

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “DANCING WITH GREBES”

Multidisciplinary classroom activities based on the Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, March–April 2016, 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!

“DANCING WITH GREBES” STUDY QUESTIONS

Multidisciplinary classroom activities based on the Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, March–April 2016, www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine



1. WHY ARE WESTERN GREBES UNIQUE AMONG MINNESOTA BIRDS?

2. ARE FEMALE AND MALE WESTERN GREBES IDENTICAL? EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER.

3. WHY DOES THE AUTHOR DESCRIBE WESTERN GREBES AS WEARING “FEATHERED TUXEDOS?”

4. WHERE DOES THIS STORY TAKE PLACE?

5. WHAT DO WESTERN GREBES EAT? (HINT: DON'T ANSWER UNTIL YOU READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE.)

6. WHERE DO WESTERN GREBES CHOOSE TO NEST? _____

7. WHAT MATERIALS DO THEY USE TO BUILD THEIR NESTS? _____

8. WHY DO YOU THINK WESTERN GREBES TAKE TURNS INCUBATING THEIR EGGS? _____

9. WHEN A CHICK PIPS, WHAT IS IT DOING? _____

10. WHERE DO CHICKS GO IMMEDIATELY AFTER HATCHING? _____

WHY? _____

11. WHAT PREDATORS DOES A WESTERN GREBE CHICK HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR? _____

12. WHAT IS BACK-BROODING? _____

13. SOMETHING INTERESTING HAPPENS TO CHICKS WHEN THEY ARE HUNGRY. WHAT? _____

_____ **WHO**
EATS FIRST? _____

14. WHY DO WESTERN GREBES GATHER IN LARGE FLOCKS AT NIGHT?

15. DESCRIBE HOW WESTERN GREBES DIVE DIFFERENTLY IN SMOOTH AND ROUGH WATER. HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THESE BEHAVIORS?

CHALLENGE: DRAW A PICTURE OF A WESTERN GREBE'S PROFILE AS IT SWIMS OR DIVES. PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THE LOCATION AND DESIGN OF ITS FEET.

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

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

1. What is a ratchet call?

- A. Grebes make a soft, rustling sound when they are in danger.
- B. Grebes use ratchet calls to communicate under water.
- C. Ratchet calls are loud, harsh trills made during the mating ritual.
- D. None of the above.

2. The large bare patch of skin on grebe's belly is used for

- A. laying eggs.
- B. incubating eggs.
- C. floating on water.
- D. catching insects.

3. Describe bob-shaking. _____

4. Western grebe chicks have a tiny white _____ on their bills.

- A. spot
- B. bump
- C. egg tooth
- D. ridge

5. Why does the mother grebe have to work so hard to feed her chicks?

STUDENT STUDY GUIDE: VOCABULARY

AQUATIC PLANTS plants that live in water or in soil that is permanently saturated with water (wetlands)

BULRUSHES also called reeds, these grasslike aquatic plants can grow up to 10 feet tall

COURTSHIP a set of behaviors that attract a mate

CRUSTACEANS hard-shelled, mostly aquatic animals with segmented body parts, such as crayfish or shrimp

DOMINANT most important or strongest

ELEGANT graceful or stylish

EMBRYO unborn or unhatched offspring

FORAGE search for food

INCUBATE sit on eggs in order to keep them warm

JUVENILE an immature animal that is not an infant but also not an adult

LARVA wormlike immature insect that hatches from an egg

MIGRATION movement from one area to another

PREDATOR animal that kills and eats other animals

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

WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST scientist who studies or manages wild animals and their habitats

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

What are **AQUATIC PLANTS**?

PLANTS THAT LIVE IN WATER OR IN SOIL THAT IS PERMANENTLY SATURATED WITH WATER are

What are **BULRUSHES**?

ALSO CALLED REEDS, GRASSLIKE AQUATIC PLANTS THAT CAN GROW UP TO 10 FEET TALL are

What is **COURTSHIP**?

A SET OF BEHAVIORS THAT ATTRACT A MATE is called

CRUSTACEANS are

HARD-SHELLED, MOSTLY AQUATIC ANIMALS WITH SEGMENTED BODY PARTS, SUCH AS CRAYFISH OR SHRIMP are called

Which is the **DOMINANT** chick?

THE MOST IMPORTANT OR STRONGEST is the

To be
ELEGANT
is to be

FOLD

To be
GRACEFUL OR STYLISH
is called

What is an **EMBRYO**?

FOLD

**AN UNBORN
OR UNHATCHED
OFFSPRING** is an

To **FORAGE** is to

FOLD

To **SEARCH FOR FOOD** is to

To **INCUBATE**
is to

FOLD

To **SIT ON EGGS IN ORDER
TO KEEP THEM WARM** is to

What is a
JUVENILE animal?

FOLD

**AN IMMATURE ANIMAL; NOT AN
INFANT—NOT AN ADULT** is a

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
SPECIES?

FOLD

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

What is a
**WILDLIFE
BIOLOGIST**?

FOLD

**A SCIENTIST WHO STUDIES OR
MANAGES WILD ANIMALS AND
THEIR HABITATS** is a

FOLD

FOLD
