2026 Iowa Regional Envirothon Wildlife Test (25 points)

1. 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*)

2. The snake shown in this picture is a _____.
A. common garter snake *(Thamnophis sirtalis)*
B. gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*)
C. North American racer (*Coluber constrictor*)
D. plains hog-nosed snake (*Heterodon nasicus*)
E. plainbelly water snake (*Nerodia erythrogaster*)



3. The Iowa DNR has _____ to share information about Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) positives in Iowa, which included positive sample statistics, and surveillance data from current and previous seasons.
A. a monthly newsletter
B. developed a web-based interactive dashboard
C. established a toll-free hotline
D. all of these are correct

4. The DNR's Wildlife Bureau _____.
A. manages over 410,000 acres that are available for public recreational use
B. manages public areas to provide habitat for Iowa's native wildlife species and those species that migrate through our state
C. supports wildlife dependent recreational activities that enable the public to enjoy wildlife
D. all of these are correct

5. Wild turkeys are primarily birds of the_____.
A. forest
B. short grass prairie
C. tall grass prairie
D. wetlands

6. The _____ has the unfortunate distinction of being the only federally endangered mammal in Iowa, having been included on that national list since the 1970s because of disturbances to its winter hibernation locations and the loss of critical forest breeding habitat.
A. Big Brown Bat *(Eptesicus fuscus)*
B. Indiana bat *(Myotis sodalist)*
C. White-tailed Jackrabbit *(Lepus townsendii)*
D. Woodland Vole *(Microtus pinetorum)*

7. Coyotes are also called (*Canis latrans*) and red foxes are referred to as (*Vulpes vulpes*). (*Canis latrans*) and (*Vulpes vulpes*) are _____ names.
A. common
B. family
C. scientific
D. Spanish

8. What do these four species of bats have in common? (see picture)
A. They live in Iowa, year-round and spend winter in hibernacula in caves, abandoned mines, or even attics of houses.
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 during the spring and fall as they pass through on annual migrations between their southern wintering areas and northern breeding areas



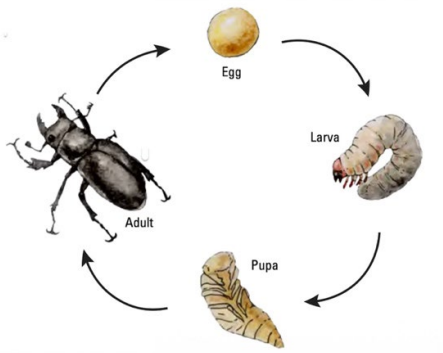
9. _____ are the most diverse groups of arthropods, with possibly 4-10 million species that have yet to be discovered or classified.
A. Earth worms
B. Fish
C. Insects

D. Spiders

10. This tiny, beneficial, non-stinging insect found throughout Iowa, commonly acting as crucial natural pest control in gardens and agriculture, is called a _____. (see picture).
A. Braconid wasp
B. Eastern yellowjacket
C. Rainbow scarab dung beetle
D. Soldier fly
E. None of these



11. The four-stage life cycle of the Stag beetle (*Lucanus placidus)* is referred to as _____ metamorphosis. (see diagram).
A. complete
B. perennial
C. simple
D. four score



12. Which of the following is not one of Iowa's state symbols?
A. honey bee
B. oak trees
C. American goldfinch
D. wild rose
E. geode
F. all of the above are state symbols of Iowa

13. _____ build nests made of mud on the sides as well as the framing of farm buildings and other structures.
A. Barn swallows
B. Little brown bats
C. Pileated woodpeckers
D. Wood ducks

E. All of these

14. What is the name of this plant that has flowers measuring 1½–2 inches across with a petal color ranging from near white to deep pink; yellow stamens; leaves oval and sharply toothed with 9–11 leaflets; and stems that are bristly and woody when older. (see picture)
A. cultivated rose
B. multiflora rose
C. prairie rose
D. purple coneflower



15. Greater prairie chickens carry out
their mating displays in particular areas known as _____, which are established sites where the birds congregate annually during the breeding season.
A. fens
B. leks
C. potholes
D. rookeries

