

Categories for HGC “Wild Ones Is the Answer. What’s the Question?” Game

Note: This game is played similarly to the TV show where the contestant provides the question to the answer.

- We worded the “answers” in such a way that there are fairly unambiguous “questions” (*That’s the hard part*) Also, we tried to avoid wordiness since only so much fit easily on the paper.
- **HINT:** I found it easier to put the “answer” in the correct form if I created the question first even though we’ll be presenting the “answer” in the game board. Not all of the “answers” are totally grammatical with the question, but they’re probably close enough without becoming overly wordy. For example, **QUES:** What is duck potato / arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*)? **ANS:** Its starchy tubers provide a meal for a large duck and its white flowers beautify our ponds
- We had 7 categories with 5 “questions” each
- Implementation:
 - We divided into two teams (we had 12 contestants) and three people facilitating –one person to moderate and keep score (although we stopped keeping score after a while), one person to take the sheet off the wall and read the “answer,” and one person dealing with the laptop/projector.
 - We used a pad of 12x18 art paper and hand-printed the “answers.” We folded the paper in half horizontally, (intended to) put the point total on the front, and then taped these folded pieces of paper to the wall in the usual grid
 - We decided it would be easier if each side just took turns rather than reading the question and ringing a bell.
 - When a team chose a Category/Point # “answer” the moderator untaped the paper from the wall, held it up and read it.
 - If after consultation, the team’s answer was wrong, the other team got a chance to try.
 - After someone got the correct answer, we projected a picture of that plant/animal/habitat element and talked a bit about it.
 - We had a PPT slide display of all the answers ahead of time. I had the little thumbnail view of all the slides displayed and while the question was being selected, I stood between the screen and the projector so no one could see all the answers. When they picked the question, I selected the slide with the answer and displayed it and just moved aside so it could be seen when someone got the answer. (It wasn’t as complicated as it sounds here!)

OUR QUESTIONS / ANSWERS

Herbaceous (Annuals/Perennials)

QUES: What is Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)?

ANS: A relative of the common impatiens that likes moist soil; a favorite of hummingbirds

QUES: What is pussytoes (*Antennaria neglecta*)?

ANS: The “cat” American Ladies like.

Vines and Ferns

(not that they're related – just to make it easier to find questions)

QUES: What is American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)?

ANS: The almost unknown native version of the Oriental invasive commonly used in crafts

QUES: What is hart's tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium americanum*)?

ANS: Our “dear” native, but endangered, fern

Aquatic/emergent plants

QUES: What is duck potato / arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*)?

ANS: Its starchy tubers provide a meal for a large duck and its white flowers beautify our ponds

QUES: What is cardinal flower lobelia? (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

ANS: A favorite of the hummingbird because of its brilliant red, tubular flowers

Grasses

QUES: What is little bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*)?

ANS: Don't feel sad, its stems provide good wildlife cover

QUES: What is switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)?

ANS: A native grass that is sold as many different cultivars and provides food for sparrows

Shrubs

QUES: What is bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*)?

ANS: If you have a male, the females will have grey berries birds such as catbirds like.

QUES: What is elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)?

ANS: Enjoy a glass of wine as you watch 48 species of birds enjoy its berries

Trees

QUES: What is (Canadian) hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*)?

ANS: An evergreen that provides both seeds and shelter; one of the few that will grow in the shade

QUES: What is the pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)?

ANS: An oriental-sounding, but native tree; important source of berries for birds

Non-plant habitat elements

QUES: What is a bee house?

ANS: A block of wood with lots of holes of various sizes drilled in it

QUES: What is a bat house?

ANS: A wooden box stained brown, placed in the sun so it will be very warm inside, and mounted 15-20 feet off the ground

Sustainable gardening practices

QUES: What are leaves?

ANS: If left on the ground, these will decay and make your soil richer each year.

QUES: What is mulch?

ANS: Using this will keep the soil moist and you won't have to water as often

Invasives

QUES: What is the Norway maple?

ANS: A very commonly planted large tree that outcompetes our native sugar maples

QUES: What is buddleia (butterfly bush)?

ANS: Its nectar appeals to butterflies, but it's been listed as invasive in nearby states

Animals in the Habitat Garden

QUES: What is a dragonfly?

ANS: These "mosquito hawks" lay their eggs in and around water

QUES: What is a toad?

ANS: The gardener's friend; the slug's enemy

Herbaceous:

Q: What is purple coneflower?

A: Native to the Midwest, if you leave the prickly seed heads on, you will see many goldfinches feasting in September.

Q: What is butterfly weed?

A: This orange flower attracts butterflies and likes dry soils.

Vines/Ferns:

Q: What is Christmas Fern?

A: This wide-fronded fern is almost evergreen.

Q: What is Virginia Creeper?

A: This vine with blue-black berries can also be used as a ground-cover.

Aquatic Plants

Q: What is pickerel weed?

A: This emergent plant has tall clusters of small purple flowers and can be an aggressive spreader.

Q: What is the common cattail?

A: You have seen this aquatic plant in every pond, lake or slow-moving stream. Its roots are sharp. Keep them in a container so they don't puncture your pond liner.

Grasses

Q: What is Northern Sea Oats?

A: This adaptable grass has beautiful dangling, flat seed heads, until the birds eat them in the winter.

Q: What is Big Blue stem?

A: This tall grass shows its beautiful color in the fall, and its seed spikes mature to look like a turkey's foot.

Shrubs

Q: What is Serviceberry, Shadblow?

A: This tall shrub (or tree) has red foliage in the Fall and supposedly delicious blue/purple berries rivaling blueberries that cedar waxwings love.

Q: What is Inkberry?

A: Be sure to plant a few of these black-berried holly to make sure you have a male and female. The berries may be hanging around until the early Spring after the winter has softened them up for the birds.

Trees

Q: What is a River Birch?

A: This moisture loving tree has yellow fall foliage and salmon-colored peeling bark. The goldfinches also love the catkins in the late summer.

Q: What is Swamp Magnolia?

A: This Southern-sounding tree can be found as far North as Mass. With its 3" white flowers

in the Spring, red fruits in the Fall and waxy green leaves, this tree's a beauty.

Non-plant

Q: What is moving water?

A: You will attract more birds to your birdbath if you add this.

Q: What is a Toad Abode?

A: An animal shelter can you make from an upside-down clay pot and saucer.

Sustainable

Q: What is clover?

A: To fix more nitrogen in the soil to benefit what little lawn you may have and the bees, overseed with this.

Q: What is three inches?

A: This is the height that you should set your mower to (usually the highest setting on the mower deck).

Invasives

Q: What is Purple loosestrife?

A: This pretty, wet-loving invasive can be found in many ditches in CNY, but is really a problem at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.

Q: What is Norway Maple?

A: This common tree is seen in many yards in CNY as well as garden centers. Its "helicopters" are marching into woodland areas and taking over.

Animals

Q: What is Black Swallowtail butterfly?

A: You can watch the metamorphosis of this wonderful green, black and yellow caterpillar if you plant parsley and dill in your garden.