

Caribou Mysteries

science sleuths &
detective math

A Caribou Year: Challenge Yourself

[Circle the one correct answer for each question.]

1 - What is the primary winter food for Porcupine Herd caribou?

- a) mosses
- b) willows
- c) lichens
- d) dry grasses

2 - Scientists capture caribou in the winter in order to...

- a) put on new radio collars, take blood samples, and weigh the caribou
- b) trim the caribou's hooves
- c) put on new radio collars and give medicines to the caribou
- d) take blood samples and give extra food to the caribou

3 - Why are migrating caribou sometimes found in the springtime on high mountain ridges?

- a) the caribou are avoiding predators
- b) the snow has been blown away, so walking is easier
- c) the caribou are lost
- d) the thick snow cushions the caribou if they fall

4 - During March and April, scientists try to estimate...

- a) the number of bulls that survived the winter
- b) the number of cows that survived the winter
- c) the number of yearlings that survived the winter
- d) the number of calves that survived the winter

5 - In normal years, Porcupine Herd caribou give birth to their calves in Alaska, in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Caribou may calve in Canada, however, if...

- a) the snow melts earlier than normal
- b) late snowmelt slows the caribou down
- c) there are wild-fires in the area
- d) the caribou do not know where they are

6 - During the calving period, scientists make maps showing...

- a) where the calves are born
- b) where the calves go after they are born
- c) where the bulls are located
- d) where the insect relief areas are

7 - During the hot days of summer, Porcupine Herd caribou gather together in very large groups - called aggregations - ...

- a) in locations where there are fewer predators
- b) in locations where the shallow snow is easier to walk through
- c) in locations where there are fewer insects
- d) in locations where there are more insects

8 - When the caribou gather together in large aggregations...

- a) scientists use nets to capture the caribou
- b) scientists photograph the animals to make sure they are healthy
- c) scientists take a break so they can work in their offices
- d) scientists photograph the animals from an airplane to count them (to census them)

9 - In the fall, caribou begin moving south toward their winter range when...

- a) a storm or cold weather arrives
- b) they run out of food
- c) they move into Canada
- d) they meet a lot of predators

10 - In the fall, caribou scientists often work in their offices in order to...

- a) keep warm during the cold weather
- b) let other people have a chance to see the caribou
- c) count the caribou in the census photographs
- d) prepare winter food for the caribou