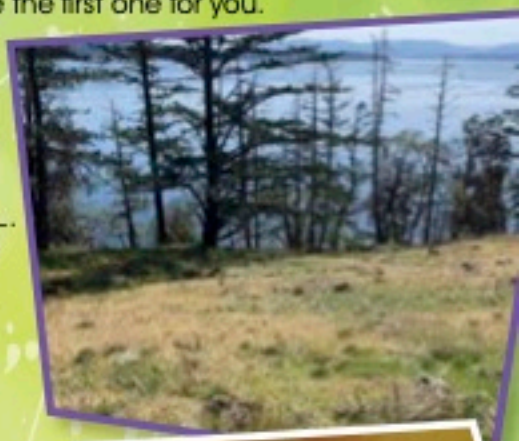
Answer the questions and find the hidden message!

Try doing this after you've read the whole issue!

Start by filling in the blanks in the six questions.

Do you see the numbers under some blanks? Take the letter that you have written in each numbered blank, and place it in the right order in the hidden message below. We've done the first one for you. Number 1 is the letter "*l*".



1. If a top predator disappears from a habitat, there are effects all the way down the food chain. This is called a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
   (3, 9, 12, 6)
2. The little _ _ _ _ _ _ _ fly looks like a bee or wasp that might bite or sting, so predators avoid it. This is an example of _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
   (8, 18, 2)
3. The skunk cabbage is also known as the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
   (16, 1 = *l*, 15, 10)
4. The plate over the middle part of a beetle is called the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
   (13, 17, 4)
5. The abdominal wing covers of a beetle are the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
   (5, 7)
6. *Scaphinotus angusticollis* and *Scaphinotus marginatus* are both native BC species of _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
   (11, 14, 20, 19)

The Hidden Message

"Insects are the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ that _ _ _ the _ _ _ _ _" - *E.O. Wilson*
(1 = *l*, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12; 13, 14, 15; 16, 17, 18, 19, 20)

E.O. Wilson was a famous American scientist and the world's leading expert on ants. Can you think of some reasons why this statement might be true?

This is a dragonfly called an Eight-spotted Skimmer. Can you find the **8** other skimmers hiding in this issue?

Photo credits: Salt Spring Island: Kephra Beckett, BC • Sticky false asphodel with hover fly approaching / skunk cabbage flower bud / Eight-spotted Skimmer: Rob Alexander, BC • *Scaphinotus angusticollis*: by Michael K. Oliver, Ph.D., licensed by CC BY-SA 4.0 • *Scaphinotus marginatus*: Andrew McKorney, WA