Regional Iowa Envirothon Wildlife Test – 2025
(25 points total)

1. Amphibians in Iowa are divided into two main groups that include _____.
A. toads and frogs (but does not include salamanders)
B. turtles and frogs (which includes toads)
C. salamanders and frogs (which includes toads)
E. salamanders and frogs (but does not include toads)

2. The most common snake in the State of Iowa is the _____.
A. common garter snake *(Thamnophis sirtalis)*
B. north American Racer (Coluber constrictor)
C. plains hog-nosed snake (Heterodon nasicus)
D. plainbelly Water Snake (Nerodia erythrogaster)
E. smooth Green Snake (Opheodrys vernalis)

3. Which of the following is one of Iowa's most common aquatic turtle species, as well as Iowa's largest turtle species and is found statewide?
A. Blanding's Turtle (Emydoidea blandingii)
B. Northern map turtle (Graptemys geographica)
C. Ornate box turtle (Terrapene ornate)
D. Snapping turtle (Chelydra serpentina)



4. Iowa has confirmed white-nose syndrome in the state, which is a wildlife disease known to decimate _____ populations.
A. bat
B. deer
C. fish
D. frog

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

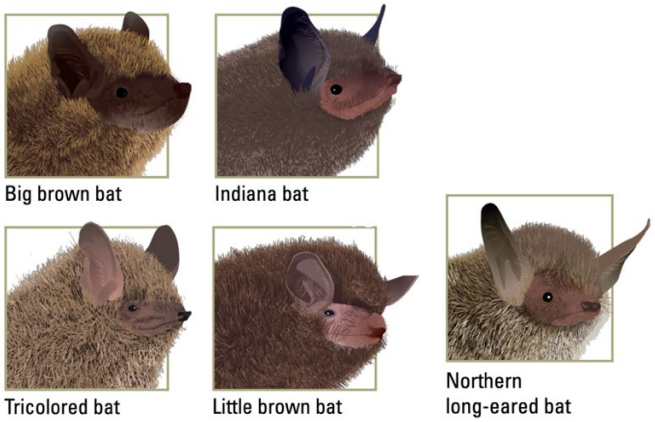
6. What is the common name of this bird, which is the size of an American Crow, with a flaming red crest? (see picture)
A. Black-billed woodpecker
B. Ivory-billed woodpecker
C. Pileated woodpecker
D. Red-headed woodpecker



7. _____ are strictly carnivores and are extremely good at digging, which they do on a regular basis to hunt prey underground. They can dig a hole more rapidly than a person with a shovel. (see picture)
A. American Mink
B. Badgers
C. Eastern spotted skunks
D. Long-tailed weasels
E. Short-tailed weasels



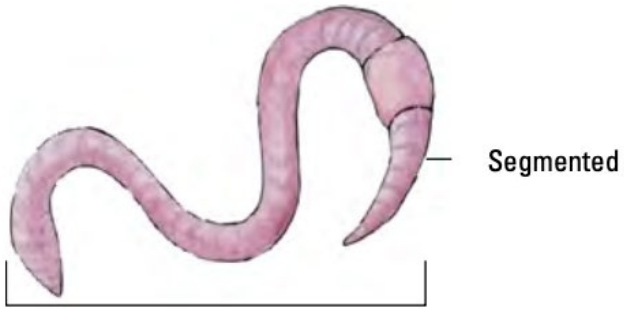
8. What do these five species of Iowa bats have in common? (see picture)
A. They call Iowa home year-round, spending winter in hibernacula in caves, abandoned mines, or even attics of houses, and summer nights feeding in and around Iowa's forests.
B. They are herbivores, relying primarily on plants for their diet.
C. They overwinter in the hollows and cavities of dormant Iowa trees.
D. They can be found in Iowa in highest abundance during the spring and fall as they pass through on annual migrations between southern wintering areas and northern breeding areas, reaching as far north as Canada's Boreal Forests and Alaska.



