

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “HOLE SWEET HOLE”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, May-June 2021, 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 on the [Young Naturalists page](http://mndnr.gov/young_naturalists).
(mndnr.gov/young_naturalists)

Your knowledge of wild things helps you explore and enjoy the outdoors. Have fun!

“HOLE SWEET HOLE” STUDY QUESTIONS

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1. TRUE OR FALSE: THE WOOD AT THE CENTER OF A TREE IS CALLED HEARTWOOD.

2. PUT A “P” NEXT TO THE PRIMARY EXCAVATORS. PUT AN “S” NEXT TO THE SECONDARY USERS.

Pileated woodpecker

Marten

Barred Owl

Chickadee

American kestrel

Carpenter ant

3. DESCRIBE THE THREE MAIN STEPS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CAVITY NEST.

4. LIST AS MANY ITEMS MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE AS YOU CAN RECALL THAT CAVITY DWELLERS USE TO LINE THEIR NESTS.

5. WHAT IS A BARRED OWL’S MAIN PREDATOR?

a. fisher

b. great horned owl

c. marten

d. coyote

6. NAME TWO THINGS CARPENTER ANTS EAT.

7. MATCH THE ANIMAL WITH THE TRAIT:

Animals

Wood duck

Pileated woodpecker

Fisher

Barred owl

Red squirrel

Traits

uses its 2-inch-long beak to hollow out a cavity

sometimes stores food in the cavity for later

likes to nest in pine, spruce or fir trees

needs its nest tree to be at least 60 years old

may lay up to 16 eggs

8. NAME TWO WAYS A MALE KESTREL HELPS HIS FAMILY.

9. TRUE OR FALSE. YEARS AGO FOREST MANAGERS OFTEN DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES WITH BROKEN BRANCHES AND ROTTEN INSIDES AS PART OF A HEALTHY HABITAT.

10. RED SQUIRRELS SOMETIMES LINE THEIR CAVITY NESTS WITH CEDAR BARK. IN ADDITION TO SERVING AS INSULATION, WHAT OTHER ADVANTAGE DOES THE CEDAR BARK PROVIDE?

11. WHICH DESCRIBES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KESTRELS AND SQUIRRELS?

- a. Kestrels create the cavities for nesting squirrels.
- b. Kestrels are predators to newborn squirrels.
- c. Squirrels disrupt nesting kestrels by taking over their nesting cavities.
- d. Kestrels may kick out a nesting squirrel and claim the cavity as their own.

CHALLENGE: YOU NOTICE A WOOD DUCK HAS USED THE ARTIFICIAL NESTING BOX YOU MADE TO LAY HER EGGS! YOU COUNT 12 EGGS IN THE NEST. ABOUT HOW MANY BABY DUCKLINGS MIGHT YOU EXPECT TO LIVE INTO THE SUMMER MONTHS?

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS PRACTICE ITEMS

1. WHY MIGHT AN ANIMAL PREFER A CAVITY NEST TO A NEST OUT IN THE OPEN?

2. TRUE OR FALSE: MOST OLD TREES HAVE CAVITIES.

3. WHAT ARE TWO WAYS CEDAR BARK MIGHT HELP RED SQUIRRELS?

4. WHICH OF THE SPECIES FEATURED IN THE STORY HAS THE MOST OFFSPRING?

VOCABULARY

arboreal – related to trees

incubates – sits on eggs to warm them

insulation – something that separates one thing from another

parasites – living things that live on, in, or with other living things and use their resources

premier – top, first

pterodactyl – a flying dinosaur-like animal

rodents – animals like mice, rats, and rabbits

An **arboreal** animal does things that are
an animal that does things **related to trees** is known as

When a duck **incubates eggs**, it

When a duck **sits on eggs to warm them**, it

Insulation is

Something that separates one thing from another is called

Living things that live on, in, or with other living things and use their resources are called

Parasites are

A **premier** location is one that is

A location that is **top or first** is a

A **pterodactyl** is

A **flying dinosaur-like animal** is called a

Animals like mice, rats, and rabbits are known as

Rodents are

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