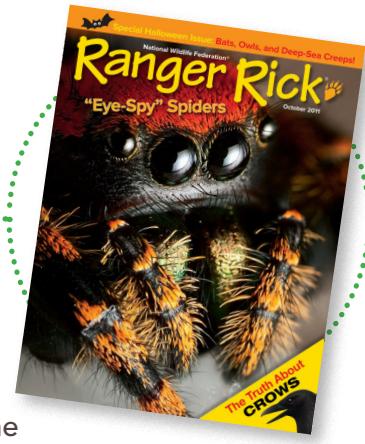


Educator's Guide



Educational extensions for the **October 2011** issue of *Ranger Rick*® magazine

BAT BITS

Check out the funny bat cartoons in “**Critter Crack-ups: Going Batty**” (page 5). Then invite students to create some of their own. They could complete the rest of the “alphabet” letters and then write their names or other messages using them, or they could invent more bat puns and illustrate them. Put the results on display and celebrate bats!

JUMPING SPIDER STORIES

Read about jumping spiders in “**Jump!**” (pages 6-11). Then have students make a flip book to showcase the spider’s amazing jumping abilities. A flip book creates a simple animation. Find instructions for making one here: wikihow.com/Make-a-Flipbook. Alternatively, students could write and illustrate a picture book featuring jumping spiders.

INVENT A DEEP-SEA FISH

The fish you meet in “**Creeps from the Deep**” (pages 14-17), are strange indeed. After reading the story, have students compile a list of features that benefit fish living in the deep ocean. Then ask them to use the list to help them invent a new deep-sea fish. They can draw it, name it, and write a short description, referring to the examples in the story as a model.

CROW STUDY

Crows are intelligent and fascinating birds, as you learn in “**Ranger Rick’s Adventures**” (pages 18-21). Take a peek at the checklist of crow behaviors in “**Clever Crows**” (page 22). Find out what kind(s) of crows live in your area and look for some to observe. Can you spot any of the behaviors on the list?



GET GROWING

Check out the White House vegetable garden in “**Let’s Grow!**” (pages 24-27). A school garden provides excellent learning opportunities in a variety of subject areas. Does your school have a vegetable garden or a wildlife habitat garden? Find ideas for how to use it—or how to start one if you don’t—at the School Grounds pathway of Eco-Schools USA: [eco-schoolsusa.org/schoolgrounds](http://ecoschoolsusa.org/schoolgrounds). Then get busy planning for planting season!

BUSY BEAVERS

After reading “**Bob the Builder**” (pages 30-35), you may have a new appreciation for the work of a beaver! Build on students’ understanding of beaver dams and lodges with some hands-on water play. Using a water table, a shallow pan filled with sand, or an outdoor area, ask students to dig a stream channel and then run water through it. Build a dam and watch how the water pools behind it. In the pool, pile up sticks to simulate a lodge and food pantry. Have students draw diagrams and cross-sections of the beaver habitat they’ve created.

DOLPHIN TALE

Based on a true story, **Dolphin Tale** is a new film opening September 23. Winter, a bottlenose dolphin, was rescued after her tail was damaged in a crab trap. A dedicated team worked together to bring about a miracle: a prosthetic tail to help Winter swim again. Winter now serves as a symbol of courage, perseverance, and hope. Visit nwf.org/dolphin-tale to learn more about this inspiring story and to find an Educator’s Guide for the film.



Beaver Builders

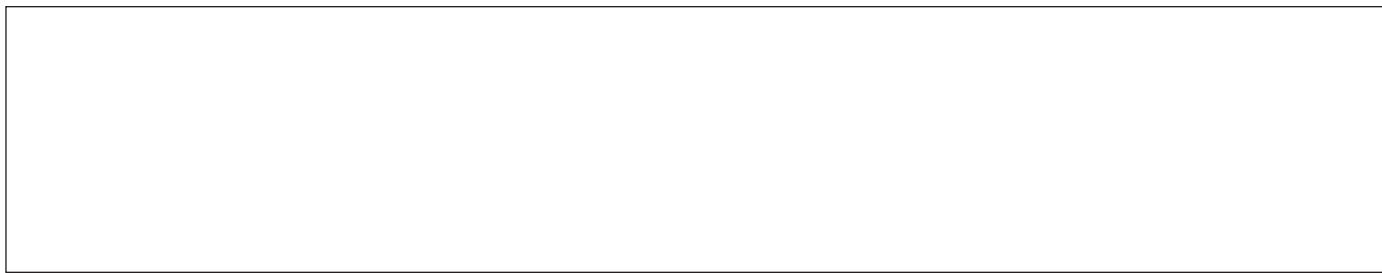


After you read "Bob the Builder" (pages 30-35), imagine that you have been hired by Bob and his family to write an advertisement for their construction company. Gather ideas by looking at a few ads for real construction companies online or in a telephone book. Then answer the questions below to create your ad.

Name of Construction Company: _____

Owners: _____

Draw a logo for the company:



Tagline (a short, catchy sentence summing up what the company is about):

About Us (a paragraph describing what the company does, its specialties, and why it's the best company to hire):



Testimonial (a quote from someone who is satisfied with the service he or she received from this company):

Fight or Flight



In "The Buzz" (pages 12-13), you learn that animals may respond to danger with either fight or flight. This means defending themselves by fighting back or getting away.

- 1.** On the lines below, label each situation as "fight" or "flight."

- _____ A wasp stings an animal that comes near its nest.
_____ A frog jumps into a pond when a snake approaches.
_____ A family of crows mobs a hawk, chasing it away from their nest.
_____ A rabbit bounds swiftly away as a fox pursues it.
_____ A beaver smacks its tail and dives underwater after hearing a strange sound.

- 2.** Write your own example of a "fight" response.

- 3.** Write your own example of a "flight" response.

- 4.** In the table below, list some advantages and disadvantages of each response.

	FIGHT	FLIGHT
Advantages		
Disadvantages		

- 5.** What would you do? Describe a time when you reacted to something scary with either fight or flight.