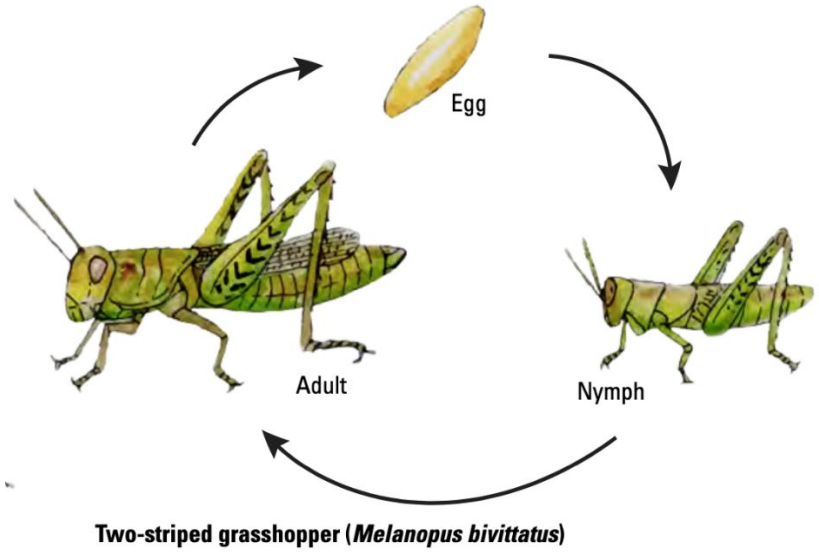
9. Invertebrates _____.
A. are animals without a backbone or a skeleton that contains bones
B. range in size from microscopic to 59 feet long and weighing nearly a ton
C. greatly outnumber vertebrates in species diversity and sheer abundance
D. are an incredibly diverse group of animals that are very common in Iowa
E. all of these are correct

10. Over _____ species of moths have been recorded in the state of Iowa.
A. 50
B. 200
C. 500
D. 2000

11. The wormlike, soft bodied, and segmented invertebrate shown _____. (see picture)
A. has no exoskeleton and no legs
B. is a segmented worm or annelid
C. has stiff bristle-like structures made of chitin, called chaetae, on their body segments
D. all of these are correct



12. The three-stage life cycle of the two striped grasshopper is referred to as _____ metamorphosis. (see diagram)
A. complete
B. perennial
C. simple
D. triad



13. In 1897, the _____ (*Rosa spp.)* became the first officially designated state symbol of Iowa.
A. American goldfinch
B. geode
C. oak
D. wild rose

14. The two Iowa birds show are: (see picture)
A. American goldfinch (left) and yellow warbler (right)
B. American goldfinch - male (left) and American goldfinch - female (right)
C. American goldfinch - female (left) and American goldfinch – male (right)
D. American goldfinch (left) and tan billed goldfinch (right)
E. Scott's oriole (left) and Western kingbird (right)





15. Lampreys _____.
A. are considered fish
B. are the most primitive of all vertebrate species in Iowa
C. are primitive in many ways, including the absence of bones in their body
D. have long slender bodies which can lead people to mistakenly think they are snakes
E. are all of these

16. Lizards are closely related to snakes but unlike snakes most lizards have two sets of _____.
A. ears
B. legs
C. lungs
D. kidneys
E. toes

17. _____ are the only marsupial native to the United States. The young of this mammal are born before they are fully developed and after they are born, they climb into their mother's pouch, and she provides milk while they continue to grow. The babies live in the pouch for up to two months until their eyes open.
A. American kangaroos
B. Koalas
C. Opossums
D. Platypuses

18. Ecologists use the term "keystone species" to describe an organism that _____.
A. are important for the survival of other species in an ecosystem
B. feeds on both animal and plant matter
C. are uncommon and potentially at risk because of their restricted geographic area or habitat
D. None of the above

19. Most of Iowa's vertebrates are_____, consuming a diversity of both plants and animals throughout their lives.
A. carnivores
B. diurnal
C. insectivores
D. omnivores
E. ruminants

20. White-tailed deer are herbivores and have a specialized digestive tract to help them process all of the plant material they eat. What type of digestive tract is this?
A. cecum
B. crop
C. gizzard
D. monogastric
E. ruminant

21. This North American mammal is a (an) _____. (see picture)
A. white-tailed deer buck
B. white-tailed deer doe
C. elk bull
D. elk cow

