

# **Test your Nature Knowledge!**

15 questions

True or False

**Ready?**

**Let's go!**

1. Poison ivy is an invasive species of plant.      T      F

# #1

FALSE!

Poison ivy, *Toxicodendron radicans*, is native to North America. In spring its leaves are a shiny red that develops into a glossy green. If allowed to grow, it will produce yellow berries.



**If you come into contact with it, wash thoroughly with COLD water and soap. Heat can make the oil spread. Look for plants like jewelweed and plantain nearby for temporary relief. Mash plantain leaves in your mouth and spit it on the areas, or break a jewelweed stalk and rub the sap on. Works for insect bites, too.**

2. Tamaracks lose their needles in the fall like deciduous trees do.

T

F

## #2

TRUE!

The Tamarack, *Larix laricina*, is classified as a deciduous conifer because it produces cones and its green needles turn yellow in the fall and drop off.



3. Bats use GPS to find insects.

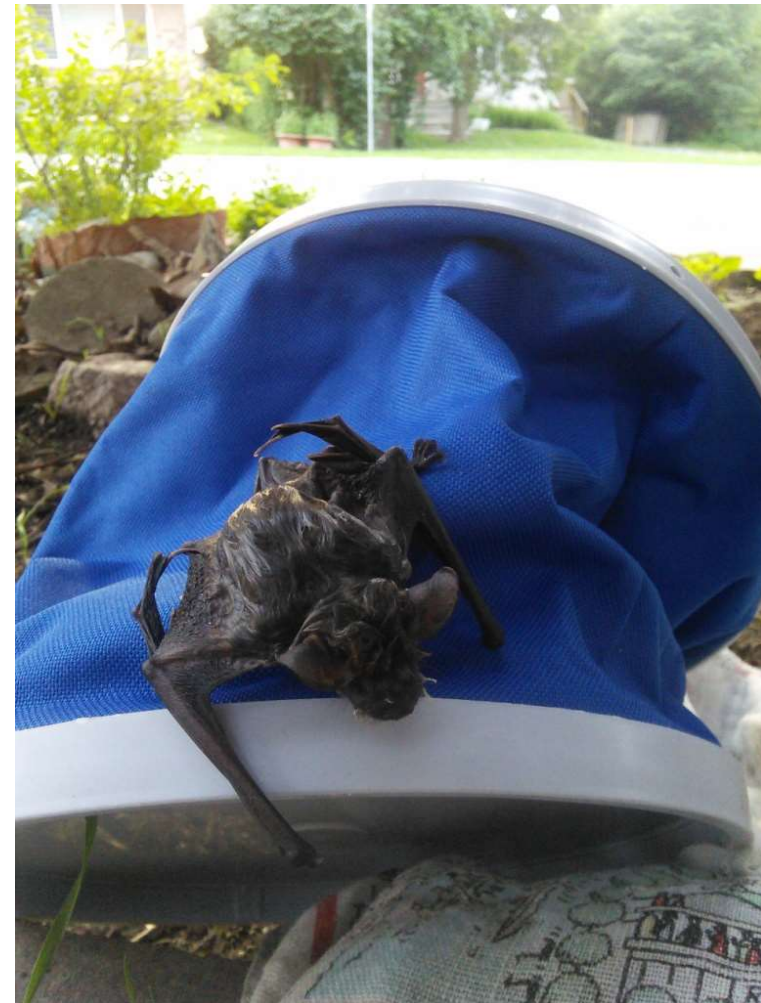
T

F

# #3

FALSE!

Bats use echolocation—the use of sound waves—to find insects. But even the best flyers can go off course. The little brown bat on the right was rescued when it got into a house and into a toilet!



4. Trilliums are pollinated mostly by ants.    T    F



# #4

TRUE!

Red trilliums (*Trillium erectum*) in particular mimic the colour of rotting flesh and an odor similar to carrion that ants love.



5. Squirrels have double jointed back legs. T F

# #5

TRUE!

Having double jointed back legs lets them run down trees head first!



*Fun Fact! All black squirrels are grey squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) but with a mutation that changes their fur colour.*

6. Milkweed is the only plant that Monarch butterflies need.

T

F

# #6

FALSE!

