percent of snails and snail species are lost when a fire burns their habitat?  

10. Name three kinds of animals that eat snails.  

11. Which of these do snails use to help them move around?  
   A. their own muscles  
   B. other animals  
   C. water  
   D. wind  
   E. all of the above  

Challenge: The article tells us that 85 percent of Minnesota land snails are tiny snails. How many times more tiny snails are there than big snails?  

---

**Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment**

**Name** __________________________ **Period** ____ **Date** ____________

1. What species forms a leaf into a tube for its winter home?  
   A. *Papilio polyxenes*  
   B. *Limenitis arthemis arthemis*  
   C. *Synchloora aerata*  
   D. None of the above.

1. What sense does a snail use most to learn about its world?  
   A. smell  
   B. sound  
   C. sight  
   D. touch

2. How does a land snail get rid of body wastes?  

3. What does a land snail use instead of teeth for eating food?  

4. What do land snails eat? 

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

5. How does a land snail's blood get around its body without arteries or veins? _____

____________________________________________________________________

**Student Study Guide: Vocabulary**

**algae** plants or plantlike living things that make sugar from sunlight and are found in wet places

**ambush** surprise attack

**colonize** settle into a place to live

**hermaphrodite** an animal with male and female body parts

**humus** decomposed plant and animal matter

**lichens** living things that are part algae or cyanobacteria and part fungus

**phylum** a category into which scientists place related living things

**tentacles** body parts used to feel and grasp objects
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What are <strong>algae</strong>?</th>
<th><strong>Plants or plantlike living things</strong> that make sugar from sunlight and are found in wet places are</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is an <strong>ambush</strong>?</td>
<td><strong>A surprise attack</strong> is called an</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When animals <strong>colonize</strong> a place, they</td>
<td><strong>To settle into a place to live</strong> is to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is a <strong>hermaphrodite</strong>?</td>
<td><strong>An animal with male and female body parts</strong> is called a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is a <strong>humus</strong>?</td>
<td>Another name <strong>for decomposed plant and animal matter</strong> is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lichens</strong> are</td>
<td><strong>Living things that are part algae or cyanobacteria and part fungus</strong> are known as</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A <strong>phylum</strong> is</td>
<td><strong>A category into which scientists place living things</strong> is a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are <strong>tentacles</strong>?</td>
<td><strong>Body parts used to feel and grasp objects</strong> are often called</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>