



Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



EDUCATIONAL EXTENSIONS FOR THE AUGUST 2017 ISSUE OF RANGER RICK® MAGAZINE

HEDGEHOG MANIA

Test students' comprehension of "5 Reasons to Go 'Hedgehog' Wild," pages 6–11, by assigning The Truth About Hedgehogs student page. Wrap up the lesson with these questions:

- How would you describe a hedgehog to someone who has never seen one?
- Why do many people find hedgehogs so likeable?
- Why do hedgehogs need our help?
- How can we help them?

WEIRD SPIDER ADVENTURES

Before students read "Weird Spiders," pages 16–21, ask them to identify some of the super powers that Spider-Man shares with real spiders—wall-crawling, quick reflexes, web-shooting skills. As children read "Weird Spiders," have them make a list of the unusual super powers (behaviors and skills) that spiders in this article possess. Then ask students to write and illustrate comic adventures about a new superhero called Weird Spider-Man or Weird Spider-Woman, who uses some of the weird super powers on their lists.

DAY AND NIGHT

In "Day and Night," pages 22–25, students learn a little about the wildlife they might see in the eastern United States. Pages 22–23 show and describe a possible diurnal wildlife scene, and page 24–25 show and describe a nocturnal scene. After students have read and examined these pages carefully, ask:

- What are some of the diurnal animals in this habitat?
- What are some of the nocturnal ones?

- How are the diurnal and nocturnal animals alike? How are they different?
- What are some adaptations (special body parts or behaviors) that help animals to survive in this location?
- What are some animals that would not do well here? Why?

Now ask students to select another U.S. habitat and create their own day-and-night article about it—complete with descriptions and illustrated scenes.

WASHED-UP TRASH

Help students do more extensive thinking about the Washed Away sculpture exhibit described in "From Trash to Art," pages 30–35, by assigning the two Ocean Journey student pages.

Then consider involving the class in International Coastal Cleanup Day—a special day each year when volunteers of all ages pick up litter along local beaches, lakes, and waterways. This year's cleanup day is September 20. You can sign up online at coastalcleanup.org.

Before the day of the cleanup, encourage children to think about the habitat you will be visiting—discuss some of its native plant and animal species, what they need to survive, and how litter could affect their well-being. At the cleanup, have students keep a running tally of trash objects they collect. Which kinds of trash are most abundant? Can you determine the source of some of these items? For example, are people littering at the site, is litter washing or blowing in from somewhere else, or is there some other explanation for its presence? If possible, help students investigate what actions they might take to stop some of the trash at its source.



THE TRUTH ABOUT HEDGEHOGS



Read "5 Reasons to Go 'Hedgehog' Wild," pages 6–11. Then read the statements below. You'll quickly see that they're all wrong! Rewrite them to tell the true story about hedgehogs.

1 Hedgehogs are covered from head to toe with 60,000 sharp spines.

2 Hedgehogs use freeways to move from place to place.

3 If a cat makes a wrong move, a hedgehog will brush its sharp spines against the cat.

4 Hedgehogs help keep people's gardens healthy by eating dying leaves off the plants.

5 Hedgehogs give their babies bubble baths.

6 Hedgehogs swim with their heads underwater.

7 Baby hedgehogs are called hedgies.



OCEAN JOURNEY



Look at the photo of your favorite animal sculpture in **"From Trash to Art,"** pages 30–35. Pick an object from the sculpture and imagine you are that object. Answer the questions below. Then use your answers to write a story about the ocean journey that led you to become part of the ocean sculpture.

1 What object are you? _____

2 How did you end up in the ocean? _____

3 Where did you travel in the ocean? _____

4 What ocean creatures did you meet along the way? _____

5 What else did you see? _____

Continued on the next page.



OCEAN JOURNEY (CONTINUED)

6 What dangers did you face? _____

7 What dangers did you pose to creatures in the sea? _____

8 Where did you wash ashore? _____

9 What sculpture can we find you in? _____

10 How did you end up in that animal sculpture? _____

