



Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



EDUCATIONAL EXTENSIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2020 ISSUE OF RANGER RICK® MAGAZINE

BIRD GIFTS

Introduce “Will U B Mine?” pages 5–10, by pointing out that gift-giving is a big part of Valentine’s Day. Ask students:

- What are some gifts that people give each other to say, “Be my valentine?”
- Would those be good gifts for a male bird to give a female bird? What might make better gifts?

Invite children to learn more about “good” bird gifts by reading the article. Afterward, have the class describe some of these gifts. Then wrap up the lesson by asking:

- How might gift-giving help a female bird select a mate?

YEAR OF THE RAT

The year 2020 is the “Year of the Rat.” Ask students if they know why. (*For nearly 5000 years, the Chinese culture has organized time in a cycle of 12 years. Each of the 12 years is represented by an animal that embodies unique qualities. 2020 is the Year of the Rat.*)

Explain that people born in the Year of the Rat are believed to possess certain rat-like qualities. Ask students to guess what some of these qualities might be. List their suggestions on the board or chart paper.

After students have read “Oh, Rats!” pages 18–23, ask them to use what they have just learned about rats to improve their list of rat qualities. Then ask a student to look up the traditional description of this Chinese zodiac animal and read it aloud. Compare the official description with the class’s list. How closely do they match?

ARCTIC EXPLORATIONS

After reading “Arctic Outpost, pages 12–17, help students enhance their comprehension of the article by completing the Fill in the Details student page.

Then have students write their own Arctic adventures, using the following writing prompt:

- If you could visit the North Pole this year, what is the

first thing you would like to do there?

Encourage children to illustrate their stories and enter the illustrations in Ranger Rick’s “On Top of the World!” contest. Thirty winners will have their artwork photographed at the North Pole! For contest details, see rangerrick.org/NorthPole.

DOLPHIN ADVENTURES

Have students read this month’s **Ranger Rick Adventures** called “Star Power,” pages 24–26. Then ask:

- Where do the Irrawaddy dolphins in the adventure live?
- Why are they in trouble?
- How can people help the dolphins?

Invite students to write a newspaper interview with an Irrawaddy river dolphin. Encourage them to use information from this month’s adventure story as well as from other sources. The interview questions listed in the Interview with a Dolphin student page can guide children through the process, or children can write their own questions for an Irrawaddy to answer.

LEAP IT UP!

The year 2020 is a leap year—the perfect time to celebrate animals that leap. Jump-start your celebration by having students complete the Leap Year games in “Just 4 Fun,” pages 33–35.

Afterward, ask children to identify some reasons animals leap (e.g., to get past obstacles, to escape predators, to catch prey, to impress mates, for fun). Then have each student choose a leaping animal and do some research on its leaping skills. As a class, determine which animal leaps the greatest distance, as well as which one leaps the farthest relative to its size.

Now do some leaping of your own. How far can individual students leap, and how far can the class go if students add all of their leaps together?



INTERVIEW WITH AN IRRAWADDY



Directions: *The River Life Times* has asked you to interview an Irrawaddy river dolphin. Use what you learned in this month's Ranger Rick Adventures as well as information from other sources to complete the following interview.

INTERVIEW HEADLINE _____

BY _____

(YOUR NAME)

1 Where do you live? _____

2 What do you like most about your home? _____

3 How are you different from other kinds of dolphins? _____

4 How's life treating you these days? What are your biggest challenges? _____

5 How could people make your life easier? _____

