

EKOKIDS  
*Scavenger Hunt*



MISSISSIPPI STATE  
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EXTENSION

# EKOKIDS SCAVENGER HUNT

WHAT MAMMALS FREQUENT YOUR NECK OF THE WOODS? OR NEIGHBORHOOD? OR PARK? To find out, use the *EKOKIDS Schoolyard Nature Guides: Mammals* available here: <http://extension.msstate.edu/publications/ekokids-schoolyard-nature-guides>.

If you find one, put an X in the box next to its name below:

- Northern raccoon
- Eastern gray squirrel
- Eastern fox squirrel
- Striped skunk
- Eastern mole
- Eastern cottontail
- White-tailed deer
- Red fox
- Deer mouse
- House mouse
- Southern flying squirrel

## Mammals

USE *EKOKIDS SCHOOLYARD NATURE GUIDES: MAMMALS* TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WILDLIFE BY ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS BELOW. HOW MANY CAN YOU GET RIGHT?

1. **Northern raccoons** make many sounds. About how many can they make? A.10 B.25 C.40
2. What is the name of the **eastern gray squirrel's** leafy nest?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. True or False: An **eastern fox squirrel** will make a nest in a hole made by a woodpecker. \_\_\_\_\_
4. What do **striped skunks** do with their feet as a warning sign before spraying? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Name the animal family to which the **red fox** belongs. \_\_\_\_\_
6. How long does a **deer mouse** usually live in the wild? \_\_\_\_\_
7. The back legs of a **house mouse** are very strong. How many inches high can they jump into the air? \_\_\_\_\_
8. True or False: **Southern flying squirrels** can fly. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Why do **eastern moles** dig tunnels? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What materials are used by an **eastern cottontail** to make her nest? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. True or False: **White-tailed deer** grow new antlers every year. \_\_\_\_\_

**Publication 3455-A** (POD-06-20)

By **Leslie M. Burger**, PhD, Assistant Extension Professor, and **Alexander J. Binney**, Extension Program Assistant, Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture.

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# EKOKIDS SCAVENGER HUNT

WHAT TREES ARE GROWING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? To find out, use *EKOKIDS Schoolyard Nature Guides: Trees* available here: <http://extension.msstate.edu/publications/ekokids-schoolyard-nature-guides>.

If you find one, put an X in the box next to its name below:

- Loblolly pine
- Bald cypress
- Eastern red cedar
- Red maple
- Yellow poplar
- Sycamore
- Pin oak
- Gingko
- Eastern redbud
- Southern catalpa
- Southern magnolia

*Trees*

USE *EKOKIDS SCHOOLYARD NATURE GUIDES: TREES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TREES AND WILDLIFE* BY ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS BELOW. HOW MANY CAN YOU GET RIGHT?

1. How many feet can a **loblolly pine** grow in 1 year? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The **bald cypress** loses its needles in winter. What is the term that describes this trait?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Native Americans use from the **eastern red cedar** to make medicine? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the name for the winged seeds of a **red maple**? \_\_\_\_\_

5. True or False: The **gingko** tree was brought to the U.S. from China. \_\_\_\_\_
6. American settlers made a tea from **eastern redbud** bark to treat what sickness?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What popular fishing bait lives in the soil at the base of **southern catalpa** trees? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the state tree of Mississippi? \_\_\_\_\_
9. **Yellow poplar** wood is thought to be resistant to what pest insect? \_\_\_\_\_
10. True or False: The **sycamore** tree grows only in rich, bottomland soils near water. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Name one type of wildlife that eats **pin oak** acorns. \_\_\_\_\_

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Answers: 1. 3; 2. deciduous; 3. wood, bark, leaves, and berries; 4. Samara; 5. True; 6. diptheria or whooping cough; 7. catapla  
worms; 8. Southern magnolia; 9. Termites; 10. False; 11. Deer, blue jays, squirrels, woodpeckers, or ducks.

# EKOKIDS SCAVENGER HUNT

I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE...SOMETHING SPINELESS. AN INVERTEBRATE! Find out about your invertebrate neighbors by using the *EKOKIDS Schoolyard Nature Guides: Invertebrates* available here: <http://extension.msstate.edu/publications/ekokids-schoolyard-nature-guides>.

If you find one, mark an X in the box next to its name below:

- Carolina wolf spider
- Southern black widow
- Brown recluse
- Eastern harvestman
- Yellow garden spider
- Southern devil scorpion
- North American millipede
- American dog tick
- Louisiana red crayfish
- Brown garden snail
- Chigger

## Invertebrates

USE *EKOKIDS SCHOOLYARD NATURE GUIDES: INVERTEBRATES* TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WILDLIFE BY ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS BELOW. HOW MANY CAN YOU GET RIGHT?

