



Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



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

ARMLOAD OF OCTOPUS FACTS

After students read “**Eight Great Octopus Facts**,” pages 6–11, enhance their comprehension of this story by assigning the Armed with Facts student page. Consider putting a large replica of the student page on a bulletin board or a large sheet of chart paper and inviting students to complete the activity as a group. Leave the finished product on display for all to admire.

HEART HUNT

After reading “**Why We ♥ Hearts**,” pages 14–17, have some hearty outdoor fun by challenging students to search for heart shapes in the natural world around them. (Suggest they look at rocks, leaves, tree branches, bark, clouds, snow piles, etc.) Encourage students to take photos of the hearts they find and then use them to make unique Valentine’s Day cards.

POISON FROGS

Have students read “**Look—Don’t Touch!**” pages 20–25. Then discuss the following:

- Where do poison frogs live in the wild?
- Why don’t poison frogs blend in with their surroundings as other frogs do?
- Just how poisonous is the deadliest frog?
- How do people use the poison?

Poison frogs are a good example of warning coloration—a bold, distinct pattern of color that tells predators, “Stop! Don’t prey on me or you’ll be sorry!” Warning coloration is fairly common in the animal kingdom among those that have something (e.g., foul odor, venom, poison) to warn predators about. Sometimes people use coloration on signs to alert each other of danger. Collect photos of different kinds of warning coloration—some from nature and some made by people. For example,

from the animal kingdom: conspicuously colored markings on a monarch butterfly, coral snake, bee or wasp, skunk, and different kinds of poison frogs. From people: red stop sign, yellow caution tape, and orange construction cone. Ask students:

- What do all these different signs have in common?
- What seem to be the important characteristics of an effective warning? Why?

GIVING A HOOT ABOUT OWLS

In *Ranger Rick’s Adventures*, pages 26–29, Ranger Rick and pals learn about some of the threats facing burrowing owls. Extend this lesson by reading *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen or showing the film version. In this story, three Florida middle-schoolers fight to save a group of burrowing owls and their habitat from a team of bulldozers standing ready to turn an open field into a pancake house. After finishing the story, engage students in a discussion about what happened.

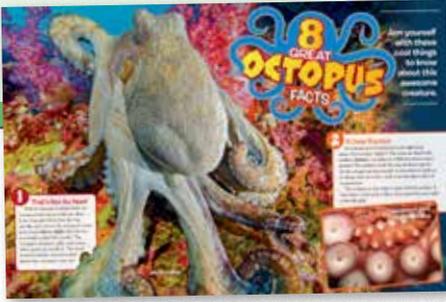
- How did Roy and his friends get involved in the situation with the burrowing owls?
- Although they were “just kids,” why did they think they could make a difference?
- What contributed to their success?

Burrowing owls live in Florida and throughout much of western North America. If you live in one of these areas, see if you can spot one. Even if burrowing owls don’t live nearby, you can listen for other kinds of owls on a night hike. Get tips for planning an “owl prowl” at <http://www.nwf.org/kids/family-fun/outdoor-activities/prowl-for-owls.aspx>.

