

2002

Water Address - Iowa Specific Cards

Iowa Academy of Science

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Recommended Citation

Iowa Academy of Science, "Water Address - Iowa Specific Cards" (2002). *K-12 Curriculum Supplements*.
2.

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Water Address - Iowa Specific Cards

- My long legs keep the rest of me above water as I wade.
- I also have a long neck and beak that allow me to search for food in shallow water.
- I fly with my neck pulled back into an S shape.
- I am a shore bird with grey/blue feathers and a wingspan of about 70 inches.

Answer: **Great Blue Heron** - The Great Blue Heron nests in trees and can be found along rivers, lakes, streams and marshes.

- All my kind live a double life. I began as an aquatic animal, unable to survive on land. As an adult I spend most of my time on land, but stay close to water.
- As an adult, I stay close to a permanent water source so that I have a place to lay my eggs.
- I eat insects that live in the forest. My feet have special pads that allow me to climb trees and even walk on glass windows without falling down.
- I don't drink the water that is so important to my life, instead I absorb water through my skin.

Answer: **Gray treefrog** - These little frogs are found throughout Iowa and can change in color from gray or brown to green.

- I begin my life in the water where I feed on tadpoles and aquatic insects. I have to be fast because many fish would like to feed on me!
- My body is divided into three parts, head, thorax and abdomen. I have four wings connected to my thorax that allow me to fly over pond and stream.
- I am a carnivore. I use the spines on my legs to help me catch mosquitoes and other insect prey in flight.
- My eyes see better than any other insect because each one has more than 25,000 lenses.

Answer: **Dragon fly** - It is one of the fastest insects and is able to fly backward and even hover in place. Keen eyesight and ace flying skills make dragonflies a dangerous predator of marshes, lakes, rivers and prairies.

- My feathers are adapted to keep me warm so that I can make Iowa my home year round.
- I need fresh water every day. This can be hard to find in the winter when rivers and puddles become frozen.
- To keep warm in the winter, I must spend most of the day eating. This makes it easy to attract me to your house, especially in the winter. If you keep your bird feeder stocked, I will come.
- I am a large songbird and my call, 'jaaaay', gives away part of my name.

Answer: **Blue jay** - Northern cardinals, Cedar waxwings, American goldfinch, Blue jays and many other songbirds are found in Iowa year round and can be attracted to your yard with a feeder.