



# Ranger Rick

## EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

EDUCATIONAL EXTENSIONS FOR THE NOVEMBER 2015 ISSUE OF RANGER RICK® MAGAZINE

### AUSSIE PUZZLES

If your students would like to learn more about Australian animals after reading “Postcards from Australia,” pages 6–13, download and distribute the four Down-Under puzzle pages posted at [nwf.org/rangerrick](http://nwf.org/rangerrick).

### GROUPER ONE-LINERS

After reading “Super Groupers,” pages 14–18, have each student write down, in one complete sentence, something important he or she learned from reading about goliath groupers. Encourage students to share their sentences with the class. Write three to five of these sentences on the board (preferably sentences that represent a range of significant information). Then as a group, “tweak” these sentences to become as succinct, accurate, and informative as possible. Above the final sentences write, “What You Should Know About Goliath Groupers” and leave the sentences on the board for the rest of the day.

### DINO CREATIONS

Divide students into pairs and ask each duo to use the information in “The Greatest Show on Earth,” pages 23–29, to create a totally new dinosaur. Provide these guiding questions:

- In what period of the Mesozoic Era did your dinosaur live?
- What did it look like? (e.g., shape, size, type of skin, color)
- What did your dinosaur eat?
- How did your dino behave?

Have students name their dinos, illustrate them, and then describe them in a few written paragraphs.

### OWL IDENTIFICATION

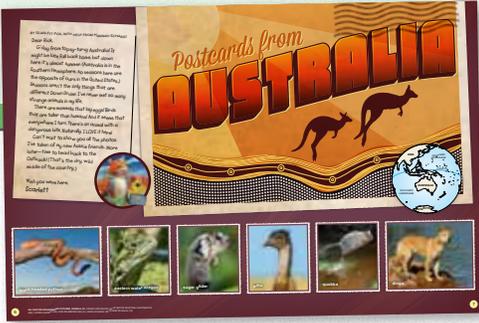
What kinds of owls live in your local area? After reading “Whooo Knows Owls?” pages 30–35, engage students in an owl investigation. First, go to [enature.com](http://enature.com) and enter your zipcode and then use the filter tools to find a list of local owl species. Then go to [birds.comell.edu/AllAboutBirds/owlp](http://birds.comell.edu/AllAboutBirds/owlp) to learn more about these owls and listen to their calls. Have students practice identifying the owls by photos and calls. Challenge them to try imitating the calls, too. If possible, take a night walk in a wooded habitat. If you are lucky enough to hear an owl, ask your most talented owl-callers to try calling back.

### MANATEE AWARENESS

November is Manatee Awareness Month—the perfect time to help your students become more aware of the manatee and its plight. Begin by showing students the manatee photo on the back cover of this issue. Then suggest students read a previously published *Ranger Rick* article called “Love Those Manatees!” It is available on the Web by going to [nwf.org/rangerrick](http://nwf.org/rangerrick), clicking on the Animals section, and then searching for “manatees.” After the class has read this article, discuss some major threats manatees face today: (1) habitat loss (from water pollution, commercial development, etc.), (2) speeding motor boats, (3) litter (e.g., plastic bags, fishing lines and nets), and (4) canal gates that can trap manatees. Also discuss what can be done to reduce these threats. Encourage students to create posters about some of the threats and remedies. Then display the posters in the school hall during Manatee Awareness Month.



# GREETINGS FROM AUSTRALIA



In "Postcards from Australia," pages 6–13, Scarlett Fox visits "the land down under." While there, she sends postcards to her friends describing the interesting wildlife she sees.

Imagine you visited Australia. Who is someone you might send a postcard to? What would you tell that person about the animals you saw? Use your ideas to fill in the back of the postcard below. Then design an Australian wildlife scene on the front.

front

back

back

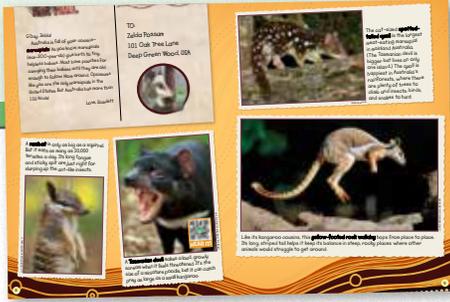
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# NIGHT LIFE



In this issue of Ranger Rick, you read about several animals that are active at night. Two of these “nocturnal” animals are the quoll (page 9) and the screech owl (page 34). Use the information in the stories to compare the two animals in the chart below.

	QUOLL	SCREECH OWL
How does it get around?		
What does it eat?		
What body parts help it find food?		
In what kinds of habitat does it live?		
Where might you find it sleeping by day?		