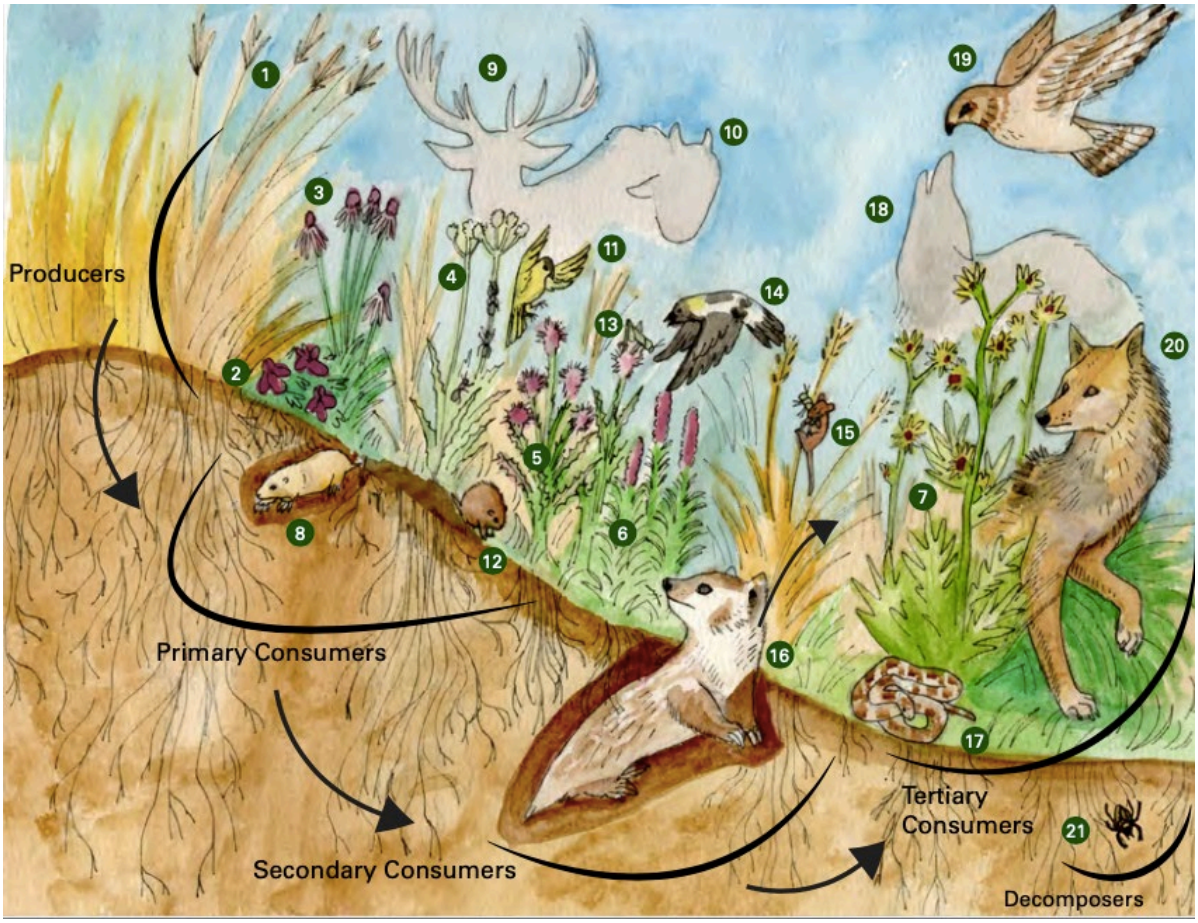


22. Prairies are the only habitat where _____ caterpillars' host plants, blue prairie violet or birdfoot violet, grow.
A. butterfly milkweed
B. New England butterfly
C. regal fritillar
D. speckled dragon



23. In this view of the Iowa prairies ecosystem, #9 – elk, #10 – bison, and #18 – wolf, are shaded gray to represent that they are _____. (see diagram).

A. extirpated and/or rarely found in Iowa
B. extinct
C. identified as invasive species
D. not native species of the Iowa prairie habitat



24. Fire that is used in prairie management is called _____ because it is set and planned with the careful oversight of prairie managers seeking to manage prairie vegetation and minimize risk to neighboring farms or property.
A. calculated burning
B. indoctrinated burning
C. prescribed burning
D. biological control
E. chemical control

25. A Cornell University study reveals that the population of North American birds has dropped by almost three billion birds or by nearly 30% since 1970. What is the primary cause for this decline?
A. habitat loss and climate change
B. an increase in cat populations
C. an increase in birds being killed by vehicles, trains, planes and wind turbines
D. unregulated hunting
E. use of DDT