Study Questions

to “Turtle Power”


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


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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A cavity</th>
<th>A hole</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>is</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>A crayfish</th>
<th>One kind of small, lobster-like animal is known as</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>is a</td>
<td></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>When something is hinged</th>
<th>When something is connected with a device that allows movement</th>
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<tr>
<td>it is</td>
<td>it is</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To lurk</th>
<th>To hang out in a secret or hidden way is</th>
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<tr>
<td>is</td>
<td>is</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Muck is a common word for</th>
<th>Slimy, wet soil or other such material is often known as</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The area an animal lives in</strong></td>
<td><strong>is known as its</strong></td>
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<td>--------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The pointy end of an animal’s face</strong></td>
<td><strong>is called its</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A topographic map</strong></td>
<td><strong>is</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Another name for plants</strong></td>
<td><strong>is</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The part of the throat that makes sound</strong></td>
<td><strong>is the</strong></td>
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