



Ranger Rick® EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

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

SQUID STUFF

Reinforce what students learned from reading **“The Scoop on Squids,”** pages 14–19, by assigning the Fill in the Details student page. Then try one of these class projects:

- Make a squid mobile with a cone of paper for the body, streamers for the eight arms, and two longer streamers for the feeding tentacles. *Alternative:* Make the body out of a balloon and let out the air to simulate the way a squid moves via jet propulsion.
- Use chalk to draw the outline of a life-size *giant squid* (up to 50 feet long) on a blacktop or cement surface and have students see how many children can fit inside.

TRAVELING SEEDS

Read about the ways that seeds travel to new places in **“Seeds Get Around,”** pages 20–21. Then take students outside to look for various types of seeds. Have children collect samples and use what they find to create a field guide or mini-museum that illustrates and explains the different seed dispersal strategies.

BACKYARD SNAKES

After students read this month’s Ranger Rick Adventures, pages 27–29, have them discuss the following:

- Why are snakes some of the most important wildlife that we can attract to our gardens?

Now call attention to the story’s title, “Stumping for Snakes,” and tell children that sometimes the word *stumping* means to travel around making speeches for something. Ask why this is a good title for the story. Then suggest students compose and deliver their own “stump speeches” in support of snakes.

Point out to children that if a snake shows up in a backyard, it means the yard is a healthy ecosystem that is helping all kinds of wildlife. Just the same, we shouldn’t encourage snakes to get inside our homes. End the lesson by discussing tips for keeping snakes outside and avoiding any conflicts with them. For a helpful list, go online at <https://blog.nwf.org/2014/07/eliminating-snakes-in-your-yard/>.

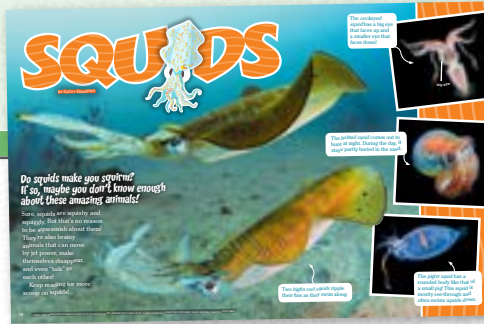
WHERE BISON ROAM

After students read **“Better with Bison,”** pages 30–35, use the following as discussion questions or writing prompts:

- How are bison like gardeners?
- Why do some birds like to nest where bison have roamed?
- What is bison dung, and why do so many prairie plants and animals rely on it?
- How do bison help bring water to the Great Plains?
- How do bison help other animals find food in winter?
- Why had bison almost vanished from prairies by the 1900s?
- Why is it important to help bring bison back to the Great Plains?

Now have children use what they’ve learned about bison to complete the How Bison Help student page.





FILL IN THE DETAILS

Read **"The Scoop on Squid,"** pages 14–19. Then complete the chart below by supplying details that support each main idea. Use complete sentences.

MAIN IDEA	DETAILS	
Squids belong to a group of animals called cephalopods.		
Squids are well equipped for hunting.		
Squids have tricky skin.		
Squids have an amazing way of getting around.		





HOW BISON HELP

Read **"Better with Bison,"** pages 30–35, to learn how bison help provide wildlife with food, water, shelter, and other important things. Use what you discover to complete the chart below. (The first one is done for you.)

ANIMALS/PLANTS	HOW BISON HELP THEM SURVIVE
Toads	Toads find shelter under dried-out bison dung. And sometimes toads lay eggs in wallows formed by bison.
Grasses and Wildflowers	
Prairie Dogs	
Dung Beetles	
Pronghorn	
Sandhill Cranes	

