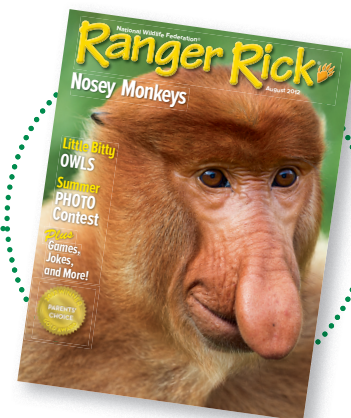


Educator's Guide



Educational extensions for the **August 2012** issue of *Ranger Rick*® magazine

SEEING THROUGH NEW EYES

“Your Best Shots” (pages 4–5) features a number of winning photos taken while readers were on vacation. Sometimes being in a new place helps you to see things in new ways. If students will be traveling this summer or visiting a local place they’ve never been before, ask them to take a camera (or just use their eyes) and choose some scenes to focus on. What do they notice that they’ve never seen before?

NOSE KNOWS

“Nosey Monkeys” (pages 6–10) includes a number of playful phrases relating to noses and what they do, including “sniff out,” “nothing to sneeze at,” and “plain as the nose on its face.” List these and other nose-related phrases that you and your students recall. Then ask students to explain in writing what each phrase means to them, perhaps with an illustration.

BEAUTY OF BLUBBER

In **“Ranger Rick’s Adventures”** (pages 11–13), Boomer falls into the Arctic Ocean and is immediately in danger of freezing. How do the polar bears and beluga whales stay comfortable in the icy water? Blubber makes the difference! Try this classic experiment to let students experience how a layer of blubber insulates animals from the cold: Fill a bowl with water and ice. Have students cover one finger with a thick layer of shortening and dip it in the bowl, while also dipping a bare finger. How does it feel? Can they keep the fat-protected finger in the icy water longer?



EVERYBODY STAY COOL

“The Buzz” (pages 14–15) describes how several kinds of animals deal with the heat of summer. Ask students to name some ways that they keep cool and comfortable (such as removing layers of clothing, swimming, seeking shade, drinking water, fanning themselves, etc.). Then, for each item on your list, brainstorm animals that use similar techniques. For example, some mammals shed a warm winter coat of fur. Bees fan their wings to keep the hive cool. And many dogs jump in water whenever they get a chance.

VALUING A JOB

In **“Bayou Kid”** (pages 16–23), you meet Manson, who knows that shrimping is hard work and pays little, but still hopes to do it when he grows up. Why? Based on what the story shows about Manson’s life, what do students think he values most? As a group, discuss what factors go into choosing a career, and what personal values students think will influence their own career paths.

SPIRALS IN NATURE

As you learn in **“Spirals”** (pages 30–35), this shape shows up frequently in nature. Head outside and see how many different kinds of spirals you can spot!

SPIRAL ART

After finding inspiration in **“Spirals”** (pages 30–35) and in the activity above, invite students to make some beautiful spiral art. Coil short lengths of rope into spirals. Press them into paint or ink and then use them to print on paper. Simply make patterns or, with pens or markers, fill in more details to create snails, ferns, seahorses, and other things.



How to Get a Bite to Eat



In "What's for Dinner?" (pages 24-28), you see a series of photos that show, step by step, how a little owl gets a worm. Think about how you, a pet, or a wild animal gets a certain type of food. Then create a step-by-step illustration below. Draw a picture of each step and write a sentence describing what is happening.

1.

2.

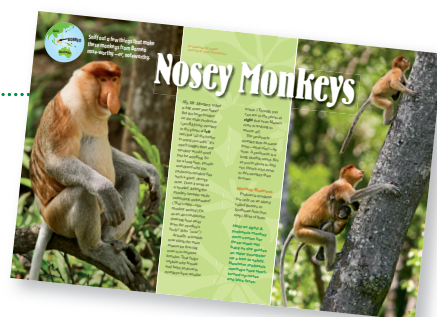
3.

4.



Why So Nosey?

The proboscis monkeys in **"Nosey Monkeys"** (pages 6-10) do have huge noses, don't they? The big question is "Why?" Read the story, and then write your answers below.



1. What are the two possible reasons given at the beginning of the story for the proboscis monkey's large nose? _____

2. What do scientists now believe the reason to be? _____

3. The story also says that a male's big nose could make his calls sound louder and more threatening. How does this detail support the scientists' idea? _____

4. After reading the story, you know something about where proboscis monkeys live, what they eat, and how they interact with each other. Using this information, can you think of some other ways that a big nose might help them? Explain at least one idea here. _____

