

## Educator's Guide



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

### PLAYING WITH DOLPHINS

Dolphins like to make up games, as readers will learn in **“10 Reasons to Flip for Dolphins”** (pages 6-11). Invite students to create their own games inspired by dolphins. For example, how about a matching game featuring different dolphin species, a board game that is a journey through the ups and downs of dolphin life, or a nonverbal communication game?

### A WHALE OF A JOURNEY

**“The Buzz”** (pages 12-13) reports on a new finding about migrating humpback whales. Engage students in exploring the mysteries of whale migration. Create a map showing the routes that different whale species travel and the times of year they travel them. Have students calculate the distance a whale travels annually and over an average life span.

### CHASING CONDORS

The California condor is one of the rarest birds in the world. Read about condors in **“Ranger Rick’s Adventures: Trip to Condor Country”** (pages 14-17). Then have students make a graph showing the number of condors in the wild historically, at the low point in 1982, and today. Ask them to add words or pictures along the graph’s timeline to explain the condors’ decline and recovery (things such as habitat loss, power lines, captive breeding, and radio tracking).

### POISON REPORT

Read about animals that use poison as a tool for protection and predation in **“Danger: Poison”** (pages 18-23). Ask each student to choose one of the poisonous animals in the story to investigate

further, and designate a format for them to share their findings. For example, they could each contribute a page for a class field guide to poisonous animals, they could give an oral presentation, or they could create a skit or puppet show to perform.

### WHAT’S BUGGING YOU?

The **“Buggy Sayings”** on pages 24-25 are common expressions that refer to familiar situations. Invite each student to choose one of the sayings, consider its meaning, and create an illustration or comic inspired by it. Alternatively, they could use the saying as a writing prompt for a story (a fictional one, or one from their own lives).

### SQUIRREL STUDY

No matter where you live, there are almost certainly squirrels to observe. Read through the checklist of behaviors in **“Be Out There: Spy on Squirrels”** (page 36). Then take students outside for a squirrel study. How many different squirrel behaviors can you spot?

### SPRINGTIME WEATHER POEMS

This month’s **“Fun on the Run”** games (pages 37-39) are all about springtime weather. Suggest that students play the games to “wet their whistles.” Then invite them to write some poems about this wet, windy, wild time of year.

### RANGER RICK ON NOOK

*Ranger Rick* magazine is now available in a digital edition on the NOOK e-reader. You can try it out for free for 14 days. Visit [nwf.org/Kids/Nook-for-Kids.aspx](http://nwf.org/Kids/Nook-for-Kids.aspx) to learn more.



# Why I Flip for Dolphins



There's lots to love about dolphins. Read "10 Reasons to Flip for Dolphins" (pages 6-11). Then decide what you like best about them. Describe this characteristic below.

Dolphins are \_\_\_\_\_.

In the box, draw a picture that shows a dolphin demonstrating this characteristic.

Describe why you like this characteristic of dolphins.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# Squirrel Team



Teamwork really works for Cape ground squirrels. Read "Survivor: Squirrel Edition" (pages 30-35). Then answer the questions below about how these squirrels work together to survive.

1. Cape ground squirrels live in the Kalahari Desert in Africa. Their habitat isn't an easy place to survive. Describe three challenges the squirrels face.

---

---

2. How do the squirrels work together to deal with the desert's hot sun?

---

---

3. How do teamwork and togetherness help the squirrels survive freezing nights?

---

---

4. Cape ground squirrels live in groups and cooperate on many things, but sometimes they disagree over food or rank. How do they work out these disagreements?

---

---

5. Predators such as snakes and hawks cause trouble for Cape ground squirrels. Describe two ways the squirrels use teamwork to avoid becoming a predator's meal.

---

---

6. Some other animals use teamwork to survive, too. Name another animal species that uses teamwork, and give an example of how these animals work together.

---

---

7. How does teamwork help you? Give some examples from your life.

---

---

