Trapping: Worksheet

1. Why is the trapper training course required of all first-time trapper? Name several aspects that one may learn through the trapping course.
2. What were the earliest forms of traps used?
3. What is the main purpose for trapping today? Name at least TEN animals that are trapped in our region.
4. What TWO principles are involved in wise management of renewable natural resources?
5. Explain the terms “renewable” and “limiting factor.”
6. Can wildlife be “stockpiled”? Note the difference between “capital stock” and “surplus stock” (in other words, define each).
7. Why is there trapping when we have synthetic products to replace fur? What is the major emotional argument against trapping?
8. Name some areas in our society where we kill animals for our own uses.
9. What happens to animals that are caught in traps? How often must a trapper visit his traps according to the law?
10. Name four different laws that regulate or protect trappers.
11. List seven trapping ethics that all trappers should follow and that are part of the trappers’ training course.
12. What affects a trapper’s catch? How should trappers be judged in order to be considered successful?
13. List the standard trapping equipment found in a typical fox trapper’s pack basket.
14. Name and give one detail of each of the different types (at least six) of traps that are legal to use in New York State.
15. Make a sketch of either the “single long spring trap” or the “body gripping trap” and LABEL all the parts.

Trapping: Worksheet

ANSWER KEY

1. Why is the trapper training course required of all first-time trapper? Name several aspects that one may learn through the trapping course.

* *To increase awareness of the trapper’s responsibilities, and to introduce beginning trappers to acceptable trapping methods, ethics and responsibilities, law, natural history ad basic wildlife management principles.*
* *Tradition and adventure of trapping, increase environmental awareness, gain new outdoor skills, realize the potential economic gain of ecologically sound trapping.*

1. What were the earliest forms of traps used?

* *Pits, deadfalls or snares*

1. What is the main purpose for trapping today? Name at least TEN animals that are trapped in our region.

* *Capture animals for food, clothing or population control s well as to sell their fur for a livelihood*
* *Muskrat, mink, red fox, gray fox, coyote, weasel, fisher, bobcat, marten, opossum, skunk, otter, beaver, raccoon*

1. What TWO principles are involved in wise management of renewable natural resources?

* *Use of a harvestable surplus and preservation of the basic resource*

1. Explain the terms “renewable” and “limiting factor.”

* *Plants and wildlife are renewable because they are generally in high supply and can be replenished within a relatively short period of time*
* *A limiting factor is a substance supplied by the environment that exists in an inadequate amount (food, breeding sites, oxygen, water, etc.)*

1. Can wildlife be “stockpiled”? Note the difference between “capital stock” and “surplus stock” (in other words, define each).

* *Wildlife cannot be stockpiled because the population fluctuates each year from high to low*
* *Capital stock is that portion of the population the habitat can support*
* *Surplus stock is the part the habitat cannot support and that will die by some means before the next year’s young are produced*

1. Why is there trapping when we have synthetic products to replace fur? What is the major emotional argument against trapping?

* *Animal furs come from a renewable resource while most synthetic fibers come either from nonrenewable resources (coal or petroleum) or from energy intensive resources (woodfiber)*
* *Cruelty to the captured animals … exposes the irresponsibility of the minority of trappers*

1. Name some areas in our society where we kill animals for our own uses.

* *Insect and disease control, habitat destruction, production of meat (beef, chicken, pork, lamb, turkey, etc.), production of fertilizer, hunting, leather coats*

1. What happens to animals that are caught in traps? How often must a trapper visit his traps according to the law?

* *Traps are designed to kill their catch as quickly and humanely as possible*
* *Once every 24 hours in most places (48 hours in some places)*

1. Name four different laws that regulate or protect trappers.

* *Open seasons are set by law, a trapper must visit his/her traps at least once every 24 hours, keep your license with you whenever trapping, prohibits disturbing lawfully placed traps or removing lawfully trapped animals from the traps of another person*

1. List seven trapping ethics that all trappers should follow and that are part of the trappers’ training course.

* *Trappers must know and obey trapping laws and be willing to report violators to their local ECO*
* *The proper use of legal traps: proper size and typed of trap for a particular species of animal, selective sets and baits*
* *Water traps must be placed in order to drown the captured animal quickly and humanely*
* *Securing the trap so it will hold captured animals*
* *Cover all leghold traps set on land to increase your catch and reduce damage caused to the animal*
* *Check traps daily and as early as possible*
* *Respect rights and property of others … get permission from landowner, help alleviate “vermin” problems*
* *Do not interfere with other sportsmen: hunters, bird, harvest of crops, etc.*
* *Use caution in areas where domestic animals might be found*
* *Keep up-to-date on recent trapping techniques*
* *Respect the resource being caught and harvested to avoid waste, offense to others and extinction of endangered species*

1. What affects a trapper’s catch? How should trappers be judged in order to be considered successful?

* *A trapper’s catch depends on many things such as the area trapped, weather and furbearer populations*
* *Trappers should be judged on their ethical behavior and responsibility*

1. List the standard trapping equipment found in a typical fox trapper’s pack basket.

* *Traps, pan covers, stakes, digging tool, hatchet, wire, pliers, gloves, dirt sifter, bait jar, lure, kneeling pad, urine*

1. Name and give one detail of each of the different types (at least six) of traps that are legal to use in New York State.

* *Long-spring trap: least expensive, more metal in their construction; used best*

*in places of easy concealment*

* *Guarded trap: muskrat or mink … prevents escape faster and stronger for*

*its size*

* *Under-spring or Jump trap: most compact, easy to conceal; faster and stronger*

*for its size*

* *Coil-spring trap: fastest of the foothold traps*
* *Body-grip trap: designed to catch animal around neck or chest in order to*

*kill animal quickly*

* *Box trap: used in places where risk of taking domestic animals is*

*higher*

1. Make a sketch of either the “single long spring trap” or the “body gripping trap” and LABEL all the parts.

* *Single long spring trap: dog, pan long spring, jaws, swivel, tag*
* *Body-gripping trap: dog, jaws*



