



Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



EDUCATIONAL EXTENSIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE OF RANGER RICK® MAGAZINE

YEAR OF THE DOG

Have students turn to pages 6–7 of this issue of *Ranger Rick* and ask:

- Why do you think this article is called “Year of the Dog”? (*For nearly 5000 years, the Chinese culture has organized time in a cycle of 12 years. Each of the 12 years is represented by an animal that embodies unique qualities. 2018 is the Year of the Dog.*)
- People born in the Year of the Dog are believed to possess certain dog-like qualities. What do you think some of these qualities might be? (*List suggestions on the board.*)

Now have students read “**Year of the Dog**,” pages 6–13; then ask them to use what they have just learned about different members of the dog family to refine the general dog qualities listed on the board. Ask a student to look up the traditional description of this Chinese zodiac animal and read it aloud. Compare the official description to the class’s list. How close did your class come?

COOL STUFF

Have students read “**FROZEN**,” pages 20–25, and then look at a globe together. Locate the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Point out that life may be icy cold at the top and bottom of the world, but animals that live there are right at home on the ice. Ask students to point out five ways ice is very nice for these animals. (*Ice can make a good hunting platform, a good place to dig a den or hang out and rest, a safe place to raise young animals until they can swim, a place for white animals to camouflage themselves, a place to find algae to eat.*) Help students learn more about animals that thrive on ice by assigning the Know Your Polar Animals student page.

If it is icy outdoors where you live, distribute copies of the February 2018 **Icicle Investigation** page in *Ranger*

Rick’s Nature Notebook (nwf.org/Kids/Ranger-Rick/Ranger-Ricks-Nature-Notebook.aspx) and lead children outside to complete this guided activity on some scientific properties of icicles.

CANADA LYNXES

Write the following questions on the board. Instruct students to look for the answers as they read about the Canada lynx in this month’s **Ranger Rick Adventures**, pages 26–28.

- What are some features that can help you tell Canada lynxes from other wild cats?
- Where in North America do Canada lynxes live?
- How are their paws like snowshoes?
- Why are Canada lynxes in trouble?
- What can people do to help?

After everyone has read the story, use the questions above as discussion questions or writing prompts.

MORE ON CANADA LYNXES

Pumas and tigers have sports shoes named after them, so why shouldn’t lynxes enjoy the same honor? Have students use what they learned about Canada lynxes in this issue’s **Ranger Rick Adventures** to complete the Really Wild Sports Shoe student page. The student page walks students through the steps of designing their own lynx-inspired sports shoes. After students complete their pages, have them draw their shoes, labeling the main parts. Under the drawings, ask children to write one-paragraph sales pitches for the shoes. Wrap up the lesson with a “fashion show” in which each “designer” shows and describes his or her shoe design. Discuss how students incorporated lynx features into their designs and the purposes these features serve for the shoe-wearers.



KNOW YOUR POLAR ANIMALS



Read "FROZEN," pages 20–25. Then use information from the story as well as other resources to complete this student page on animals that live in icy Arctic and Antarctic regions.

Draw a line connecting each of the animals listed below to the polar region where it can be found. (One is done for you.) Hint: One can be found in both places!

ARCTIC (NORTH POLE)

ANTARCTIC (SOUTH POLE)

polar bear

harp seal

krill

Adélie penguin

walrus

beluga whale

leopard seal

emperor penguin

snow petrel

The polar regions are extreme places to live. So the animals that live there have special adaptations that help them survive in cold, snowy, icy conditions. These adaptations may be either special body parts or behaviors. Choose three of the animals listed above and fill in the chart below with details about their adaptations. (One is done for you.)

ANIMAL NAME	ADAPTATION	HOW THE ADAPTATION HELPS IT SURVIVE
Arctic fox	Fur changes color—white in winter, brown in summer	Helps fox stay camouflaged all year round—when there's snow and when there isn't.



REALLY WILD SPORTS SHOE



Congratulations! The Everything Lynx Company has just hired you to design its new sports shoe for kids. Like everything invented for this company, the Canada lynx must be your "sole" inspiration. Follow the three steps below to do your job.

STEP 1 Complete this form.

What special features does a Canada lynx have? _____

How could you use some of these features to design your sports shoe? _____

What sport is your shoe for? _____

What is the name of your shoe? _____

Tell how your shoe provides these three things:

- Fashion: _____

- Comfort: _____

- Good sports performance: _____

STEP 2 On the back of this page, draw your shoe and label its main parts.

STEP 3 Under the drawing, write a one-paragraph sales pitch for your shoe.

