



Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

EDUCATIONAL EXTENSIONS FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY 2016 ISSUE OF RANGER RICK® MAGAZINE

THE BEAR FACTS

After the class has read “A Life on Ice,” pages 6–11, ask students what they learned about polar bears. List their responses on chart paper. Then have the class help you categorize these responses into a web like the one below.



MAJOR WETLANDS

After students have read “6 Slick Tricks for Keeping Warm,” pages 14–16, have them take the quiz on the Winter Survivors student page to see what else they know about how animals survive the cold. (Quiz answers: 1-b, 2-b, 3-c, 4-a) As a class, discuss the “tricks” in the quiz as well as those in the *Ranger Rick* article. Then ask students to choose an animal native to a cold climate and research its winter survival techniques. Have children create a story, poem, or picture book about the animal’s life, incorporating the facts they’ve gathered.

REEF MURAL

After reading about artificial reefs in “Ready-Made Reefs,” pages 30–35, show the class some photos of natural coral reefs. Then invite students to paint a large reef on a wall space covered with butcher paper. Have students choose at least two of the reef structures listed below, find photos of them to use as references, and then paint their images onto the butcher paper. Next, have students select at least six of the reef animals listed below and do enough research on each so that they can accurately paint them into the reef scene—in appropriate places. Remind the class to label each animal and structure.

Reef structures: Fan coral, staghorn coral, brain coral, elkhorn coral, sunken ship, old toilet.

Reef animals: queen triggerfish, giant lookdown fish, porcupinefish, four-eyed butterflyfish, hermit crab, magnificent feather duster worm, sea urchin, queen angelfish, common sea star, hawksbill sea turtle, tube sponge.





HERE'S WHAT I THINK

DIRECTIONS: Human-made gases are making the Earth warmer. This warming, known as climate change, is causing Arctic sea ice to freeze later in the fall and melt earlier in spring. Read how this affects polar bears in "A Life on Ice," pages 6–11. Then consider this:

Is climate change a problem for polar bears?

Outline your thoughts in the chart below. Then use your completed chart to write an opinion piece on the topic.

1. OPENING SENTENCE(S)

What is your opinion on the question above?

2. ARGUMENTS

- What is the most important point you want to make?

- What evidence or facts support this point?

- What other points do you want to make?

3. CONCLUSION

In a couple of sentences, remind readers what your main opinion is and ask them to support you.



WINTER SURVIVORS



In "6 Slick Tricks for Keeping Warm," pages 16–18, you learned how some animals deal with cold weather. Take this quiz to see if you know how a few other species get through the winter.

- 1 The *American marten* burrows down into snow tunnels to . . .
 - a. visit friends.
 - b. find prey.
 - c. hibernate.

- 2 In cold places, baby *snapping turtles* hatch underground in fall. They spend winter . . .
 - a. playing in the snow.
 - b. frozen underground, then thaw in the spring and come out.
 - c. huddled up in a nest with their moms.

- 3 In some parts of the United States, this animal spends half the year (September to March) hibernating.
 - a. raccoon
 - b. rabbit
 - c. groundhog

- 4 A *mourning cloak butterfly* can survive temperatures as low as -80°F because it . . .
 - a. has a kind of antifreeze in its blood.
 - b. hides out in a nest made of snow.
 - c. covers itself with a tiny blanket.