

STUDY QUESTIONS

TO “STANDING TALL”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, March-April 2021, 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 on the Young Naturalists [webpage](#).

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

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1. NAME TWO THINGS THAT MAKE SANDHILL CRANES HARD TO STUDY.

2. WHICH OF THESE ARE PLACES SANDHILL CRANES NEST? CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY.

- a. farm fields
- b. wet meadows
- c. upland forests
- d. wetlands
- e. grasslands

3. NAME TWO WAYS IN WHICH WHOOPING CRANES AND SANDHILL CRANES ARE SIMILAR.

4. NAME TWO WAYS IN WHICH WHOOPING CRANES AND SANDHILL CRANES ARE DIFFERENT.

5. NAME FOUR THINGS THAT SANDHILL CRANES EAT.

6. WHERE DO MINNESOTA SANDHILLS SPEND THEIR WINTER?

- a. the Texas coast
- b. the southeastern U.S.
- c. Minnesota
- d. a & b
- e. b & c

7. WHY IS NEBRASKA'S PLATTE RIVER IMPORTANT FOR SANDHILL CRANES?

8. WHAT DID THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT OF 1918 DO?

9. WHAT IS A YOUNG SANDHILL CRANE CALLED?

- a. chick
- b. colt
- c. sandling
- d. pipsqueak.

10. HOW MANY SANDHILL CRANES LIVE IN MINNESOTA?

11. TRUE OR FALSE: SANDHILL CRANES ARE ENDANGERED.

12. HOW IS THE RANGE OF SANDHILL CRANES CHANGING IN MINNESOTA?

13. NAME TWO THINGS THAT EAT SANDHILL CRANES.

CHALLENGE QUESTION: WHAT PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S CRANE SPECIES ARE FOUND IN MINNESOTA?

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS PRACTICE ITEMS

1. WHY WAS WOLFSON LOOKING FOR SANDHILL CRANES?

2. WHAT ARE FOUR TRAITS YOU CAN USE TO TELL SANDHILL CRANES AND GREAT BLUE HERONS APART.

3. _____ AND _____ HELP SANDHILLS SAVE ENERGY WHILE THEY'RE MIGRATING.

4. WHICH OF THESE HELPED DRIVE SANDHILL CRANES CLOSE TO EXTINCTION?

- a. People hunted them for food.
- b. People used their feathers to decorate hats.
- c. People changed wetlands and prairies to farmland.
- d. All of the above.

5. HOW WOULD A SANDHILL CRANE'S VOICE BE DIFFERENT IF IT HAD A SHORTER TRACHEA?

- a. It would be higher pitched
- b. It would be louder
- c. It would be quieter
- d. it wouldn't be different

VOCABULARY

confrontations – face-to-face meetings, often with potential for conflict

down – soft, fluffy feathers

grubs – insect larvae

lunging – moving rapidly

lush – rich, abundant

territory – the space an animal occupies and defends

waders – tall waterproof boots

When animals have **confrontations**, they have

Face-to-face meetings, often with potential for conflict, are called

Soft, fluffy feathers are known as

Down is a name for

When a bird eats **grubs**, it's eating

Insect larvae are also called

An animal that's **lunging** is

An animal that's **moving quickly** is

If a park is **lush** with flowers, that means the flowers are

You might call a park that's **rich and abundant** with flowers

The space an animal occupies and defends is its

An animal's territory is

Tall, waterproof boots are also known as

A person dressed in **waders** is wearing