

Name _____ Hour _____

Minnesota, Hail to Thee! by K. Marling, 2008 “State Symbols”, Page 14

1. What is a symbol? _____
2. What are symbols you know and what do they represent?

3. A symbol of you would be and why:

Minnesota	Symbol	Interesting Facts
Wild rice	grain	Wild Rice , called <i>manomin</i> in the Ojibwe language, a highly healthy grain that is not really rice but an annual water grass seed whose scientific name is "zizania aquatica" and known to the Chippewa in their native language as "Mahnomin" or "good berry." Wild rice is high in fiber, protein, the amino acid lysine, potassium, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin.
Walleye	fish	The Walleye was designated as the official state fish of Minnesota in 1965. Minnesota is first nationally in the sales of fishing licenses capita. Fish species: 158 Fishing waters: 3,800,000 acres Fishable lakes: 5,493
Morel	mushroom	Minnesota morel mushroom (<i>morchella esculenta</i>) the official state mushroom since 1984. These delicious mushrooms are cone-shaped with pitted, spongy heads and are considered a rare delicacy by mushroom hunters. Morel mushrooms are creamy tan or shades of brown and gray (they darken as they age) and are found more commonly in southeastern Minnesota than in other parts of the state.
Milk	drink	Milk was designated as the official state drink of Minnesota in 1984. Minnesota produces 9.7 billion pounds of milk a year (6% of the nation's total) and ranks sixth in dairy production among the states. Milk has been called a nearly perfect food - a source of protein, calcium, and several other important nutrients.
Monarch	butterfly	Minnesota adopted the monarch butterfly (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>) as the official state butterfly in 1998. Monarch caterpillars appear to feed exclusively on milkweed, which grows throughout Minnesota. Both caterpillar and butterfly are brilliant in color as a warning - the Monarch ingests toxins from the milkweed plant, which are poisonous to predators.
Superior Agate	gemstone	The Lake Superior Agate was designated as the official state gemstone of Minnesota in 1969. The history of the Lake Superior Agate proves that it was the best choice for the state gemstone. The agate reflects many aspects of Minnesota. It was formed during lava eruptions that occurred in our state about a billion years ago. The stone's predominant red color comes from iron, the major industrial mineral in our state. Finally, the widely distributed agate reveals the impact of glacial movement across Minnesota 10,000 to 15,000 years ago.
Common Loon	bird	The common loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>) was adopted as the official state bird symbol of Minnesota in 1961. Loons are known for their cries, wails, and yodels - their eerie, echoing calls are a distinctive feature of Minnesota's northern lakes. Loons are large black and white birds with red eyes. They have wingspans up to five feet and body lengths up to three feet. Although clumsy on land, they are high-speed flyers and excellent underwater swimmers (they will dive to depths of 90 feet in pursuit of fish). Approximately 12,000 of this unique bird make their summer homes in the Minnesota.
Pink & White Lady Slipper	flower	The state flower – the pink and white lady's-slipper – was chosen by the women who decorated the Minnesota displays at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893. It took almost thirty more years for the legislature to approve their choice. The pink and white lady's slipper (<i>Cypripedium reginae</i>) was designated the official state flower of Minnesota in 1902. Lady's slippers can live up to 50 years but develop slowly, taking up to 16 years to produce their first flower. Since 1925 this

		rare wildflower has been protected by Minnesota state law (it is illegal to pick the flowers or to uproot or unearth the plants).
Blueberry	muffin	Minnesota even has a state muffin, blueberry. A third-grade class from the northeastern city of Carlton proposed the new symbol in 1988. They justified their selection of a state food on the basis of the muffin's all-Minnesota ingredients. Wild blueberries abound in the northland, while farmers across the state grow wheat. From 1880 until 1930, Minnesota – specifically, the short stretch of land along the Mississippi River just below the Falls of St. Anthony in Minneapolis – was the flour-milling center of the world! Wild blueberries are native to northeastern Minnesota, growing in bogs, on hillsides, and in cut-over forested areas.

4. After reading about Minnesota symbols, choose three Minnesota symbols and explain using details from the passage why these are good symbols representing the state of Minnesota.

5. Minnesota's symbols are chosen primarily due to their:

- A. Distinct rarity in the state of Minnesota
- B. Unique presence in the state of Minnesota
- C. Attractiveness that each item has on the Minnesota flag
- D. Each item would be tasty in a Minnesota hotdish

6. What is the reason that the Minnesota legislation passed the blueberry muffin as the Minnesota state muffin?

- A. The third grade children from Carlton were good students and this was their reward.
- B. The Minnesota legislation decided that having real baked goods would be a good symbol.
- C. The native blueberries and Minnesota grown wheat represented the state.
- D. In 1921, General Mills created Betty Crocker, who provided the blueberry muffin recipe.

7. In the following quote, what is the meaning of delicacy ?

“Morel mushrooms are considered a rare delicacy by mushroom hunters.”

- A. The mushroom is rare and hard to find in the dark shade
- B. The mushroom are delicate and taste like chocolate
- C. The mushrooms darken with age
- D. The mushrooms are a dangerous food

8. The Lake Superior Agate demonstrates

- A. that Minnesota was not formed by lava formations
- B. how rare the agates became after people mined the iron ore
- C. glacial movement across Minnesota many years ago
- D. that the red color comes from the pure Lake Superior shores