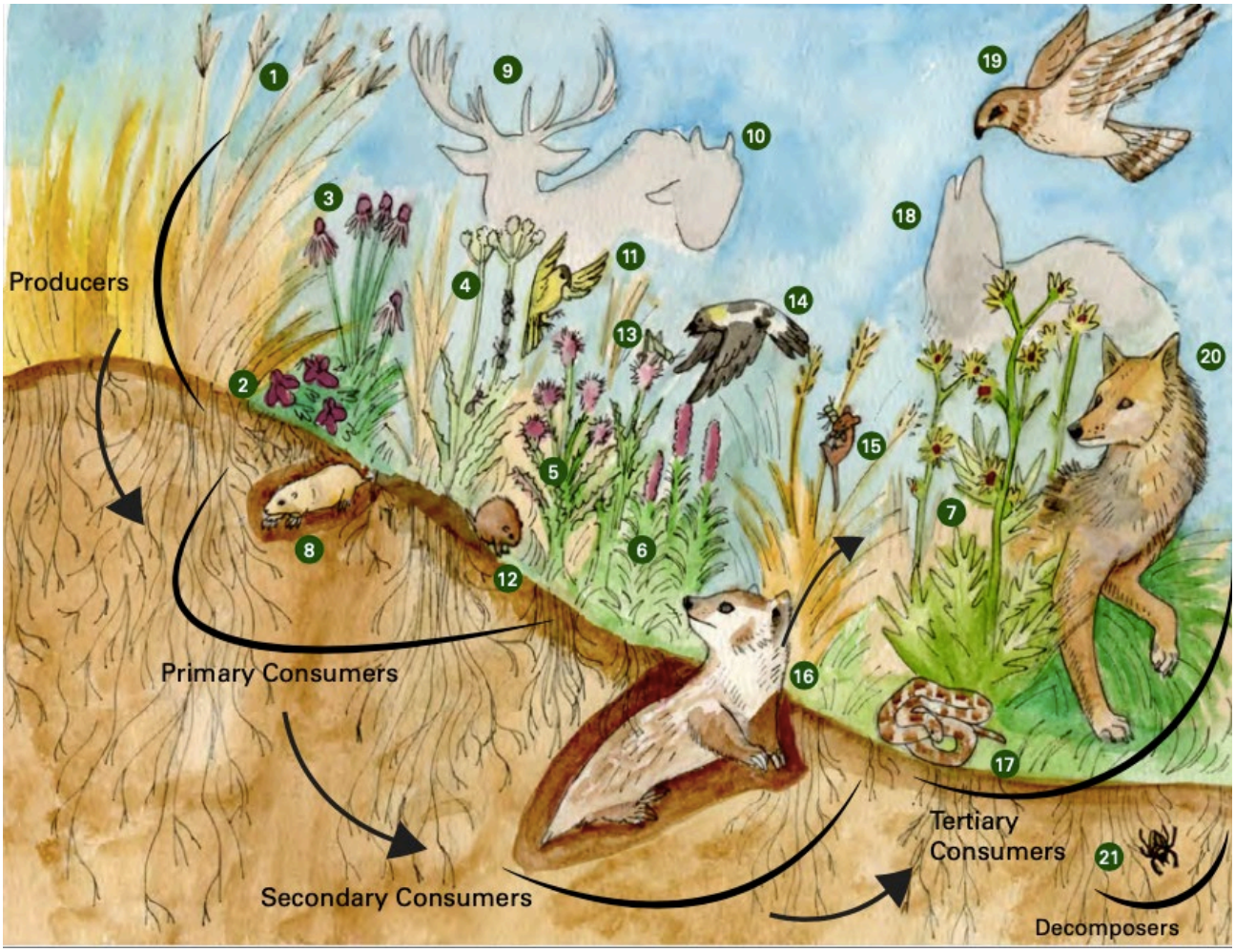
16. Nearly all birds that nest in trees and shrubs, as well as some ground-nesting birds, have _____ young that are born helpless and often without any feathers or down for warmth. Parents of such young must spend a great deal of time bringing food back to the nest.
A. altricial
B. fossorial
C. juvenile
D. precocial

17. Iowa's once vast prairies were shaped by a host of natural forces over millions of years. Which of the following is not one of them?
A. Grazing by bison
B. Ice and snow storms
C. Tilling by early humans
D. Periodic wildfires
E. Formation and recession of glaciers

18. _____ species of grasses, wildflowers, shrubs, and vines have been documented to occur in Iowa prairie ecosystems.
A. Only about 25
B. Approximately 100
C. More than 300
D. More than 1000

19. In which trophic level of the food web does an herbivore like the white-tailed deer belong?
A. producer
B. primary consumer*
C. secondary consumer
D. tertiary consumer

20. Producers 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



MATCHING: Match the definition with the appropriate scientific term.

A. Crepuscular
B. Diurnal
C. Estrus
D. Extirpated
E. Fledge
F. Gestation
G. Nocturnal
H. Parturition
I. Puberty
J. Wean

_____ 21. Animals most active during daylight hours.

_____ 22. An activity pattern associated with twilight hours. These types of animals are most active at dawn and dusk.

_____ 23. The process of fully transitioning offspring from a milk diet to a diet of other natural foods.

_____ 24. The act of giving birth.

_____ 25. A part of the breeding cycle in which a female can become pregnant. Colloquially referred to as “heat” in domestic animals.