



Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



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

ETHIOPIAN WOLVES

After reading “Rare Wolves,” pages 6–11, have students locate the Ethiopian highlands (mountainous areas) on the map on page 6. Slowly page through the photos in the article, encouraging students to describe these highlands. Then use the following as discussion questions or writing prompts:

- Imagine that you were dropped into the mountains of Ethiopia. What words would you use to describe what you might see, hear, touch, and feel there? (*Bonus:* Use these words to create a poem or paragraph rich with “sensory details.”)
- Ethiopian wolves are the only kind of wolf found in Africa. Even more amazing is that these wolves live only in a small area in Ethiopia. How do you think they got there? Why do you think they stay there? What do they need in order to thrive there in the future?
- In this story, you learn that the howl of a wolf “defines” Ethiopia’s highlands. What are some other animal sounds that define places that are special to you?

THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR

This issue of *The Buzz*, pages 12–13, reports on news that some wildlife might be thankful for. Review the news as a class. Then ask students to explore reasons people should be thankful for animals. Divide students into small groups. Assign each group an animal (see suggestions below) and ask: “How does your animal help our planet?” Instruct groups to do research on their animals, discuss possible answers to the question, and report their conclusions to the class.

Here is a list of suggested animals:

- **Beavers:** Their dams help prevent floods and droughts.
- **Squirrels:** They bury seeds and nuts to stockpile for winter. Some of these germinate and grow into trees and other plants.

- **Parrots:** Their digestive tract can’t break down seeds, so they deposit whole seeds on the ground in their droppings. The seeds germinate and grow plants.
- **Bison:** As they walk along grassy plains, their hoofs break up soil and press plant seeds into the ground. And their manure fertilizes the seeds they “plant.”
- **Bats:** Many eat pesky insects, and others pollinate plants.
- **Mussels, oysters, and/or clams:** They help clean the ocean by ingesting algae and other living things and sending the filtered water back into the sea.

SLEEPING ANIMALS

After students read about the strange sleeping habits of several animal species in “When Animals Snooze,” pages 14–19, assign the Bedtime Story student page. Then list the following on the board:

- What is sleep, and why is it important?
- Do all animals sleep?
- When do animals sleep?
- How long do animals sleep?
- Do animals dream?

The answers to these questions were not thoroughly examined in the article. Divide students into small groups and assign each group a question to investigate further. Have each group present its findings (i.e., explanations, interesting details, animal examples) to the class.

BUDGIE SURVIVAL

Life in Australia’s hot, dry Outback isn’t easy for wild budgies. But many of these tough birds find ways to survive. Have students read “Budgie Boom!” pages 32–36, and use what they learn about budgie behavior to complete the student page called Survival Guide for Budgies.



BEDTIME STORY



Were you wide awake when you read "When Animals Snooze," pages 14–19? Fill in the missing facts below to find out.

1 How is a sleeping animal different from one that is awake?

2 Why do you think animals sleep?

3 One kind of animal that sleeps a lot is a _____. One kind that sleeps very little is a _____.

4 It's hard to tell when these two animal species are sleeping: _____ and _____.

5 Name an animal that does each of these:

Sleeps standing on one leg: _____

Naps in a group: _____

Zonks out on ice: _____

Sleeps through most of the winter but gets up for snacks: _____

Sleeps protected in a mucus tent: _____

Uses its hip as a pillow: _____

Sleeps wrapped in kelp: _____

6 Does learning about how animals sleep help you understand something new about the way you sleep? Explain why or why not.





BUDGIE SURVIVAL GUIDE

Use what you learned in “Budgie Boom!” pages 32–36, to create a survival guide for budgies. Describe what a wild budgie should do in each of the following situations.

- 1 The Outback in Australia is often very dry. If you're thirsty but there is no water around, you can still get water from:

- 2 If you eat all the food in one spot, it's time to:

- 3 If you can't find any food at all nearby, then you should:

- 4 When the rains come and the grass grows, the time is right for:

- 5 If there is still plenty of food and water after your chicks leave the nest, take advantage of your good luck and:

