

Wild Goose

by Curtis Heath

He climbs the wind above
green clouds of pine

Honking to hail the
gathering migration.

And, arching toward the
south, pulls to align

His flight into the great
spearhead formation.

5

He'll find a bayou land of
hidden pools,

And bask amid lush fern
and water lily

Far from the frozen world
of earthbound fools

Who, shivering, maintain
that geese are silly.

10

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Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which direction is the goose flying in the poem?

- A. east
- B. south
- C. north
- D. west

2. What does the first verse of this poem describe?

- A. the weather around the goose's home
- B. the landscape of the goose's home
- C. the goose's movements in flight
- D. the goose's physical features

3. The people who "maintain that geese are silly" are suffering in cold weather.

Which word or phrase from the poem best supports this conclusion?

- A. "bayou"
- B. "earth-bound"
- C. "shivering"
- D. "fools"

4. How can the land where the goose is headed best be described?

- A. cool and dry with lots of tall trees
- B. warm and wet with lots of plant life
- C. hot and dry with little water
- D. very cold and frozen over

5. What is this poem mostly about?

- A. the science of how geese and other birds fly
- B. the frozen landscape of cold northern lands
- C. the migration of geese to places with warmer weather
- D. the reasons why people think geese are silly creatures

6. Read these lines from the poem:

He'll find a bayou land of

hidden pools,

And bask amid lush fern

and water lily

Why might the poet have used the words "bask" and "lush" in this description of the land the goose is flying towards?

- A. to hint that the goose prefers land that is close to water
 - B. to show that the goose is likely to be unhappy in that land
 - C. to indicate the cold temperatures and harsh weather of that land
 - D. to emphasize the comfort, richness, and warmth of that land
7. Throughout this text, whom or what does the word "he" refer to?
- A. the speaker's friend
 - B. the speaker
 - C. a wild goose
 - D. an earth-bound fool
8. What words does the poet use to describe the people in the "frozen world"?
9. What words does the poet use to describe the goose's movements or actions?
10. How does specific language in the poem reflect the poet's opinion about geese?