

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU DON’T”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, Jan-Feb 2025, 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. ANOTHER TERM BIOLOGISTS USE FOR CAMOUFLAGE IS.

- A) CRYPTIC COLORATION
- B) ADAPTIVE CAMOUFLAGE
- C) DISGUISABLE COLORATION
- D) STEALTH CONCEALMENT

2. NAME THE FOUR MAIN TYPES OF CAMOUFLAGE.

3. TRUE OR FALSE: IF YOU SEE A BUTTERFLY WITH FAKE EYES ON THE WINGS, THESE FAKE EYES ARE LIKELY MUCH SMALLER THAN THE BUTTERFLY’S ACTUAL EYES.

4. MINNESOTA’S FOX SNAKE IS OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR THE VENOMOUS TIMBER RATTLESNAKE BECAUSE OF SIMILAR COLORATION, SIZE, AND BEHAVIORS. WHAT TYPE OF CAMOUFLAGE DOES THIS REPRESENT?

5. WHY ARE SOME FEMALE BIRDS MORE MOTTLED AND DRABBER IN COLOR (MORE INCONSPICUOUS) THAN THE MALES OF THE SAME SPECIES?

6. COUNTER-SHADING IS A FORM OF WHAT TYPE OF CAMOUFLAGE?

7. TRUE OR FALSE: ONLY MAMMALS AND BIRDS USE CAMOUFLAGE TO HELP SURVIVE.

LEAST TWO EXAMPLES OF WILDLIFE IN THE STORY THAT USE CAMOUFLAGE TO HELP THEM HUNT FOR FOOD.

9. IF YOU SAW EYES PEERING OUT AT YOU FROM A TREE CAVITY DURING WALK THROUGH A FOREST IN NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD IT MOST LIKELY BE?.

- A) AMERICAN BITTERN
- B) BOREAL OWL
- C) COPE'S TREE FROG
- D) GREAT GRAY OWL

10. CHALLENGE QUESTION: THE STORY MENTIONS THAT IN THE WINTER, MINNESOTA'S SHORT-TAILED WEASEL TURNS FROM BROWN TO COMPLETELY WHITE EXCEPT FOR A DASH OF BLACK ON THE TIP OF ITS TAIL. THIS SEASONAL CHANGE FROM BROWN TO WHITE HELPS THE WEASEL SNEAK UP ON ITS PREY, WHILE BEING LESS VISIBLE TO THE ANIMALS THAT HUNT IT. BASED ON WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED ABOUT CAMOUFLAGE, HOW MIGHT HAVING THAT BLACK-TIPPED TAIL IN THE WINTER BE HELPFUL? WHY WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR THE WEASEL TO BE COMPLETELY WHITE, WITHOUT A BLACK-TIPPED TAIL?

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS PRACTICE ITEMS

1. USING DETAILS FROM THE STORY, COMPARE AND CONTRAST DISGUISE CAMOUFLAGE WITH CONCEALING COLORATION

2. THE AUTHOR OF THIS NONFICTION STORY CONCLUDES BY WRITING, "UNLIKE HUMANS, WHO OFTEN WEAR FLASHY CLOTHES AND BLING TO STAND OUT, MANY ANIMALS PREFER TO BE INCONSPICUOUS. FOR THEM, WINNING ISN'T ABOUT SEEN. IT'S ABOUT BEING UNSEEN SO THEY CAN LIVE ANOTHER DAY." WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DETAILS FROM THE STORY PROVIDES SUPPORTING EVIDENCE OF THE AUTHOR'S ARGUMENT?

- a. The green-striped grasshopper is commonly found in meadows, pastures, road ditches, and other grassy areas in Minnesota.
- b. Adult roosters are gawdy as all get out with feathers of bronze, blue, green, and white.
- c. The American woodcock is just 10 to 12 inches long and spends much of its life on the forest floor searching for earthworms, grubs, and insects to eat.
- d. The countershading of the walleye helps it be less visible to fish-eating birds that might attack from above and to larger predatory fish that often approach from below.