



Ranger Rick® EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

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

FAMILY MATTERS

After reading “**Family Ties,**” pages 6–12, ask students what they think the title means. Then ask them to describe how wolf packs are like human families. Guide the discussion with questions such as:

- What is a wolf pack? Who belongs to one?
- What is a human family? Who belongs to one?
- How do members of a wolf pack help each other? How do your family members help each other?
- How do members of a pack greet each other? How do your family members greet each other?

Wrap up with these questions:

- What are three ways that animals benefit from living in groups? (They can care for each other; help each other get food; protect each other from danger.)
- What disadvantages might there be for an animal living in a group? (It might have to compete with the others for food; it might have to fight other members for status in the group; the group might get so big that it takes more time and energy to look out for others instead of just themselves.)

Assign the “Wolf Talk” student page to help children discover more about how wolves communicate with each other.

CORAL MURAL

After students have read “**Recipe for a Reef,**” pages 16–21, walk them through each page of the story, calling attention to photographs of both hard and soft corals as well as various coral shapes and coral residents. Challenge students to design and create a colorful mural of a large coral reef community.

STAYIN’ ALIVE

Have students complete the Tricky Lizards student page as they read “**Lizards Are Wizards,**” pages 30–35. Then write the following categories on the board: Biters, Runners, Hiders, Bluffers, Other. Ask the class to help you classify the 10 lizards in the article under one or more of these categories. Wrap up the discussion with these questions:

- Is “Lizards Are Wizards” a good title for this article? Why or why not?
- Why do you think lizards have survived for millions of years?

If possible, go on a lizard walk! Search online for a list of species that live in your local area. Then find a nearby park or nature trail where you might find some. Local herpetology groups and nature centers may be able to suggest the best places to find lizards near you. Take along a field guide to help you identify any lizards you spot.

MORE MADAGASCAR FUN

This month’s **Just 4 Fun** games, pages 36–38, are all about animals that live in Madagascar. Have students list as many Madagascar animals as they can. Encourage them to include some not covered in Just 4 Fun. Write the name of each on a slip of paper. Then play 20 Questions, with each student taking a turn picking a slip from the pile while the rest of the group asks yes-or-no questions to determine the identity of the animal. Extend the fun with a rousing game of Madagascar animal charades.





WOLF TALK

Wolves communicate with each other using body language, scents, and sounds. Read each communication action below. Next to it, write what you think the wolf is trying to say. Use information in **“Family Ties,”** pages 6–12, and the Answer Box below for help.

WOLF ACTIONS

ANSWER BOX

- 1 A young wolf crouches down in front of an older wolf, trying to look as small as possible.

- 2 An excited wolf bows down like a pet dog—with its front legs stretched out and its rump in the air.

- 3 A wolf pup whimpers to its mom.

- 4 A male wolf marks a place with his pee.

- 5 A wolf curls its lips slightly, showing a few teeth.

- 6 Four wolves greet each other with nuzzles, licks, and friendly sounds.

“I’m hungry.”

“Play with me!”

“This is my territory—keep out!”

“You’re making me angry!”

“We’re glad we’re family!”

“I respect you. You’re the boss.”





TRICKY LIZARDS

As you read “**Lizards Are Wizards**,” pages 30–35, complete this chart on special tricks some of the lizards in this article use to stay safe from predators. The first one is done for you.

LIZARD'S NAME	WHERE IT LIVES	ONE TRICK THAT HELPS IT SURVIVE
Horned lizard	American West	Has colors that match the surrounding ground. When the lizard flattens out on the ground, it seems to disappear.
Fringe-toed lizard		
Basilisk		
Flying dragon		
Dwarf-plated lizard		
Sand goanna		
Frilled lizard		
Armadillo lizard		

