

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “WILD THINGS IN WINTER”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, January–February 2020, 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!

“WILD THINGS IN WINTER” STUDY QUESTIONS

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1. TRUE OR FALSE: Red squirrels are scatter hoarders.

2. MATCH THE ANIMAL WITH A FOOD SOURCE MENTIONED IN THE STORY:

gray squirrel

snowshoe hares and short-tailed weasels

red squirrel

twigs

Canada jay

insects, berries, seeds, ticks

beaver, snowshoe hare

cones

owls

deer

coyotes

nuts

3. WHY DO BEAVERS STICK TWIGS INTO THE MUD AT THE BOTTOM OF A POND?

- a. to make the foundation for a beaver den
- b. so they can grow into new trees in the spring
- c. to provide shelter for turtles
- d. to stash them away for food later in the winter

4. NAME THREE THINGS A BEAVER DOES TO GET READY FOR WINTER.

5. HOW DOES WHITE FUR HELP A SNOWSHOE HARE SURVIVE IN WINTER?

6. THE ISABELLA TIGER MOTHS OVERWINTERS AS A:

- a. caterpillar
- b. hemolymph
- c. cocoon
- d. egg

7. WHERE DO SNAPPING TURTLES SPEND THE WINTER? _____

8. NAME THREE MINNESOTA MAMMALS THAT HIBERNATE. _____

9. NAME THREE MINNESOTA MAMMALS THAT DON'T HIBERNATE. _____

10. MATCH THE NUMBER WITH THE FACT FROM THE STORY:

Number of times per hour a wintering wood frog's heart beats	4
Number of times per minute a hibernating bat might breathe	0
Number of bat species that hibernate in Minnesota in winter	3,000
Number of times thicker than its summer coat that a deer's winter coat is	5
Number of calories a Canada jay eats in a day	1
Length of time a wood frog can stay frozen and still survive	50
Number of nuts a squirrel might hide to get ready for winter	200

CHALLENGE: THE ARTICLE STATES THE HIBERNATING LITTLE BROWN BAT INHALES AND EXHALES ABOUT ONCE A MINUTE. IF A BAT HIBERNATES FOR ALL OF NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND MARCH, HOW MANY BREATHS WOULD THE BAT HAVE TAKEN IN THAT TIME? (EXTRA CHALLENGE: IF YOU TAKE 15 BREATHS PER MINUTE, ABOUT HOW MANY BREATHS WOULD YOU HAVE TAKEN DURING THIS SAME AMOUNT OF TIME?)

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

NAME _____ PERIOD _____ DATE _____

1. WHICH ANIMALS IN THIS STORY MIGHT YOU FIND IN JANUARY MOTIONLESS IN A PILE OF DEAD LEAVES? _____

2. WHAT ARE THREE THINGS WHITE-TAILED DEER DO TO SURVIVE IN WINTER? _____

3. WHAT ARE THREE BENEFITS DEER GET FROM EACH OTHER WHEN THEY GATHER IN DEER YARDS? _____

4. WHY DOES A SNOWSHOE HARE EAT DIFFERENT FOOD IN WINTER THAN IT DOES IN THE SUMMER? _____

5. MIGRATION IS ONE STRATEGY ANIMALS USE TO SURVIVE WINTER. THE ARTICLE DESCRIBED SEVERAL OTHER STRATEGIES ANIMALS USE. WHAT ARE THEY? _____

6. WHY DO "GOOSEBUMPS" NOT HELP HUMANS STAY WARM, BUT DO ACTUALLY HELP SOME FURRY ANIMALS STAY WARM? _____

7. IF YOU WERE WALKING IN THE FOREST DURING THE WINTER, AND YOU CAME UPON A PILE OF PINE CONE SCALES, WHAT TYPE OF SQUIRREL MIGHT YOU SEE NEARBY, AND WHAT IS THIS FOOD STASH CALLED? _____

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 substance that
**MAKES A LIQUID HARDER
TO FREEZE**
is

FOLD

ANTIFREEZE
is a substance that

DROPPINGS
are another name for

FOLD

POOP
is also known as

When something is
VERY COLD,
it is

FOLD

Something that is
FRIGID
is

If you
STORE THINGS,
you might be called a

FOLD

A HOARDER
is something that
tends to

To
**SEPARATE SOMETHING
FROM SOMETHING ELSE**
is to

FOLD

To
**INSULATE SOMETHING
FROM SOMETHING ELSE**
is to

You might
STORE FOOD
in a

FOLD

A LARDER
is a place to

When objects
PLUMMET,
they

FOLD

When objects
DROP QUICKLY,
they

**ANIMALS THAT KILL AND EAT
OTHER ANIMALS**
are

FOLD

PREDATORS
are

A
STASH
is a

FOLD

A
HIDDEN SUPPLY
is a

FOLD

FOLD