WOMBAT DETAILS

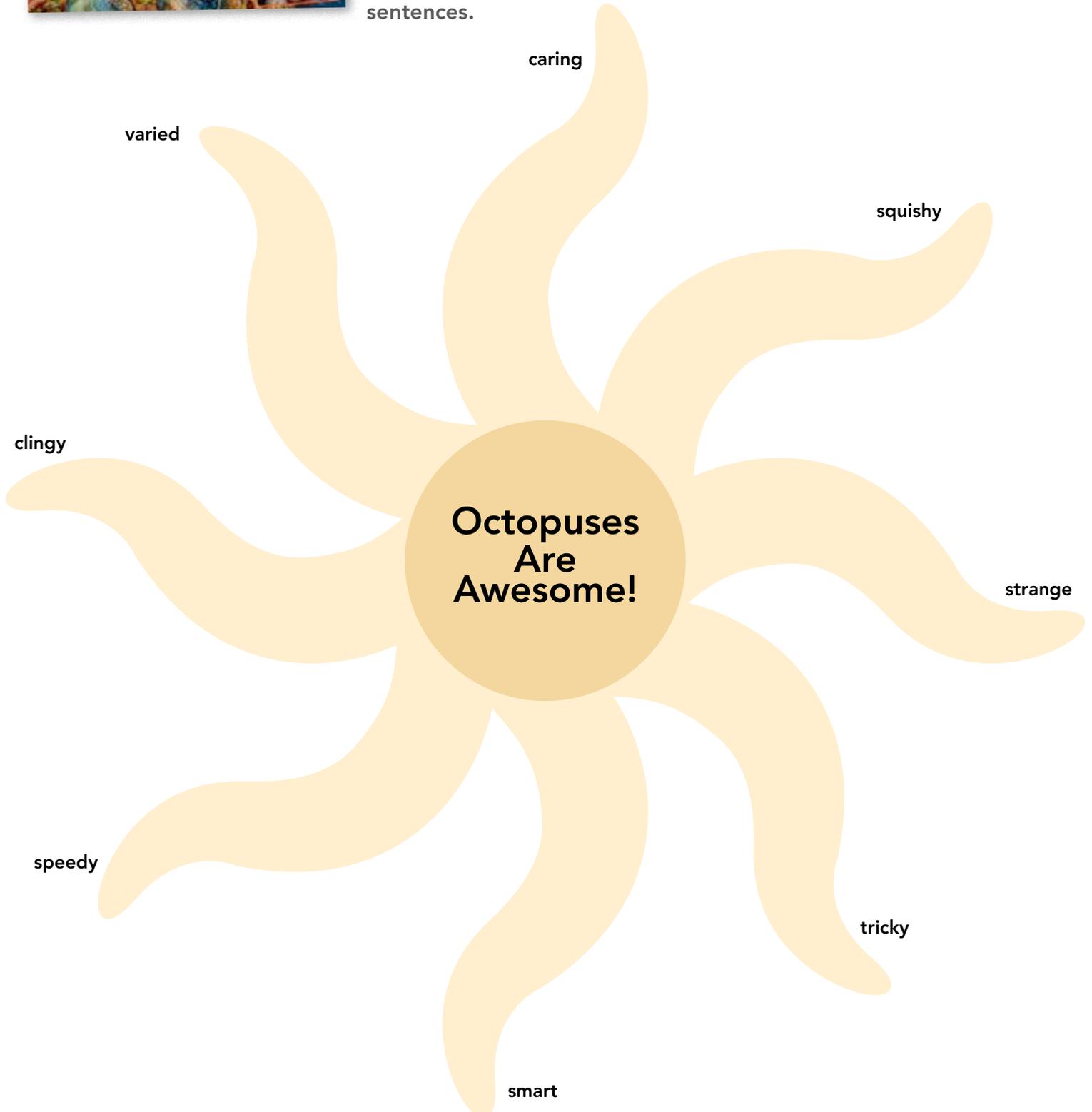
Have students read “**Wombat Rescue**,” pages 30–35. Then help them increase their comprehension of the story by assigning the Fill in the Details student page.



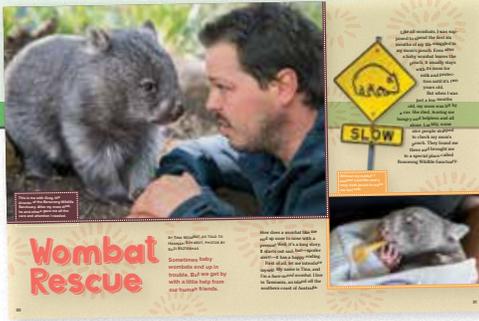


ARMED WITH FACTS

Read the octopus adjectives in the arms below. Use "Eight Great Octopus Facts," pages 6–11, to find evidence that supports each adjective. Write the evidence in each arm. Use complete sentences.



FILL IN THE DETAILS



Read "Wombat Rescue," pages 30–35. Then complete the chart below by writing details that support each main idea.

MAIN IDEA	DETAILS
<p>From the time Linda took Tina the wombat into her home, she was pretty much Tina's mom.</p>	
<p>Soon Linda's house felt like home to Tina.</p>	
<p>After a year, it was time for Tina to move to the Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary.</p>	
<p>Finally, Tina's caretakers released her into the Tasmanian bush.</p>	

