

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “SUPER SENSES”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, January-February 2024, 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!

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1. WHICH ANIMAL FROM THE STORY HEARS WITH ITS LEGS?

2. WHICH ANIMAL FROM THE STORY TASTES WITH ITS LEGS?

3. WHY IS THE SKIN INSIDE AN ANIMAL'S NOSE IMPORTANT FOR SMELLING?

4. NOSTRILS ARE TO A VULTURE AS _____ ARE TO BURYING BEETLE?

5. NAME THREE WAYS A GRAY WOLF USES ITS SMELLING SUPER SENSE?

6. HOW DOES 3-D VISION BENEFIT A ZEBRA SPIDER?

- A) IT ALLOWS IT TO SEE DEAD THINGS FAR AWAY
- B) IT HELPS IT SEE IN THE DARK
- C) IT HELPS IT BUILD ITS WEB
- D) IT HELPS IT POUNCE JUST THE RIGHT DISTANCE TO CAPTURE PREY

7. HOW MANY EYES DOES A ZEBRA SPIDER HAVE?

- A) 2
- B) 3
- C) 6
- D) 8

8. HOW DOES POLARIZED LIGHT HELP A PAVEMENT ANT FIND ITS WAY HOME?

9. TRUE OR FALSE: A ZEBRA SPIDER IS AN ANIMAL

10. MATCH THE SUPER SENSE WITH THE ANIMAL(S) THAT USE IT.

Can smell food a mile away	bobcat
Has eyes that seem to glow in the dark	timber rattlesnake
Can see front and back at the same time	common green darner
Uses polarized light to tell direction	black bear
Senses heat given off by prey	pavement ant

11. HOW DOES SOUND HELP A BAT FIND INSECTS TO EAT?

12. WHICH SENSE DO EIMER'S ORGANS USE?

- a. Sight
- b. Smell
- c. Hearing
- d. Touch
- e. Taste

13. CHALLENGE QUESTION: THE 20 ANIMALS FEATURED IN THIS STORY ARE GROUPED INTO CATEGORIES BASED ON THE TYPE OF EXCEPTIONAL SENSE THEY HAVE. THINK OF ANOTHER WAY TO CATEGORIZE THEM AND DIVIDE THEM UP ACCORDING TO YOUR SCHEME.

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS PRACTICE ITEMS

1. TRUE OR FALSE: A BOBCAT'S EYES GIVE OFF LIGHT IN THE DARK.

2. WHICH PART OF THE EYE TURNS LIGHT INTO NERVE SIGNALS?

3. WHICH PART OF THE NOSE TURNS SCENTS INTO NERVE SIGNALS?

4. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, WHICH OF THESE TRAVEL IN WAVES?

- a. Sound
- b. Light
- c. Odors
- d. A & B
- e. All of the above

5. NAME THREE ANIMALS FROM THE STORY THAT EAT INSECTS.

6. HOW DO FEATHERS HELP A BARRED OWL HEAR?

VOCABULARY

carcass – dead animal

denizen – one who hangs out in a particular spot

membrane – a thin layer of material

murky – hard to see through

nasal – related to the nose

perceives – becomes aware of

sonar – a system for detecting objects that relies on sound waves bouncing off of them

voracious – very hungry

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