Nature Trivia

Choose one answer per question. Circle A, B, C, or D.

1. A trailside tree has white bark that curls back in thin, papery strips. Which tree fits that clue?
   A. Paper birch
   B. Black walnut
   C. Eastern hemlock
   D. Red maple

2. A park guide calls a broad, shelf-shaped growth on a decaying tree a dryad’s saddle. What kind of organism forms that growth?
   A. A fern
   B. A moss
   C. A fungus
   D. An insect

3. As the tide goes out, small hollows in a rocky shore remain filled with seawater. What are these hollows called?
   A. Sandbars
   B. Tide pools
   C. Salt marshes
   D. Estuaries

4. In a sheltered freshwater pond, broad round leaves float on the surface. Their long stalks lead to a plant rooted in the pond bottom. Which plant fits the description?
   A. Duckweed
   B. Cattail
   C. Milkweed
   D. Water lily

5. What feature of a cactus shows why it is called a succulent?
   A. Its spines are modified leaves.
   B. Its thick, fleshy stems hold water.
   C. Its flowers can develop into fruit.
   D. Its roots can spread near the soil surface.

6. A park sign describes a lichen made up of a fungus and a green alga. Which task does the alga perform in this partnership?

A. It makes sugars using light.
B. It builds the lichen’s protective outer layer.
C. It draws minerals from soil through roots.
D. It breaks down dead leaves as its main source of energy.

7. Some lodgepole pine cones open after a wildfire. Why can those old cones release seeds soon after the fire?

A. The cones contain young trees that already have roots.
B. Heat makes fresh seeds grow in the cone within hours.
C. Wind pushes seeds from outside into the cones as they open.
D. The seeds were already held inside by a resin seal.

8. A field guide describes a North American bog with acidic water and deep peat. Which kind of vegetation typically forms its thick living carpet?

A. Cattails
B. Duckweed
C. Sphagnum moss
D. Water clover

9. A diver sees kelp blades moving in the current, but the base of each kelp stays fixed to a rock. Which part keeps the kelp attached?

A. The holdfast
B. The blade
C. The stemlike stipe
D. The gas-filled float

10. A red mangrove’s seed begins growing while still attached to the tree. After it drops, what lets that young plant reach a new stretch of shore?

A. It travels along roots growing underground from the parent.
B. It glides on wings that unfold before it drops.
C. It is carried in pollen blown from the tree.
D. It can float and drift with the tide.

11. A fictional field notebook tracks two neighboring dune patches after a windy week. A patch with sea oats gained 4 cm of sand. A bare patch gained 1 cm. Which interpretation fits both the figures and what sea oats do?

A. The grassy patch gained 5 cm more, consistent with the plants catching windblown sand.
B. The bare patch gained 3 cm more, consistent with the plants keeping sand out.
C. The grassy patch gained 3 cm more, consistent with the plants catching windblown sand.
D. The two patches gained the same amount because both were exposed to wind.

12. A forest observer finds a straight row of trees with roots that arch over a long, low gap. Once, seedlings rooted above the ground along that same line. Which vanished feature best explains the pattern?

A. A canopy opening that let sunlight reach the soil
B. A fallen log that supported the seedlings before decaying
C. A temporary puddle on level ground
D. A living forest edge that shaded the seedlings

13. Two fictional woods have equally warm springs. Assume the flowers' window of bright light begins on the same day and ends when the canopy fills with leaves. Those leaves fill in on May 8 in Wood A and May 14 in Wood B. Which site has the shorter bright window, and by how many days?

A. Wood B, by 14 days
B. Wood A, by 14 days
C. Wood B, by 6 days
D. Wood A, by 6 days

14. Two fictional aspen groves have equally spaced trunks. In Grove A, the trunks all grew as new shoots from the roots of one tree. In Grove B, each grew from a separate seed. Which record identifies a single aspen clone, and why?

A. Grove A, because the shoots came from one original plant.
B. Grove B, because each trunk came from its own seed.
C. Both groves, because all aspen trunks look similar.
D. Neither grove, because a clone can only have one visible trunk.

15. After a fictional rainstorm, the same muddy water moves quickly into a beaver pond and slowly across it. There is no new sediment source inside the pond. Where is fine sediment more likely to build up, and why?

A. At the pond surface, because slowing down makes suspended particles rise.
B. In the fast inlet, because faster water makes suspended particles drop sooner.
C. On the pond bottom, where slower water lets particles settle.
D. Evenly along both stretches, because the same muddy water flows through them.