2024 Regional Iowa Envirothon Wildlife Test
(25 total points)

1. The most common salamander in Iowa is the _____. (pictured below)
A. Eastern newt (Notophthalmus viridescens)
B. Eastern tiger salamander (Ambystoma tigrinum)
C. Mudpuppy (Necturus maculosus)
D. Smallmouth salamander (Ambystoma texanum)



2. Which of the following are salamanders found in Iowa?
A. Eastern newt (Notophthalmus viridescens)
B. Eastern tiger salamander (Ambystoma tigrinum)
C. Mudpuppy (Necturus maculosus)
D. Smallmouth salamander (Ambystoma texanum)
E. All of these

3. The Iowa DNR monitors what wildlife species for “chronic wasting” disease?
A. bats
B. deer
C. fish
D. racoons

4. As a general rule, mammals typically _____.
A. have hair or fur
B. give live birth rather than lay eggs
C. make milk for their young
D. go through two sets of teeth during their lifetime
E. all of these are correct

5. This member of the rodent family that can be identified by its large size and stout body is a _____ (see picture).
A. groundhog
B. whistlepig
C. woodchuck
D. all of these are correct



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6. The state's smallest squirrel is correctly identified as a _____. (see picture)

A. chipmunk squirrel
B. fox squirrel
C. Franklin's ground squirrel
D. southern flying squirrel



SAMPLE

7. This aggressive little insectivore is one of the North America's few venomous mammals. This animal does not have fangs like a snake or spurs like a platypus, but rather chew the venom into their victim. What is this animal? (see picture)
A. Hayden's Shrew *(Sorex haydeni)*
B. Meadow Vole *(Microtus pennsylvanicus)*
C. Northern Short-tailed Shrew *(Blarina brevicauda)*
D. Southern Bog Lemming *(Synaptomys cooperi)*



8. _____ females typically are bred during the fall and give birth to 1-2 young during the late spring or early summer after a 200 day gestation period.
A. White-footed Mouse *(Peromyscus leucopus)*
B. White-tailed Deer *(Odocoileus virginianus)*
C. White-tailed Jackrabbit *(Lepus townsendii)*
D. Virginia Opossum *(Didelphis virginiana)*

9. All of Iowa's bats are _____.
A. herbivores, relying primarily on plants for their diet
B. omnivores, relying on a mixture of plants and animals of their diet
C. insectivores, relying primarily on insects for their diet
D. carnivores, relying on animals for their diet

10. An exotic fungal disease called _____ was first discovered in 2006 and has killed millions of bats in North America. At some locations, 90 to 100 percent of bats have died because of this disease.
A. Bluetongue syndrome
B. Mycorrhizae syndrome
C. White-nose syndrome
D. Covid-19

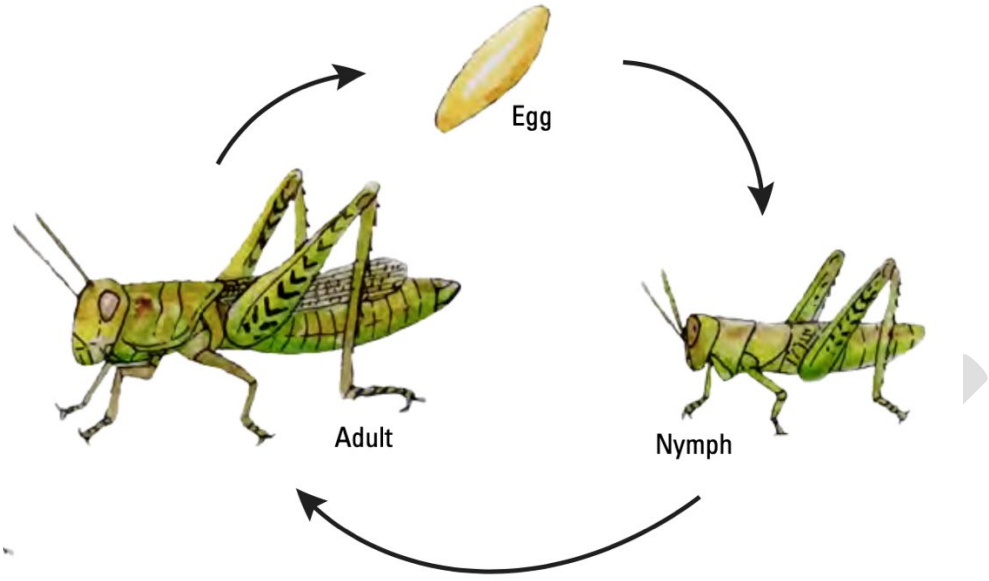
11. The _____ is the largest class of arthropods and they all have an exoskeleton and jointed legs.
A. Arachnid class (spiders, mites, ticks)
B. Centipede class (centipedes)
C. Crustacean group (crayfish, sowbugs - isopods, cladocerans)
D. Insect class (insects)
E. Millipede Class (millipedes)