1. **Carolina wolf spiders** protect their eggs and babies. What is the name for baby spiders? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What color are **southern black widows** after they hatch?  
A. Black    B. Red    C. White
3. What are **brown recluses** also called (because of the shape of the dark mark on them)? \_\_\_\_\_

4. True or False: An **eastern harvestman** can detach a leg that will twitch and distract predators. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why does a **yellow garden spider** shake its web? \_\_\_\_\_
6. True or False: The sting of a **southern devil scorpion** is not painful. \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many pairs of legs do **North American millipedes** have?  
A. 20    B. 50    C. 1,000
8. True or False: **American dog ticks** are members of the same group of animals as spiders (Arachnids). \_\_\_\_\_
9. The **Louisiana red crayfish** is farmed so people can use it for what? \_\_\_\_\_
10. True or False: The **brown garden snail** does not have eyes. \_\_\_\_\_
11. True or False: **Chiggers** burrow into skin. \_\_\_\_\_

**Publication 3455-C** (POD-06-20)

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# EKOKIDS SCAVENGER HUNT

WHAT SCALED OR SLIMY FRIENDS CAN YOU FIND NEAR YOU? To find out, use *EKOKIDS Schoolyard Nature Guides: Reptiles & Amphibians* available here: <http://extension.msstate.edu/publications/ekokids-schoolyard-nature-guides>.

If you find one, put an X in the box next to its name below:

- Eastern box turtle
- Gray rat snake
- Eastern garter snake
- Broad-headed skink
- Gray treefrog
- Spotted salamander
- Southern leopard frog
- Five-lined skink
- American toad
- Carolina anole
- Green treefrog

## Reptiles & Amphibians

USE *EKOKIDS SCHOOLYARD NATURE GUIDES: REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS* TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WILDLIFE BY ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS BELOW. HOW MANY CAN YOU GET RIGHT?

1. How many years can the **eastern box turtle** live?  
A. 50    B. 75    C. 100
2. True or False: The **gray rat snake** cannot climb trees. \_\_\_\_\_
3. What feature of the **eastern garter snake** inspired its name?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Broad-headed skinks** are most commonly found in what kinds of habitat? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What can **five-lined skinks** do to escape potential predators? \_\_\_\_\_
6. True or False: **American toads** can cause warts on people. \_\_\_\_\_
7. True or False: **Carolina anoles** can change color between green and brown. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Is a **green treefrog** a reptile or an amphibian? \_\_\_\_\_
9. In what habitat do **gray treefrogs** breed? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What can **spotted salamanders** do when one of their body parts has been severely damaged? \_\_\_\_\_
11. **Southern leopard frogs** live in shallow water where they feed on what? \_\_\_\_\_

**Publication 3455-D** (POD-06-20)

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# EKOKIDS SCAVENGER HUNT

USE *EKOKIDS SCHOOLYARD NATURE GUIDES: BIRDS* TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WILDLIFE BY ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS BELOW. HOW MANY CAN YOU GET RIGHT?

WHAT BIRDS DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR BACKYARD? Make your own discoveries using the *EKOKIDS Schoolyard Nature Guides: Birds* available here: <http://extension.msstate.edu/publications/ekokids-schoolyard-nature-guides>.

If you find one, put an X in the box next to its name below:

- Northern cardinal
- House finch
- Blue jay
- Tufted titmouse
- House sparrow
- Mourning dove
- Eurasian collared dove
- Northern mockingbird
- Red-headed woodpecker
- Carolina chickadee
- American robin

*Birds*

1. True or False: The **northern cardinal** mates for life. \_\_\_\_\_
2. In the 1940s, **house finches** were marketed as what kind of birds?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What type of bird is in the same bird family as **blue jays**?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does the **tufted titmouse** like to collect for its nesting material? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Is the **house sparrow** a native species in the U.S.?  
(Was it always found living here?) \_\_\_\_\_
6. What bird is named for its sad-sounding call? \_\_\_\_\_
7. In what U.S. state did the **Eurasian collared dove** first appear? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What does the Latin name *Mimus polyglottos* mean in English? \_\_\_\_\_
9. A **Carolina chickadee** can lower its body temperature to survive cold weather. What word describes this? \_\_\_\_\_
10. True or False: **Red-headed woodpeckers** can catch flying insects in midair.  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What color is the egg of the **American robin**? \_\_\_\_\_

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Answers: 1. True; 2. Hollywood finches; 3. crows; 4. dog hair, snake skin, soft materials; 5. No; 6. Mourning dove; 7. Florida; 8. many-tongued mimic; 9. torpor; 10. True; 11. blue or robin's egg blue

**Publication 3455-A-E** (POD-06-20)

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