



# Ranger Rick

## EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

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

### NATURAL COLORS

Discuss the following questions after students have read **“Orange and Black,”** pages 6–11:

- What are some animals that are orange and black?
- How can having Halloween colors help some animals to survive?

Now brainstorm a list of questions about many different colors in nature. Divide students into small groups and have each group choose one “color question” to research. Then convene a color conference in which the “experts” on each topic share the information they found. Presentations could take a variety of forms, such as a talk with visual aids, a poster, or a skit. Here are a few color questions to get you thinking:

- Why is the sky blue?
- What causes a beautiful sunset or a rainbow?
- Why are flowers colorful?
- Why do some leaves change color in the fall?
- Why are some birds colorful while others are not?
- What is “warning coloration,” and what are some animals that have it?
- How does camouflage work?

### SEA SLUG ART

The sea slugs in **“Flashy, Splashy Surprises,”** pages 14–19, display an array of colorful patterns. You can turn a classroom bulletin board into an undersea art gallery that’s just as stunning. Have students use scraps of colored paper and cloth as well as trimmings used for sewing to construct collage-style sea slugs. Encourage students to use the photos in *Ranger Rick* as inspiration for their creations. Remind them to add horns and fleshy finger-like projections. Tack the completed sea slugs on to a bulletin board covered with black or blue paper.

### ODE TO A CHIPMUNK

Have students read **“Chipmunks,”** pages 22–25, and then use the Plan a Chipmunk Poem student page to help them create their own chipmunk poetry.

### CAVE LIFE

After students have read **“Come Explore My Cave!”** pages 30–35, have them list different cave animals they encountered in the story. Then ask:

- Why do you think caves are homes to such strange and interesting animals?
- How are caves different from other habitats?

Explain to the class that *troglobites* are animals that spend their entire lives in dark caves. Because sight is not useful to them, many have become blind or even lost their eyes entirely over time. Instead, they rely on their other senses to navigate and find food in complete darkness.

Group students into pairs and have one child in each pair blindfold the other child. The blindfolded students (i.e., troglobites) should try to move around. How well can they find their way without sight? Do they feel their other senses taking over? Have children switch roles so that everyone gets a chance to be a troglobite. Then discuss the blindfolded experiences as a group. Ask students to think of real or imaginary settings in which other senses would not be useful. How might animals adapt to these places?

### SCAVENGER HUNT

Encourage students to read this entire issue of *Ranger Rick* and to identify, interpret, and evaluate specific content by assigning the Scavenger Hunt student page.



# PLAN A CHIPMUNK POEM



Read **"Chipmunks,"** pages 22–25. Look very carefully at the photos on those pages. Then complete the graphic organizer below to help you plan a poem about chipmunks. Write your final poem on the back of this paper.

## VISUAL IMAGES

What does a chipmunk look like?  
List some descriptive adjectives.

## SIMILE

Compare a chipmunk with something else—  
use "like" or "as." Be creative!

## FEELINGS

How do you feel about chipmunks?  
What do you like best about them?

## QUESTIONS

What do you wonder about chipmunks?





# SCAVENGER HUNT

Use this issue of *Ranger Rick* to "hunt down" answers to the following questions. For each question, write the answer and the number of the page where you found it.

QUESTION	ANSWER	PAGE NUMBER
Which story interested you the most? Why?		
Which photo in this issue made you stop the longest and look closer? Why?		
Choose an animal featured in this issue and list three new things you learned about it.		
Which place featured in this issue would you most like to visit? Why?		
Can you find a map in this issue? What location does it show? How is it helpful for understanding the story?		