12. The soldier fly (pictured), belongs to which class of invertebrates?
A. Arachnid
B. Centipede
C. Crustacean group
D. Insect
E. Millipede



SAMPLE

13. The three-stage life cycle of the two striped grasshopper is referred to as _____ metamorphosis. (see diagram)
A. complete
B. no
C. simple
D. triad



Two-striped grasshopper (*Melanopus bivittatus*)

14. Which of the following lists does NOT represent wildlife species that utilize Iowa oak trees?
A. Fox squirrel, Polyphemus moth caterpillar, Giant ichneumon wasp, Cooper's hawk
B. American badger, Common shinner, Bobolink, Regal fritillary butterfly
C. Scarlet tanager, White-tailed deer, Red-headed woodpecker, Black-capped chickadee
D. White-breasted nuthatch, Polyphemus moth, Gray fox, Eastern red bat

15. The _____ is the state bird of Iowa.
A. American Robin (Turdus migratorius)
B. American goldfinch (Spinus tristis)
C. Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica)
D. Mourning Dove (Zenaida macroura)

16. What Iowa wildlife species is displayed prominently on the Iowa State flag?
A. American bald eagle
B. American goldfinch
C. American robin
D. Oak tree
E. none of the above

17. ISU Extension's Nature Series regarding "Vertebrates" suggests that perhaps the most important vertebrate in Iowa is humans. What is the reason given for this suggestion?
A. humans are inherently of greater value than other creatures found in Iowa
B. human actions impact each vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant in the state
C. humans are by far the most intelligent animal species residing in Iowa
D. human actions generally have a positive impact on other animal and plant species found in Iowa

18. What bird species lay its eggs on bare or rocky ground? (see picture)
A. Baltimore orioles
B. Belted kingfishers
C. Brown-headed cowbirds
D. Killdeer



19. What bird species does not build their own nests but rather lay their eggs in the nests of other bird species which is a behavior referred to as nest parasitism? (see picture)

