

# STUDY QUESTIONS

## TO “JEWELS OF THE SKY”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, May-June 2022, [mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine](http://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. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, WHERE MIGHT A RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD SPEND THE WINTER?**

**2. HOW DOES A MALE HUMMINGBIRD TRY TO ATTRACT A FEMALE?**

- a. by flying back and forth in front of her.
- b. by giving her nectar from flowers.
- c. by building a nest for her.

**3. NAME THREE THINGS YOU MIGHT FIND IN A HUMMINGBIRD NEST.**

**4. PUT THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES IN ORDER, STARTING WITH THE BEGINNING OF THE CALENDAR YEAR.**

Baby hummingbirds hatch.

Hummingbirds start to fly north.

The young leave the nest.

The hummingbird drinks nectar from flowers.

Hummingbirds mate.

Hummingbirds eat lots of food to prepare for migration

Hummingbirds start to fly south.

Hummingbirds arrive in Minnesota.

The female builds a nest.

**5. WHY DO A MALE'S RED THROAT FEATHERS SOMETIMES LOOK BLACK?**

**6. HOW DOES ATTRACTING HUMMINGBIRDS HELP PLANTS?**

- a. The hummingbird eats insects that might otherwise eat the plant.
- b. The hummingbird carries the plant's pollen to another plant so it can reproduce.
- c. The hummingbird's tongue secretes germ-killing substances that help keep the plant healthy.
- d. It doesn't help them.

**7. TRUE OR FALSE: A HUMMINGBIRD SUCKS NECTAR FROM A PLANT THROUGH ITS TONGUE LIKE A PERSON SUCKS A MILKSHAKE THROUGH A STRAW.**

**8. NAME THREE ANIMALS THAT EAT HUMMINGBIRDS.**

**9. MATCH THE AMOUNT OF TIME WITH THE ACTIVITY;**

Time it takes for a migrating hummingbird to reach its winter home      One hour

Time it takes a hummingbird to fly across the Gulf of Mexico

Time it takes a hummingbird to fly 45 miles      Up to one day

Time it takes for hummingbird eggs to hatch after they are laid      Two weeks

**10. WHAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR A HUMMINGBIRD TO FLY BACKWARDS?**

**11. TRUE OR FALSE: LIKE GEESE, HUMMINGBIRDS FLY SOUTH IN V-SHAPED GROUPS?**

**CHALLENGE QUESTION:** Challenge question: Why might native plants do a better job of attracting hummingbirds than nonnative plants would?

## **MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS PRACTICE ITEMS**

**1. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD EGGS ARE THE SIZE OF**

- a. a pencil eraser.
- b. the period at the end of this sentence.
- c. a chicken egg.
- d. a marble.

**2. BASED ON WHAT YOU LEARNED IN THE ARTICLE, WHY DO YOU THINK A HUMMINGBIRD MIGHT FLY TOWARD A PERSON IN A RED HOODIE?**

**3. DURING WHAT SEASON(S) OF THE YEAR DOES A HUMMINGBIRD SIP NECTAR FROM FLOWERS?**

**4. HOW DOES A HUMMINGBIRD MAKE A HUMMING SOUND?**

- a. By moving its long tongue in and out of its bill.
- b. By vibrating a membrane in the back of its throat.
- c. By rapidly wiggling its tail.
- d. by rapidly flapping its wings

**5. PUT THESE IN ORDER: INCREASED BODY WEIGHT - DECREASED DAYLIGHT – CHANGES IN HORMONE LEVELS – INCREASED FEEDING**

**IN THE FALL, \_\_\_\_\_ CAUSES \_\_\_\_\_, WHICH LEADS TO \_\_\_\_\_, WHICH LEADS TO \_\_\_\_\_ .**

### **VOCABULARY**

- a. Extract – remove from
- b. Navigate – find one’s way around
- c. Nectar – sweet liquid
- d. Prowess – ability
- e. Regurgitating – vomiting
- f. Territory – area an animal lives in
- g. Pendulum – a hanging weight that swings from side to side
- h. Hormones -chemicals that carry messages from one part of the body to another

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