

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “FUNGUS AMONG US”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, September-October 2022, 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!

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1. TRUE OR FALSE: ALL MUSHROOMS HAVE CAPS AND STEMS?

2. MUSHROOMS ARE A MEMBER OF THE _____ FAMILY.

3. THE MAIN PART OF A MUSHROOM IS MADE UP OF

- a. yeast
- b. hyphae
- c. spores
- d. enzymes
- e. lignin

4. HOW LONG DOES A MUSHROOM LAST ONCE IT EMERGES?

5. WHY SHOULDN'T YOU EAT A MUSHROOM?

6. TRUE OR FALSE: A GOOD TIME TO LOOK FOR MUSHROOMS IS AFTER IT RAINS.

7. WHICH OF THESE CAN HELP YOU IDENTIFY A MUSHROOM?

- 1. The shape of the cap
- 2. Whether it has a stem
- 3. The kinds of plants growing around it
- 4. Whether it has gills or pores
- 5. Whether it's growing by itself or in a cluster
- 6. All of the above

8. WHAT TIME OF YEAR IS GOOD FOR FINDING MORELS?

9. MATCH THE MUSHROOM TO THE TRAIT:

Hen of the woods	glows in the dark
Oyster mushroom	has bumps on its cap
Jack-o-lantern	shaped like a pear
Yellow morel	kills and eats tiny worms
Common puffball	can grow 2 feet in diameter
Fly agaric	Minnesota's state mushroom

10. TRUE OR FALSE: A BIRD'S NEST FUNGUS HAS EGGS INSTEAD OF SPORES?

11. WHAT TIME OF YEAR WOULD YOU BE MOST LIKELY TO FIND A GOLDEN CHANTERELLE?

- a. spring
- b. summer
- c. fall
- d. winter
- e. a and b
- f. b and c
- g all of the above

12. WHERE IN MINNESOTA WOULD YOU BE MOST LIKELY TO FIND A JACK-O-LANTERN MUSHROOM?

CHALLENGE QUESTION: Look at the scientific names of the various mushrooms described. Are any similar to words that are familiar to you? What clues might that provide to what they are like? List as many such connections as you can.

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS PRACTICE ITEMS

1. HOW DO SPORES MOVE FROM PLACE TO PLACE?

2. A SYMBIOSIS IS A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP AMONG TWO DIFFERENT LIVING THINGS. WHEN A MUSHROOM AND A TREE FORM A SYMBIOSIS, HOW DOES EACH BENEFIT?

3. WHICH OF THESE IS NOT A SHELF FUNGUS?

Hen of the woods

Chicken of the woods

Turkey tail

Oyster mushroom

4. HOW ARE THE “EGGS” OF A BIRD’S NEST FUNGUS LIKE THE PORES OF A CHICKEN OF THE WOODS MUSHROOM?

5. WHICH MUSHROOM LOOKS LIKE A STORYBOOK TOADSTOOL?

VOCABULARY

deciduous – a tree that sheds its leaves in the fall

enzymes – molecules that help chemical reactions happen

extract – remove

indispensable – impossible to get by without

parasitic – taking resources from another

thrive – grow bigger and/or healthier

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