

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “BORN TO DIG”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, March-April 2023, 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!

“BORN TO DIG” STUDY QUESTIONS

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1. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WOODCHUCK AND A GROUNDHOG?

2. TRUE OR FALSE: WOODCHUCKS ARE A TYPE OF SQUIRREL.

3. WHAT THREE KINDS OF WOODCHUCKS ARE FOUND IN MINNESOTA?

4. TRUE OR FALSE: MINNESOTA'S THREE SUBSPECIES OF WOODCHUCKS ARE ALL FOUND IN THE SAME PARTS OF THE STATE.

5. HOW CAN YOU TELL A WOODCHUCK BURROW'S FRONT DOOR FROM ITS BACK DOOR?

6. HOW DOES A WOODCHUCK USE ITS BURROW?

- a. To escape from predators
- b. To hibernate
- c. As a nest for its young
- d. As a bathroom
- e. All of the above

7. NAME THREE ADAPTATIONS THAT HELP A WOODCHUCK DIG ITS BURROW.

8. WHY IS THE SIDE OF A HILL A GOOD PLACE FOR A WOODCHUCK BURROW?

9. WHAT IS A HIBERNACULUM?

10. HOW DOES CHEWING ON WOOD BENEFIT A WOODCHUCK?

- a. It helps keep its teeth from growing too long.
- b. It provides a source of wood for building its home.
- c. The sound serves as a warning to predators to stay away.
- d. The sound attracts mates.

11. TRUE OR FALSE: LIKE BEAVERS, WOODCHUCKS CHEW DOWN TREES AND HAUL WOOD TO BUILD THEIR HOMES.

12. NAME TWO ANIMALS THAT EAT WOODCHUCKS.

CHALLENGE QUESTION: What fraction of the size of an adult woodchuck is a newborn woodchuck?

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS PRACTICE ITEMS

1. WHY WON'T YOU SEE GROUNDHOGS ON GROUNDHOG DAY IN MINNESOTA?

2. WHAT DOES THE WRITER MEAN WHEN SHE SAYS, "A WOODCHUCK IS BUILT TO DIG"?

3. WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE OF MAKING UNDERGROUND CHAMBERS CLOSER TO THE SURFACE THAN THE MAIN TUNNEL?

4. WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE OF USING AN UNDERGROUND BATHROOM INSTEAD OF POOPING ON THE SURFACE?

5. TRUE OR FALSE: WOODCHUCKS DON'T NEED TO DRINK WATER.

VOCABULARY

architect – one who designs a building

frisky – actively playful

litter – a group of baby animals born at the same time

subterranean – underground

forecast – predict

nursery – a place where young are taken care of

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