



Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

EDUCATIONAL EXTENSIONS FOR THE MAY 2014 ISSUE OF RANGER RICK® MAGAZINE

FAMILY TIES

The ring-tailed lemurs in “Welcome to the Family” (pages 6-11) are part of a large family group that cooperates to help raise its young and keep each other safe and well fed. Engage students in a discussion about how cooperation also applies to human families. Ask them to compare and contrast ring-tailed lemur and human families by using examples from both the story and their own experiences.

FANTASTIC FOSSILS

When you pick up the fossil of an animal, it is like holding a piece of Earth’s history—especially if the fossil is as old as a dinosaur egg! After your students read “Dinosaurs Were Babies, Too!” pages 26-31, discuss how examining fossilized dinosaur eggs and nests can lead to clues about dinosaur behavior (e.g., how dinosaurs cared for their young, what their predators were).

It’s extremely difficult for most students to find their own dinosaur fossils, but they can find other plant and animal fossils fairly easily in most states. So why not take students on a fossil hunt? To find good fossil-hunting places near you, contact (1) your state’s geological survey office, (2) the geology department of a local college or university, or (3) a local nature center. Be sure to ask for permission from the land-owners before you hunt for fossils. And take along a good fossil-hunting guide such as *Smithsonian Handbooks: Fossils* by Cyril Walker and David Ward (2013).

ANIMAL SUPERDADS

For some animal fathers, “daddy duty” is a big deal. After reading, “Helmet Head,” pages 14-19, ask students to describe the parenting responsibilities

of a papa cassowary. Would they consider him to be an animal superdad? Divide students into twos and give each pair another animal superdad to research (e.g., emperor penguin, poison frog, emperor tamarin, giant water bug, seahorse, jawfish, black-backed jackal, emu). Ask pairs to give the class at least three reasons why they think their animal is an amazing father. Once students have become familiar with these amazing pops, ask them which one they would give a “World’s Best Dad” award to. Discuss the question thoroughly; then take a class vote.

STEP INTO STAND-UP PADDLING (SUP)

After reading “Stand-Up Paddling” pages 32-35, have students go online to do additional research on basic SUP techniques. They will find several instructional videos. Later, as a class, write a set of simple, step-by-step instructions for someone trying SUP for the first time. Ask a student to pantomime the basic steps for the rest of the class, allowing students to comment on the pantomimer’s SUP technique.

As an extension activity, have each student research another outdoor sporting activity, write how-to steps for it, and then pantomime it for the class. Can the other students guess the sport?

BIKE TO SCHOOL

Participate with other schools across the country in Bike to School Day on May 7. Last year more than 1,700 schools in 50 states took part by riding their bikes to school on this special day. To learn more about organizing a Bike to School Day at your school, go online at walkbiketoschool.org.





PHOTODISC

ANIMAL GROUPS

Many of the animal species you read about in this issue of *Ranger Rick* live in groups. Some groups have only two or three animals in them. Other groups can have hundreds. Animals group together for different reasons: safety, reproducing, protecting their young or themselves, hunting, migrating (moving from one place to another), and more.

DIRECTIONS Use the information in this issue, as well as other resources, to complete the following chart about animal groups.

ANIMAL	WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE GROUP?	WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE GROUP?	HOW DOES THE GROUP STAY TOGETHER?
RING-TAILED LEMUR			
CASSOWARY			
AFRICAN ELEPHANT			
ANIMAL OF YOUR CHOICE: _____ _____			





RANGER RICK RECAP

Use what you have learned from reading the May 2014 issue of *Ranger Rick* magazine to fill in the missing words.

1. - paddling is a popular watersport.

10 1 5
2. Chocolate comes from beans.

6
3. -grown chocolate is friendly to forests and wildlife.

15 2 3
4. Louie was discovered inside a fossilized dinosaur .

4 7 8 9
5. -tailed lemurs live in .

14 13 12
6. The headpiece on a cassowary is called a .

16 11

WILDLIFE RIDDLE

Use the coded letters above to fill in the blanks below and solve the riddle.

HOW DO CASSOWARIES KEEP IN SHAPE?

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 3 17

