



Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



EDUCATIONAL EXTENSIONS FOR THE APRIL 2019 ISSUE OF RANGER RICK® MAGAZINE

FROGTASTIC FUN

After students read “Wonderful World of Frogs,” pages 6–11, have them take turns sharing interesting facts about frogs. Then invite children to use their knowledge about frogs to complete the Froggy Sentences student page.

Spring is a great time to see and hear all kinds of frogs. If there is a pond or stream near your school, check it out as a class. Try to visit the same location several times throughout the spring and track the changes you observe. The first time, you might hear frogs singing to attract a mate. Later, you may spot clumps of eggs in the water. After that, you might see tadpoles hatching and growing into new frogs. Have students record their observations. [Click here to download a reproducible record sheet.](#)

MORE ABOUT T. REX

Invite the class to discover the latest news about *T. rex*, by reading “The Real *T. rex*,” pages 14–19. Then have students make concept maps to organize what they have learned. [Click here to download a basic map](#), or for fun, make your own maps in the shape of a *T. rex*. Encourage students to use the facts in their concept maps to complete the Truth About *T. rex* student page.

End the lesson by visiting <https://rangerrick.org/rr-videos/james-gurney/> to see how artist James Gurney brought *T. rex* back to life through his illustrations for this article.

ARBOR DAY ACTIVITIES

This year, Arbor Day is April 26. J. Sterling Morton founded the day in 1872 as a special time to plant trees and acknowledge their importance. Today, trees are more important than ever—for people as well as for wildlife.

After the class reads “Thank a Tree,” pages 20–25, have each student select a tree of his or her choice and write a thank-you note to it, citing some of the good things the tree provides to wildlife and people. All notes should follow the structure of a good letter—starting with a heading and followed by a greeting, body, closing, and signature. Ask each child to include a picture of his or her tree with the species name printed under it. Display the notes and artwork on a bulletin board with the title “Thank You, Trees!”

If circumstances allow, have the class plant some trees on the school grounds and learn how to maintain them. [Click here to download a step-by-step planting guide.](#) Other fun Arbor Day activities appear on pages 24–25 of this issue of *Ranger Rick*.

BEE-FRIENDLY PROJECTS

After students read “The Buzz Puzzle,” pages 26–28, discuss the following:

- What is *pollination*?
- Name some animals that are pollinators.
- What is a *native bee*? Name some native bees.
- Is a honey bee a native bee? Explain.
- Why are native bees important pollinators?
- What challenges do native bees face?
- How can people help them?

Have students select at least one bee-friendly project they can do as a class. Some possibilities: (1) build bumble bee nests out of flowerpots, (2) plant a garden of native flowers in the schoolyard, and (3) help scientists study bumble bees by counting and photographing them for Bumble Bee Watch. For more information about these three projects, see Ranger Rick’s Field Notes on page 28.



FROGGY SENTENCES



"Wonderful World of Frogs," pages 6–11, is all about frogs. Use what you learned from the article to write a frog fact about each topic below. Be sure to use complete sentences.

SIZE

SKIN

EYES

TONGUE

COURTING SOUNDS

LIFE CYCLE

HABITAT

A FREAKY FROG



T. REX QUIZ



Read "The Real *T. rex*," pages 14–19. Then list three interesting facts about *T. rex*.

- 1 _____

- 2 _____

- 3 _____

Now, create a multiple-choice quiz using the three facts above.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 _____
_____ a. _____
_____ b. _____
_____ c. _____
_____ d. _____
_____ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. _____
_____ d. _____
_____ |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2 _____
_____ a. _____
_____ b. _____
_____ | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3 _____
_____ a. _____
_____ b. _____
_____ c. _____
_____ d. _____
_____ |

BONUS CHALLENGE: Trade quizzes with a friend and see if the two of you can "ace" each other's quiz.