This was a bit of a trick question! Common milkweed is the only food source for Monarch *caterpillars*. The seed pod and flower of *Asclepias syriaca* are pictured in the middle.

Monarch *butterflies* eat from a wide variety of wildflowers including New England asters and blazing stars.



7. Ferns are the oldest plants in the world. T F

# #7

TRUE!

Ferns are more than 300 million years old and dominated the Earth before the rise of flowering plants.



8. Hemlock trees produce the poison that killed  
Socrates.

T F



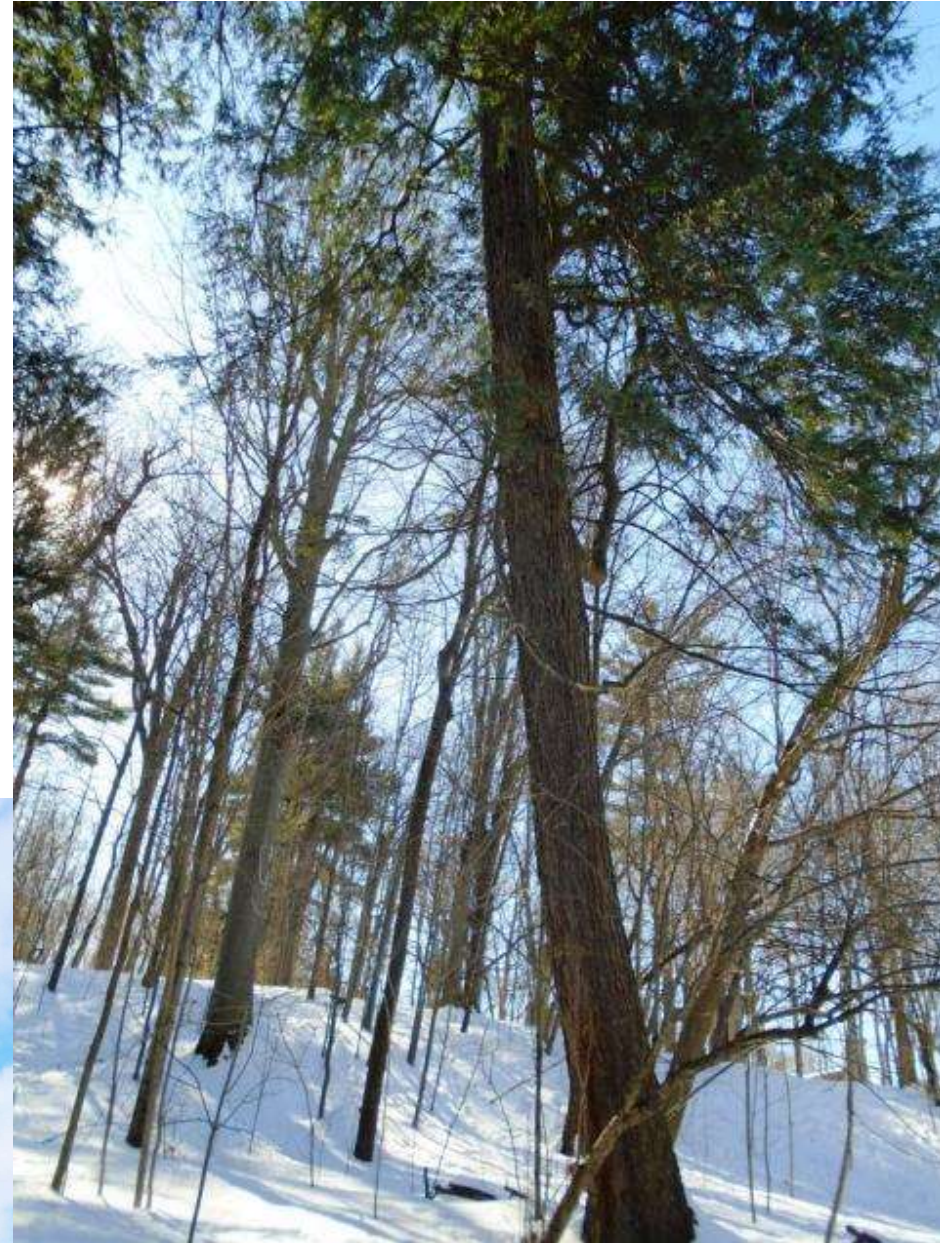
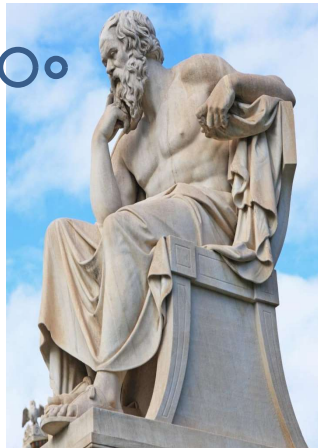
# #8

FALSE!

Hemlock, *Conium maculatum*, was the plant used to kill the philosopher, not the Hemlock tree, *Tsuga Canadensis*.



I got nothing  
against  
hemlock trees...



9. Common ravens are the largest songbird. T F

# #9

TRUE!

Although they are "honorary raptors" because they will hunt and kill prey if necessary, Common ravens (*Corvis corax*) are classified as passerine or "perching" birds. They're mostly foragers and scavengers, and have a wide range of distinctive calls.



10. Dog poo is good for the soil.

T

F

# #10

FALSE!

Most dogs eat processed food, which contains high amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous that comes out in their waste. Too much of these nutrients damages and kills vegetation. Dog waste can also contain parasites, such as round worm eggs, which can stay in the soil and infect wildlife for years to come.



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Poop Fairy Union, Local #23  
is on strike.

Please pick up your dog's  
waste and dispose of it in  
the bin until further notice.

Thank you!

11.If you encounter a puddle on a forest trail, walk  
around it. T F

# #11

FALSE!

When you go off or around a trail to avoid a puddle or other obstacle, such as a fallen tree, the trail widens or a whole new trail may be created. These actions trample nearby vegetation, erode and compact soil, and create “dead zones” where no vegetation can grow. It can take as few as 20 people (or dogs) walking over the same stretch of ground to create a new trail, so if you can't walk through or over an obstacle, turn back!



12. One cigarette butt can contaminate 1,000 litres of water.

T F




# #12

TRUE!

Cigarette butts are not biodegradable and contain plasticized cellulose acetate.



## Butt Facts

  
One cigarette butt is enough to contaminate 1,000 litres of water

Butts contain 7000 toxic chemicals, including known carcinogens

Butts are the largest single type of litter by count in international coastal and urban clean ups

Butts are not biodegradable and contain plasticized cellulose acetate

13. Earthworms are a native species.

T

F

# #13

FALSE!

With few exceptions, North American earthworms were wiped out in the last ice age. While they are still great to have in your composter, earthworms pose real threats to forests. They eat all the organic material in the upper layer, disrupting soil health and stabilization, and restricting the natural regrowth of native plants and trees.

**EUROPEAN EARTHWORM**  
*Lumbricus terrestris*

SIZE: 110-200mm x 7-10mm  
120-170 segments

pink to brown in color that does not jump when disturbed

no distinct mouth

**CLITELLUM**  
saddle-shaped, raised, similar in color to body



**JUMPING WORM**  
*Amyntas agrestis*

SIZE: 70-160mm x 5-8mm  
63-100 segments

reddish brown iridescent worm that will thrash and jump when disturbed

each segment has a ring of setae

large distinct mouth

**CLITELLUM**  
milky, smooth, flush, annular



Before Invasion



After Invasion



14. Rabbit urine changes colour depending on what they eat. T F

# #14

TRUE!

Rabbits eat a variety of different coloured berries. When they pee and the urine is exposed to sunlight, it can turn it orange, red, or even blue if the rabbit has been eating buckthorn berries!



15. Oak trees support more than 2,000 different species.

T F

# #15

TRUE! Oak trees are the #1 "keystone" species (= a species that supports multiple other species). Oaks provide food, shelter, and habitat for 2300 species, including mammals, birds, and insects.



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- |  |          |          |
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| 9. Common ravens are the largest songbird.                           | <b>T</b> | F        |
| 10. Dog poo is good for the soil.                                    | T        | <b>F</b> |
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