

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE NEST”

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!

“THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE NEST”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, May-June 2023, www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine.



1. TRUE OR FALSE: ALL BIRDS BUILD THEIR NESTS IN TREES.

2. NAME THREE THINGS A BIRD’S NEST PROTECTS ITS YOUNG FROM.

3. WHICH OF THESE DO BIRDS NOT USE AS MATERIALS FOR CONSTRUCTING THEIR NEST?

- a. spiderwebs
- b. twigs
- c. branches
- d. spit
- e. mud
- f. all of the above
- g. none of the above

4. WHAT DO HORMONES HAVE TO DO WITH NEST BUILDING?

5. TRUE OR FALSE: EAGLES GLUE STICKS TOGETHER TO FORM THE BASE OF THEIR NEST.

6. NAME FOUR MATERIALS THAT BIRDS USE TO CREATE A SOFT SPACE FOR THEIR YOUNG.

7. HOW DOES PRETENDING TO HAVE A BROKEN WING HELP A KILLDEER PROTECT ITS YOUNG?

8. WHO BUILDS THE NEST? MATCH THE SPECIES TO INFORMATION GATHERED FROM THE ARTICLE REGARDING WHICH PARENT BUILDS THE NEST?

Common Loon	Female only
Baltimore Oriole	
Barn Swallow	
Ovenbird	Male only
Hummingbird	
Red-necked Grebe	
Wood Duck	Both
Killdeer	
Bald Eagle	

9. HOW MANY EGGS DOES A KILLDEER LAY IN ITS NEST?

10. WHAT IS THE MOST COMMON TYPE OF BIRD NEST?

11. WHICH OF THESE IS NOT LISTED AS A MATERIAL USED IN A BARN SWALLOW NEST?

- a. mud
- b. saliva
- c. feathers
- d. plant material

12. WHICH IS BIGGER, AN EAGLE'S NEST OR A RED-NECKED GREBE'S NEST?

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

Choose one bird/nest combination featured in the story. Compare and contrast how it makes its nest with how people build homes. Try to come up with at least three similarities and three differences.

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS PRACTICE ITEMS

1. WHAT IS THE MAIN FUNCTION OF A BIRD NEST?

- a. to protect baby birds
- b. to provide adult birds a place to go at the end of the day
- c. to protect adult birds from rain and cold
- d. a and c
- e all of the above

2. TRUE OR FALSE? NEST-BUILDING IS GUIDED BY INSTINCT.

3. WHY DO DIFFERENT BIRDS USE DIFFERENT MATERIALS TO BUILD THEIR NESTS?

4. TRUE OR FALSE: ALL BIRD EGGS ARE ABOUT THE SIZE OF CHICKEN EGGS.

5. WHAT IS MINNESOTA'S STATE BIRD?

VOCABULARY

cavity – hole

deciduous – a tree that loses its leaves

extraordinaire – super fancy

incubate – keep warm

mottled – blotchy

peninsula – a portion of land that juts out into a body of water

resin – sticky material that plants produce