

How 10,000 Lakes Were Made

Many years ago when the world was new, the Mississippi river was much longer. It meandered back and forth across the area that is now Minnesota. Fish in great numbers lived in this river, and its water was so pure and sweet that all the animals went there to drink from it.

A giant moose that lived way up north heard about the river and he too went there to drink from it. He was so big and he drank so much that the water level began to fall rapidly. The beavers were worried. The water around their lodges was disappearing. Soon their homes would be destroyed. The muskrats were worried too. What would they do if the water vanished? The fish were very worried. The other animals could live on land if the water dried up, but they could not. All the animals tried to think of a way to drive the moose from the river, but he was so big that they were too afraid to try. Even the bear was afraid of him.

At last the fly said he could try to drive the moose away. All the animals laughed and jeered. How could a tiny fly frighten a giant moose? The fly said nothing, but that day, as soon as the moose appeared, the fly went into action. First, he landed on the moose's foreleg and bit sharply. The moose stamped his foot to shake the fly off. Next, the fly landed on the moose's hind leg and bit it sharply. The moose stomped harder. This caused the ground to sink and the water rushed in to fill it up.

Then the fly jumped about all over the moose, biting him all over his body until the moose was in a frenzy. He dashed madly about the banks of the river, shaking his head and stamping his feet, snorting and blowing, but he could not get rid of that pesky fly. Finally, the moose could take it no longer and ran back up to the far north country where he had come from.

All the thrashing and stomping that the giant moose did across the country created large and small holes. As these filled with water, they became the 10,000 lakes of Minnesota. The giant moose also told all of his kind to never go south because of the terrible biting flies there. That is why there are few moose in Minnesota except way up north in Canada.

The fly was very proud of his achievement, and the other animals were very thankful. They made a promise to fly that whenever any animal dies of old age or disease, the fly can have the entire body to feed on and lay eggs. That is how it is done to this day.

Adapted from How 10,000 Lakes Were Made

For questions 1 and 2, decide who fits the characteristics described below. Tick (✓) your chosen answer. The first example has been done for you.

Characteristics described from paragraphs 2 to 3		Moose	Fly
Example	Big	✓	
1	Strong		
2	Confident		

3. Which word has the same meaning as “meandered”? Circle either (A) or (B).

The hikers were confused and zigzagged through the winding paths in the forest.
(A) **(B)**

For questions 4 to 6, read each statement and tick (✓) “True” or “False”. The first example has been done for you.

	Statement	True	False
Example	The fly was proud of his achievement.	✓	
4	All the animals believed the fly could drive the moose away.		
5	The fly successfully provoked the moose and caused him to return to where he came from.		
6	Beavers live near the lakes.		

7. How did the fly chase the moose away?

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

8. Tick (✓) your chosen answer.

From the passage, we know that we have a better chance of finding a moose in _____.

	Mississippi
	Minnesota
	Canada

Answers

For questions 1 and 2, decide who fits the characteristics described below. Tick (✓) your chosen answer. The first example has been done for you.

Characteristics described from paragraphs 2 to 3		Moose	Fly
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(A) (B)

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	Statement	True	False
Example	The fly was proud of his achievement.	✓	
4	All the animals believed the fly could drive the moose away.		✓
5	The fly successfully provoked the moose and caused him to return to where he came from.	✓	
6	Beavers live near the lakes.	✓	

7. How did the fly chase the moose away?

i. The fly bit the moose on its fore leg.

ii. The fly bit the moose on its hind leg.

iii. The fly bit the moose all over its body.

8. Tick (✓) your chosen answer.

From the passage, we know that we have a better chance of finding a moose in _____.

	Mississippi
	Minnesota
✓	Canada