

# STUDY QUESTIONS

## TO “WILD NEIGHBORS”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, September-October 2023, [www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine](http://www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine).

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*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](http://www.mndnr.gov/young_naturalists).

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

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## 1. TRUE OR FALSE: TURKEYS ARE NATIVE TO MINNESOTA.

## 2. WHAT IS A FEMALE TURKEY CALLED?

- a. Tim
- b. Christine
- c. Gobbler
- d. Hen
- e. Poult

## 3. WHAT DO TURKEYS EAT?

## 4. WHAT IS A MALE TURKEY CALLED?

- a. Tim
- b. Christine
- c. Gobbler
- d. Hen
- e. Poult

## 5. MATCH THE BODY PART TO THE DESCRIPTION:

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Wattle | Sharp part of leg                                  |
| Beard  | Long, thin group of feathers hanging from the neck |
| Snood  | Flap of skin on the front of the neck              |
| Spur   | Skin on forehead that turns red when courting      |

## 6. WHAT EATS TURKEYS?

## 7. WHAT IS A YOUNG TURKEY CALLED?

- A. TIM
- B. CHRISTINE
- C. GOBBLER
- D. HEN
- E. POULT

## 8. MATCH THE NUMBER WITH THE FUN FACT IT REPRESENTS.

5,000	estimated number of wild turkeys in Minnesota today
10	number of turkeys in Minnesota today
20	common number of eggs in a brood
40	number of inches tall an adult turkey stands
29	usual number of days between when an egg is laid and it hatches
100,000	number of turkeys the DNR released in Minnesota in 1973
28	number of pounds an adult turkey weighs
100,000	number of feathers on a turkey

## 9. WHICH PART OF MINNESOTA DO TURKEYS NOT THRIVE IN?

- a. Big Woods
- b. Lake Superior region
- c. Minnesota River Valley
- d. Twin Cities
- e. Boundary Waters

## 10. TRUE OR FALSE: ADULT TURKEYS EAT MORE PLANTS THAN ANIMALS.

## 11. A GROUP OF TURKEYS IS CALLED A:

- a. flock
- b. bunch
- c. herd
- d. horde

## 12. MATCH THE SEASON WITH THE EVENT:

Spring	young males leave their mother
	toms fight
Summer	turkeys gobble up acorns
	turkeys mate
Fall	hens lead their broods around to find food

**13. TRUE OR FALSE: TURKEYS FLY SOUTH FOR THE WINTER.**

**14. CHALLENGE QUESTION: WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT TURKEYS SEE HUMANS AS HIGHER IN THEIR PECKING ORDER?**

### **MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS PRACTICE ITEMS**

**1. HOW DOES A WATTLE HELP A TURKEY SURVIVE?**

**2. WHY DID TURKEYS DISAPPEAR FROM MINNESOTA.**

**3. TRUE OR FALSE: TURKEYS HAVE POOR VISION.**

**4. WHY DO HENS GATHER IN GROUPS WITH THEIR POULTS?**

- a. So they can gobble together.
- b. Because there is safety in numbers.
- c. To gather acorns.
- d. So their young can learn to play together.

**5. TRUE OR FALSE: WILD TURKEYS MAKE GOOD PETS.**

**6. NAME AT LEAST TWO BENEFITS TURKEYS GET FROM TREES.**

### **VOCABULARY**

brood-offspring

conservation – the practice of taking care of something so it isn't destroyed

domestic – tame

keen – sharp

predators – animals that eat other animals

range– area in which a species is normally found

roost–to settle in to rest

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