A. Blue Jays
B. Brown-headed cowbirds
C. Eastern Meadowlarks
D. Red-necked pheasants



SAM

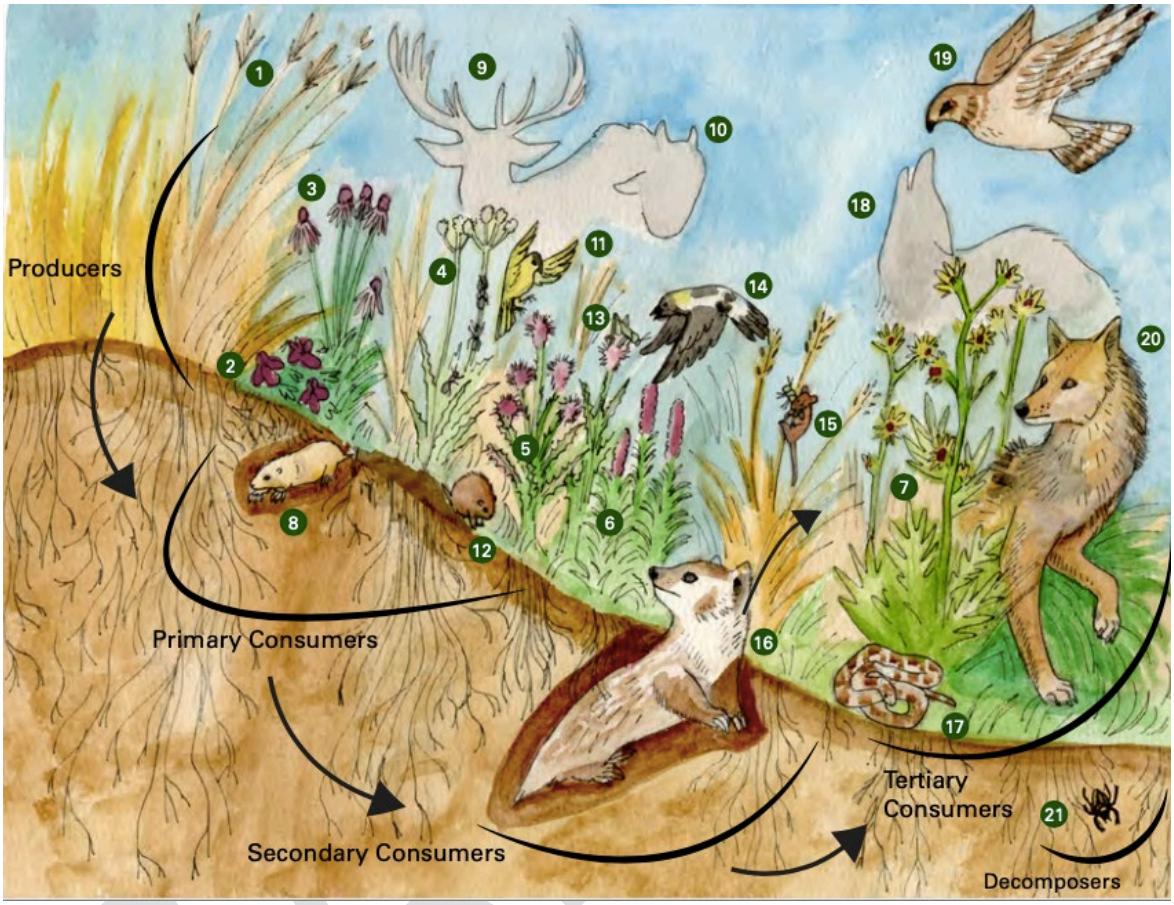
20. Shown in this picture is the courting behavior of a male _____ displaying to a female.
A. ruffed grouse
B. greater prairie chicken
C. prothonotary warbler
D. wood duck



21. These birds are _____. (see picture)
A. Red-headed woodpeckers
B. Pileated woodpeckers
C. Prothonotary warblers
D. Prairie chickens



22. Primary consumers found in the Iowa prairies ecosystem include: (see diagram)
A. Big bluestem, purple coneflower, rattlesnake master and compass plant
B. Plains pocket gopher, American goldfinch, prairie vole and two-lined grasshopper
C. Bobolink, grasshopper mouse, American badger and bull snake
D. Northern harrier, coyote, wolf and short-eared owl



23. This prairie plant has the scientific name “Echinacea pallida”, relating to the Greek word echinos meaning hedgehog. Stems and leaves on this plant are covered with short stiff hairs which makes them feel rough when touched. Native Americans used this plant to treat a variety of ailments, including burns, bites, arthritis, toothache, and rheumatism. What is the common name for this plant? (see picture)

A. Birdfoot violet
B. New England aster
C. Pale purple coneflower
D. Shooting star



24. Which of the following is considered a problematic invasive species in Iowa's prairies?

A. yellow sweet clover
B. Eastern red cedar
C. smooth brome grass
D. All of these

25. _____ are North America’s largest member of the rodent family. They have a fairly square-shaped head which is visible when swimming. Most notable is their large, flat tail that they use to slap the water’s surface when alarmed.

A. Beavers
B. Muskrats
C. River Otters
D. Southern Bog Lemmings