

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “TURTLE POWER”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, November–December 2018, 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!

“TURTLE POWER” STUDY QUESTIONS

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1. HOW MANY TURTLE SPECIES ARE NATIVE TO MINNESOTA?

2. WHAT ARE THREE CHARACTERISTICS TURTLES SHARE WITH OTHER REPTILES? WHAT TRAIT SETS THEM APART? _____

3. NAME TWO BENEFITS TURTLES GET FROM BASKING IN THE SUN. _____

4. WHAT DO TURTLES EAT? _____

5. WHAT EATS TURTLES? _____

6. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR A MOTHER TURTLE TO DRINK A LOT OF WATER BEFORE SHE CRAWLS ONTO LAND TO LAY HER EGGS? _____

7. THE TOP OF A TURTLE'S SHELL IS CALLED A _____ AND THE BOTTOM IS CALLED A _____.

8. WHERE DO YOUNG PAINTED TURTLES OFTEN SPEND THE WINTER?

- a. In their nest
- b. On floating logs
- c. In piles of dead leaves
- d. In Florida

9. MATCH THE TURTLE WITH THE TRAIT:

Painted turtle	lies buried in the muck with its snout stuck in the air
Map turtle	has lines on its shell like those on a topographic map
Softshell turtle	has a bright yellow throat
Snapping turtle	stomps the ground to attract earthworms
Blanding's turtle	has orange, red, and yellow markings
Wood turtle	has strong jaws for biting food

10. NAME FOUR THREATS THAT ARE MAKING IT HARD FOR WOOD TURTLES TO SURVIVE IN MINNESOTA. _____

11. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, HOW DOES TRASH HURT A TURTLE?

- a. It makes them sad
- b. It attracts raccoons and other animals that might eat them
- c. The smell makes it harder for them to find food
- d. It poisons their water

CHALLENGE: Turtles use armor rather than the ability to move quickly to protect themselves from predators. What other animals can you think of that use a “shelter in place” approach to staying safe? What traits does each have that helps protect them?

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

NAME _____ PERIOD _____ DATE _____

1. True or false: Turtles have ears but can't hear.

2. ONE SCIENTIST CALLED TURTLES "ONE OF THE GREATEST SUCCESS STORIES IN ALL OF NATURE." WHY? _____

3. NAME THREE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP TURTLES THRIVE IN MINNESOTA. _____

4. WHY ARE SOFTSHELL TURTLES SOMETIMES CALLED "PANCAKE TURTLES"?

a. Because they are flat like a pancake

b. Because they eat pancakes

c. Because you can use them to make pancakes

d. Because you can find them in pools of water in the same way you can find pancakes in pools of syrup

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 CAVITY

is

FOLD

A HOLE

is

A CRAYFISH

is a

FOLD

One kind of

SMALL, LOBSTER-LIKE ANIMAL

is known as

When something is **HINGED**

it is

FOLD

When something is **CONNECTED WITH A DEVICE THAT ALLOWS MOVEMENT** it is

TO LURK

is

FOLD

TO HANG OUT IN A SECRET OR HIDDEN WAY is

MUCK is a common word for

FOLD

SLIMY, WET SOIL OR OTHER SUCH MATERIAL is often known as

THE AREA AN ANIMAL LIVES IN
is known as its

FOLD

An animal's **RANGE**
is

**THE POINTY END OF
AN ANIMAL'S FACE**
is called its

FOLD

A **SNOUT**
is

A TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
is

FOLD

**A MAP WITH LINES THAT
INDICATE CHANGES IN
ELEVATION**
is called

Another name for
PLANTS is

FOLD

VEGETATION is another
name for

**THE PART OF THE THROAT
THAT MAKES SOUND**
is the

FOLD

VOCAL CORDS
are

FOLD