

# STUDY QUESTIONS

## TO “CRITTER CROSSINGS”

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, July-August 2022, [mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine](http://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 [mndnr.gov/young\\_naturalists](http://mndnr.gov/young_naturalists).

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

# “CRITTER CROSSINGS” STUDY QUESTIONS

Study and learn facts and ideas based on this Young Naturalists nonfiction story in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*, July-August 2022, [mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine](http://mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine).



**1. THE ARTICLE NAMES FOUR KINDS OF ANIMALS THAT DIE WHILE CROSSING ROADS. WHAT ARE THEY, AND WHAT TRAITS DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON THAT MIGHT MAKE THEM MORE LIKELY THAN OTHER ANIMALS TO MEET THIS FATE?**

**2. THE AUTHOR WORKS FOR THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. WHAT IS HIS JOB?**

- a. Highway engineer
- b. Wildlife ecologist
- c. Dead animal removal specialist
- d. Road ecologist

**3. HOW BIG ARE CULVERTS?**

**4. WHAT ARE THREE THINGS WE CAN DO TO MAKE CULVERTS BETTER WILDLIFE “ROADS” BENEATH THE ROAD?**

**5. WHAT IS A PASSAGE BENCH?**

- a. A place for animals to rest as they walk under a road
- b. Space for animals to walk on under a bridge
- c. A place for wildlife ecologists to sit while watching wildlife pass by
- d. A structure animals can use to float under a bridge.

**6. WHY IS RIPRAP A PROBLEM FOR SMALL ANIMALS LIKE DUCKLINGS AND FROGS?**

**7. HOW MANY PASSAGE BENCHES ARE THERE IN MINNESOTA?**

**8. TRUE OR FALSE: THE PURPOSE OF THE FENCES THE ARTICLE DESCRIBES IS TO PREVENT ANIMALS FROM CROSSING A ROAD.**

**9. TRUE OR FALSE: A FENCE THAT PREVENTS ANIMALS FROM CROSSING THE ROAD IS BETTER THAN NO FENCE AT ALL.**

**10. WHICH OF THESE DOES THE ARTICLE TELL US ARE HELPING TO MAKE MINNESOTA'S ROADS SAFER FOR WILDLIFE?**

- a. Minnesota Department of Transportation
- b. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- c. Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- d. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- e. Minnesota Zoo
- f. a and b
- g. All of the above

**11. THE ARTICLE NAMES SEVEN KINDS ANIMALS KNOWN TO USE CRITTER CROSSINGS. PUT ON YOUR READING DETECTIVE HAT AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ALL OF THEM.**

**CHALLENGE QUESTION:** If a turtle fence reduced roadkill 63 percent and researchers found eight dead turtles in May of the year before it was built, how many would they expect see in May of the year after it was built?

## MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS PRACTICE ITEMS

1. WHAT WAS THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF THE CULVERTS?
2. HOW DO RESEARCHERS LEARN WHAT KINDS OF ANIMALS USE A CULVERT TO CROSS UNDER A ROAD?
3. TRUE OR FALSE: MORE ANIMALS USE PASSAGE BENCHES THAN EXPECTED. TRUE.
4. NAME THREE WAYS PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM WILDLIFE TUNNELS.
5. SPECIAL STRUCTURES MAKE ROADWAYS SAFER FOR PEOPLE TO CROSS THEM, TOO. CAN YOU NAME ANY OF THESE?

### Vocabulary

aggregate – crushed rocks, gravel, and sand

barrier – something that blocks something else

effective – working well

roam – wander

sturdy – strong

tailored – designed or made specifically for

vehicle – an object like a car or truck used to move people or things from one place to another

riprap – large rocks or concrete pieces used to stabilize land

+++