



# Ranger Rick

# EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



EDUCATIONAL EXTENSIONS FOR THE OCTOBER 2018 ISSUE OF RANGER RICK® MAGAZINE

## GREAT APE LESSONS

In “Orangutans: 12 Facts to Go Ape Over,” pages 6–11, students learn that baby orangutans spend up to eight years with their mothers before going off on their own. Have students fold a sheet of paper in half to make a comparison chart. On one side of the page, ask them to write down things that an orangutan might need to learn in those eight years. On the other side, have students list things they need to learn from grownups before they are ready to be on their own. Discuss similarities and differences between the two lists.

Then distribute the Orangutan Interview student page, which has students use orangutan facts from the article to compose interviews between an orangutan and themselves.

## CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

In “Midnight Snackers,” pages 14–19, students learn that during the night many small sea creatures move up from the deep to find food near the ocean’s surface. After students have read the article, walk through the pages of the story together, commenting on the photos. Ask students to identify the creatures and explain why nighttime is a good time for these animals to feed at the ocean’s surface.

With Halloween just around the corner, this is an appropriate time to explore other kinds of night creatures as well, including spiders, bats, moths, owls, treefrogs, raccoons, opossums, skunks, and wolves.

Invite a small group of students to check out a library book to learn more about who’s who in the night world and to report their findings to the class. Then have every student select a night creature they would like to be for a night. Ask them to write first-person accounts in which they answer the three questions that follow:

- Why is night a good time for you to be up and about?
- What are you going to do tonight?
- How will you move, see, and find food in the dark?

Assemble the accounts into a book called *We Love the Night* and place the book in your classroom library.

## MUSHROOM FUN

After students read “Look Out for Mushrooms,” pages 20–21, help them plan a mushroom safari. Discuss the best time to go, what to take along, and where to look for mushrooms. Before starting out, distribute copies of the Hunting for Mushrooms student page and ask children to complete their pages during the safari. Back in the classroom, make spore prints (page 21) to better understand how mushrooms reproduce. Then try growing your own mushrooms. Search “mushroom growing kits” online for lots of options—including kits that can grow oyster mushrooms out of rolls of toilet paper!

## BAT ADVENTURES

Read this issue’s Ranger Rick Adventures story, “Get Well Soon, Bats!” pages 29–31. Then use the following questions as discussion topics or writing prompts:

- What are some words you would use to describe a bat?
- Why are bats important to the environment?
- What is white-nose syndrome? How is it spread? And why is it important to know about?
- How can people help bats that are sick with this syndrome?

Your class can get involved in bat conservation in many different ways by joining Bat Conservation International’s Bat Squad. For more information, visit [www.batcon.org/resources/media-education/learning/bat-squad](http://www.batcon.org/resources/media-education/learning/bat-squad).





# ORANGUTAN INTERVIEW

After you read "Orangutans: 12 Facts to Go Ape Over," pages 6–11, imagine that you are interviewing an orangutan about its life. Use information in the story to help you write the orangutan's responses to your questions.

**YOU:** Hello, orangutan! Thanks for climbing down from the treetops to answer some questions for me. So, what's your name and how old are you?

**ORANGUTAN:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**YOU:** What is your habitat like?

**ORANGUTAN:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**YOU:** What foods do you eat?

**ORANGUTAN:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**YOU:** How would you describe your childhood?

**ORANGUTAN:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**YOU:** What's the worst thing that ever happened to you?

**ORANGUTAN:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**YOU:** What is your favorite thing to do, and why?

**ORANGUTAN:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

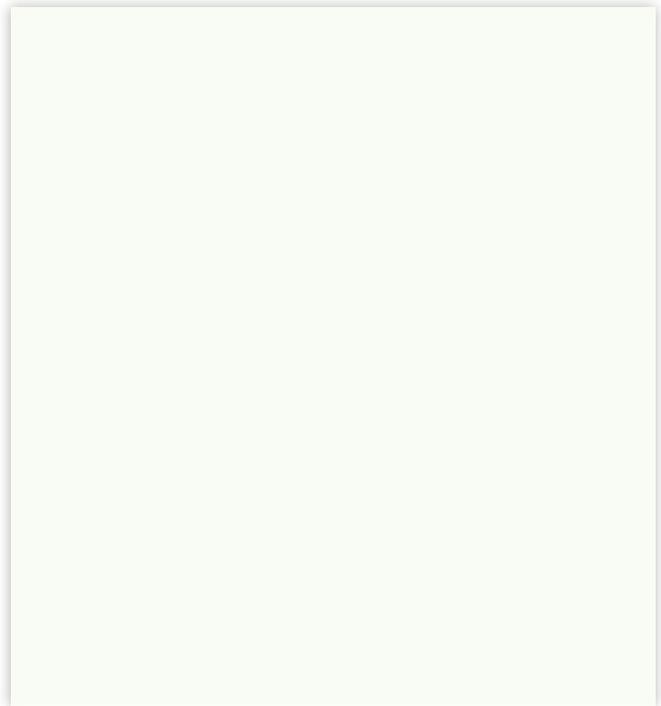
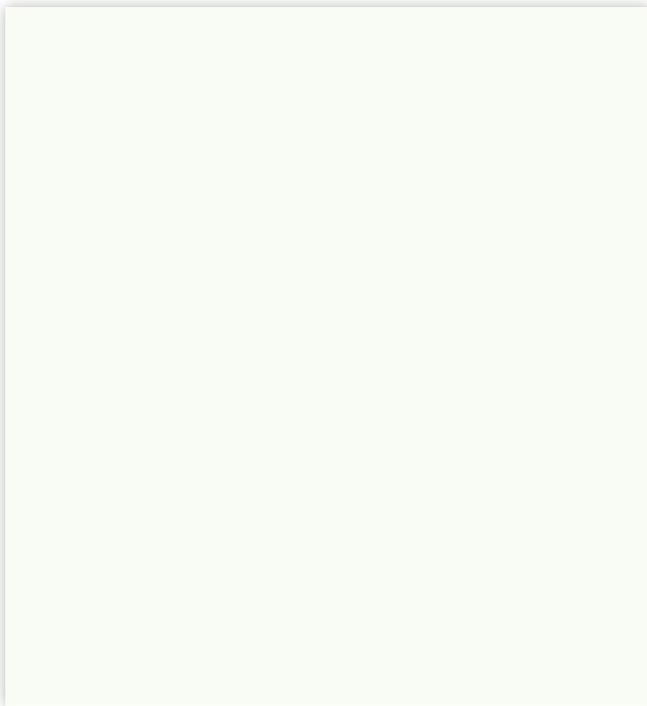




# MUSHROOM HUNT

Fall is a great time to look for fungi. Rainy weather can cause all kinds of mushrooms to pop up. Why not go on a mushroom hunt? If possible, take along a mushroom field guide, camera, and magnifying glass.

Below, sketch some mushrooms you see (or paste in photos you take) and then write some notes about each. To be safe, just look—don't pick or even touch—because some kinds of mushrooms are poisonous.



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