



Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



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

HORNBILL ACTIVITIES

In “**Hooked on Hornbills,**” pages 6–11, students learn that one of the strangest things about hornbills is the way most of them raise their families. Help children review this process and other information in the article by completing the Holed Up student page.

Then direct children’s attention to the photo of the *ground hornbill* on the top of page 9. Explain that ground hornbills hunt in groups and use their big bills to catch their prey. Play a tag game in which a few students are ground hornbills and the rest are prey. In order for the hornbills to catch their food, they must work together, with two or more hornbills tagging a “prey” student at the same time. Once caught this way, the prey goes to an area designated as the “dining room.” The game ends when the hornbills catch all the prey, and the last students caught become hornbills in the next round. For extra fun, make big-bill masks for the hornbills to wear.

MORE CREEPY GREENHOUSES

Extend the eerie fun students had reading “**Welcome to the Creepy Greenhouse**” pages 12–17 by suggesting they draw their own creepy greenhouses. Inside their houses, have children draw pictures of four to five creepy plants. These should be real plants, but not ones that appeared in the *Ranger Rick* article.

Online research will lead kids to these and other fun plants: red spider lily, bat flower, strangeweed, Japanese blood grass, cockscomb, Dracula orchid, and ghost plant. Students should label their plants and be able to tell one fun fact about each plant they include in their greenhouses.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It’s true that Tasmanian devils can be fierce little fighters when threatened, but when students read “**What the Devil?**” pages 18–21, they will discover that these animals are rare, special little animals that could use our help. Have students write letters to the editor (in a Tasmanian devil’s voice) seeking to improve the animal’s image and get needed support from people. The Dear Editor student page will walk children through an editorial-writing process.

SQUIRRELLY FUN

Squirrel observations don’t have to stop after students complete the checklist in “**Spy on Squirrels,**” page 22. Try this additional activity in your schoolyard:

1. In the bottom of a **pumpkin**, cut a hole big enough for a squirrel to squeeze through. Leave in most of the seeds and stringy material.
2. Carve jack-o’-lantern features into one side.
3. Twist an **eye screw** into the stem-end of the pumpkin.
4. Tie a piece of **rope** to the eye. Then tie the other end to the branch of a tree or another tall object. (The pumpkin bottom should be about 10 inches off the ground.) Get ready for a good laugh!

SCHOOLYARD BEAR HUNT

After students read “**Everywhere Bears,**” pages 28–31, follow the six steps on page 31 for hunting down tardigrades (“water bears”) in your schoolyard or nearby park. Photograph students performing each step and have children draw sketches of any tardigrades they detect under the microscope. Use the photos and sketches to create a bulletin board chronicling your schoolyard bear hunt.





HOLED UP

One of the strangest things about hornbills is the way most of them raise their families. Below are the different steps they take, but the steps are all mixed up. Put them in order by adding the numbers 1–6 in front of the statements. The first one is done for you.

- 1 A hornbill pair finds a hole (usually in a tree).
- Only a narrow slit is left unsealed. It is just big enough to pass food through.
- After mating, the hornbill couple seals up the hole with mud and other things—with the mother bird inside.
- Meanwhile, Dad stays busy bringing Mom and chicks meals. The family's survival depends entirely on him.
- Mom stays holed up in this predator-proof nest for months, caring for her eggs and then her chicks.
- The pair makes a nest inside the hole.

What is causing problems for hornbills today?

What could people do to help hornbills?



