

State Symbols Trivia Game

Advance Preparation

1. Read and review the fall 2008 issue of *Conservationist for Kids* with your students.
2. Prepare the following materials for the game:
 - ❑ 11 clue cards plus 1 Bonus Questions card (see below; print on 8.5"x11" page and cut along lines)
 - ❑ make 4 buzzers or paddles (can be different colors of construction paper taped to a stick); one for each of the four teams
 - ❑ state symbols images (see accompanying PDF; print on 8.5x11 page)
 - ❑ "New York State Symbols Expert" certificate to award to each member of the winning team (see accompanying PDF; print on 8.5x11 page)
3. Divide the students into four teams of equal size. Tell them that they will be working together to play a trivia game. The winning team will be recognized as the "New York State Symbol Experts." Each team can come up with their own team name, if desired.
4. Create a scoreboard listing each team's name. (see sample, below)
5. Explain the rules of the game (see below).

General Rules

- Each team has a paddle or buzzer to signal when they have the answer. Each team must designate one person to be the paddle raiser or buzzer person.
- Team members should confer and tell the designated person to signal when they have the answer. ***Anyone can answer for the team.***
- Each team gets ***one chance per clue*** to guess the state symbol. (If the team guessed incorrectly on clue #5, they can still ring in on clue #2.)
- ***If a team has more than three incorrect guesses on one state symbol, they lose one point for each wrong answer.*** (Just to keep them from guessing wildly at each clue!)

Play and Scorekeeping

1. Read the clues on the card for the first state symbol, starting with clue #5 and down through the list to clue #1. Read only one clue at a time and give the teams 5 to 15 seconds to answer.
 - a. The first team to "ring in" with the correct answer receives the number of points for the number of the clue they guessed correctly on.
 - For example: Team B rings in after clue #5 is read and answers correctly; they receive 5 points. If the correct answer is not provided until after the reading of clue #2, then the team with the correct answer receives 2 points.
 - b. If no team rings in on clue #5, read clue #4, give the teams a chance to answer, and continue on until the correct answer is provided or clue #1 is read.
 - c. If no team answers correctly after all five clues have been read, show them the picture of the symbol as a final clue.
 - If a team gets the correct answer after seeing the picture of the symbol, that team receives one point, as though they had guessed correctly after clue #1 was read.
2. Once the state symbol has been guessed, read the remaining clues (if all of them haven't been read) and show the picture of the symbol to the teams.
3. Write the number of points the team with the correct answer received on the scoreboard and continue on to the next state symbol clue card.
4. Repeat until all of the state symbols have been guessed.
5. If time allows, ask the bonus questions. Award 2 points to the team which correctly answers each bonus question.
6. Tally up the scores to see which team won.
7. Declare the winning team to be "New York State Symbol Experts" and award them their certificates.

Sample Scoreboard for State Symbol Trivia Game

	Team A	Team B	Team C	Team D
Symbol A				
Symbol B				
Symbol C				
Symbol D				
Symbol E				
Symbol F				
Symbol G				
Symbol H				
Symbol I				
Symbol J				
Symbol K				
Symbol L				
Bonus Question A				
Bonus Question B				
Total Score:				

Scoring:

- 5 points awarded for each correct answer provided on clue #5.
- 4 points awarded for each correct answer provided on clue #4.
- 3 points awarded for each correct answer provided on clue #3.
- 2 points awarded for each correct answer provided on clue #2.
- 1 point awarded for each correct answer provided on clue #1.
- 1 point awarded for each correct answer provided on visual clue.
- 2 points awarded for each correct answer to a bonus question.

If more than 3 incorrect answers on the same state symbol, team loses 1 point for each wrong answer.

5. This state symbol was designated in 1956 and is our second-oldest state symbol.
4. This state symbol can grow to be too big to hug.
3. This state symbol turns brilliant red or yellow-orange in the fall.
2. This state symbol drops “helicopter” seeds in the fall.
1. Something sweet to put on pancakes can be made from this state symbol.

Sugar Maple – state tree

5. This symbol was designated in 1955, making it New York’s oldest state symbol.
4. This state symbol can be found in disturbed areas and roadsides.
3. This state symbol has a “hip” that is very high in vitamin C.
2. This state symbol defends itself with sharp thorns.
1. This state symbol has five petals, usually pink.

Rose – state flower

5. This state symbol loves to swim.
4. This state symbol can be found across the state.
3. This state symbol usually grows to 30 pounds in weight.
2. This state symbol has large front teeth which continually grow.
1. This state symbol creates habitat for many kinds of wildlife when it builds dams and floods areas.

Beaver – state mammal

5. The adult form of this symbol can eat one hundred aphids (its favorite food) a day.
4. This state symbol was designated by New York State in 1989.
3. This state symbol is loved by gardeners because they eat many insects that are garden pests.
2. This state symbol was last seen in New York State in 1970.
1. This state symbol can fly and has six legs.

Nine-spotted Ladybird Beetle (ladybug) – state insect

5. This state symbol is considered to be a sign of spring.
4. This state symbol eats insects.
3. This state symbol prefers fields, orchards and gardens.
2. This state symbol was once rare, but is more common today because people have improved its habitat.
1. This state symbol builds a nest in a cavity in a tree, or in a man-made box.

Eastern Bluebird – state bird

5. This state symbol usually doesn’t grow larger than two pounds.
4. This state symbol was designated by New York State in 1975, and re-designated in 2006
3. This state symbol usually lives about five years.
2. This state symbol has spots.
1. This state symbol loves to swim in cold freshwater.

Brook Trout – state freshwater fish

5. This state symbol is a close relative of horseshoe crabs, scorpions and spiders.
4. This state symbol is rare world-wide, but common in some areas of New York State.
3. This state symbol lived at the bottom of shallow seas.
2. This state symbol was a ferocious, swimming predator.
1. This state symbol lived 400 million years ago.

Eurypterid – state fossil

5. This state symbol can be found in sandy-bottomed shallow water.
4. This state symbol moves by squirting a jet of water.
3. This state symbol is common along the Atlantic Coast, especially Long Island.
2. This state symbol has blue eyes which detect changes in light and nearby motion.
1. This state symbol is a favorite of seafood lovers.

Bay Scallop – state shell

5. This state symbol was designated in 2006.
4. Adult females of this state symbol lay eggs shaped like ping-pong balls.
3. This state symbol is cold-blooded.
2. This state symbol lives in lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and marshes across the state.
1. This state symbol has a saw-toothed tail and shell.

Snapping Turtle – state reptile

5. This state symbol was designated in 1969.
4. This state symbol is used when making sandpaper.
3. This state symbol can be found in the Adirondacks.
2. This state symbol is usually red, but may be found in other colors as well.
1. This state symbol is sometimes made into jewelry.

Garnet – state gem

5. This state symbol can grow to be as large as a nine- or ten-year-old person.
4. This state symbol is a fast, powerful swimmer.
3. This state symbol has stripes.
2. This state symbol lives in the ocean and can be found around Long Island.
1. This state symbol spawns in the Hudson River Estuary.

Striped Bass – state saltwater fish

**New York's State Symbols Trivia Quiz
BONUS QUESTIONS**

In 2008, New York's legislators are considering adding a new state symbol. What kind of animal is it? (butterfly)

Who has the final authority to sign a bill designating something a state symbol? (the governor)