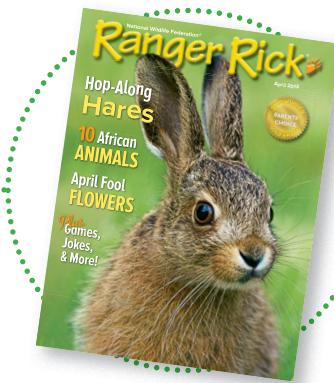




Educator's Guide



Educational extensions for the April 2013 issue of *Ranger Rick*® magazine

ANIMAL ART TOUR

In “Your Best Shots” (pages 4–5), have students find the one animal in the photos that isn’t real. Then ask them to find examples of animal sculptures, murals, or other art where you live. As a group project, involve students in photographing these animals and creating a guidebook or scavenger hunt to share with your community. Have students look for interesting facts to include with each animal entry.

HARE GAMES

“Hooray for Hares” (pages 6–11) describes hares’ impressive athletic abilities and sharp senses. Get students outdoors and active with a round of hare games. Challenge them to leap as far as they can and run as fast as they can. Play a game of tag and practice hares’ zig-zagging technique to evade capture. Finish with a listening activity: Have all the “hares” close their eyes. Move away and then approach from another direction. Tell them to point at you as soon as they hear you coming.

POLLINATION STRATEGIES

The orchids in “Flower Foolers” (pages 14–17) achieve pollination by trickery rather than by offering a nectar reward, as many other animal-pollinated flowers do. Help students compare the two different strategies by making a concept map or Venn diagram. Find blank versions of either organizer in the **Resource Collection** on the *Ranger Rick Educator’s Guide* Web page.

FROG FINDING

Read “Ranger Rick’s Adventures” (pages 18–20) about a visit to a frog pond. Then

go on an adventure to a frog pond near you. Can you see or hear frogs or other pond life? Assess the habitat and look for anything that could cause problems for frogs. Discuss improvements that could help them.

ANIMAL NAMES

After reading “Africa’s Big and Little 5” (pages 22–27), seek more examples of animals with other animals’ names in theirs. Have each student choose one of these animal pairs to research. Why is one named after the other? Do they have other things in common? Have each student create a page about an animal pair and then collect them into a book.

ALBATROSS EXPERIMENT

In “Sea Wanderers” (pages 30–36), you learn that albatrosses glide for hundreds of miles without flapping their wings. How is this possible? Investigate the phenomenon by having students make paper airplanes, kites, or other gliding toys in a variety of styles to serve as albatross models. Take students out on a windy day and see which style glides the farthest. Discuss what the key factors seem to be (length of wings, wing shape, wing position, etc.). How might your findings apply to albatrosses?

FUN WITH RAINFOREST ANIMALS

The “Just 4 Fun” games (pages 37–39) are all about rainforest animals. Have each student choose one of the featured animals and learn more about it. Then challenge them to create their own games focused on their chosen animals. For example, they could make a crossword, word find, maze, word puzzle, or any other game they enjoy.



Interview with a Hare

Read "Hooray for Hares" (pages 6-11). What other questions do you have about hares that Becky Hare might answer for you? Imagine that you could do an interview with Becky to ask her your questions. Write your questions on the lines that say "You." Then look up the answers and write them as if Becky were talking to you.



You: _____

Becky Hare: _____

You: _____

Becky Hare: _____

You: _____

Becky Hare: _____



Albatrosses by the Numbers



Sea birds called albatrosses star in the story "Sea Wanderers" (pages 30-36). The story includes lots of numbers that help explain why albatrosses are special. Read the story and then fill in the blanks below.

_____ Number of different kinds of albatrosses in the world

_____ Number of miles an albatross can glide without flapping its wings

These two kinds of albatrosses are the largest of all seabirds:

_____ and _____

_____ Number of feet from one wing tip to the other of a large albatross

4 million miles is _____

Huge flocks of albatrosses gather on islands when it's time find mates. Each female then lays how many eggs? _____

Three big problems threaten the survival of albatrosses. They are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

One thing that people could do to help albatrosses survive (the one that you think would make the biggest difference):

