



Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



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

NATURE PHOTOS

Check out the winning photographs in **Your Best Shots**, pages 4–5. Ask students to identify something in each picture that impresses them. Perhaps the photo captures an interesting behavior, tells a story, or makes them feel a certain way. Or maybe the photo's lighting, colors, or overall composition is particularly strong.

If students have access to cameras, suggest they spend half an hour photographing nature in their own backyards, schoolyard, or a local park. Distribute copies of the Photo Shoot student page and have children use it to document two of their favorite pics. Set aside class time for students to share their nature photographs and documentation. Then suggest children enter their favorite shots in *Ranger Rick's* ongoing photo contest at nwf.org/rrphotocontest. For tips on taking great nature photos, see rangerrick.org/6-tips-for-wild-pics.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

Commemorate Earth Day's 50th anniversary by reading “50 Ways to Love the Earth,” pages 6–15. Then encourage students to do their part to protect and restore their planet by taking action on some of the 50 Earth-friendly suggestions listed in the article. Below are more Earth Day activities:

1. Create homemade anniversary cards containing Earth-friendly messages. Display them on a bulletin board titled “Happy 50th, Earth!”
2. Have students write personal pledges of environmental commitment, using Ranger Rick's Pledge on page 27 for inspiration. Children could then display their pledges on plaques or posters.
3. As a class, outline a plan for attracting wildlife to your schoolyard. To get animals to drop by or move

in, your schoolyard habitat with need to provide:

- **Food:** anything from a simple bird feeder to a garden full of native plants with nectar-filled flowers, berries, and/or seeds
- **Water:** a birdbath or shallow dish of water for birds, or a small pond for frogs or other water creatures
- **Shelter:** brush piles, stone walls, bushes, bat boxes, and/or trees
- **Place to Raise Young:** bird houses and/or leafy plants (for insects)

The National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitat® program helps educators build, certify, and teach about wildlife habitats in schools. Visit nwf.org/schoolyardhabitats for more information. And for more on Earth Day's 50th anniversary, visit earthday.org/2020.

CLOSEUP ON FOXES

After reading “Roxy's Busy Day,” pages 20–23, have students use what they learned about Roxy and her family of Washington red foxes to make up television shows about the fox family. Use the “Showtime for Foxes” student page for this activity.

HAPPY TRAILS

If reading “Let's Hike!” on pages 28–32, inspires your students to hit the trail, plan a class hike. Have students help (1) choose the destination, (2) look at a map to plan the route, and (3) make a list of what to wear and pack. While on the trail, be sure to follow the Tips for Happy Hikers on page 32. Also on page 32 is a checklist of nature items to search for while hiking. Distribute copies of the list before you start out and invite children to check off items as they spot them.



PHOTO SHOOT



Professional nature photographers often take notes to help them remember (1) what they saw when they shot a photo, (2) when and where they saw it, and (3) what was interesting about it. Use this sheet to record notes on two photographs you take.

TAPE PHOTO #1 HERE

TAPE PHOTO #2 HERE

Date: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

Time: _____

What it is: _____

What it is: _____

Where I took it: _____

Where I took it: _____

Why it is interesting: _____

Why it is interesting: _____





SHOWTIME FOR FOXES

Read "Roxy's Busy Day," pages 20–23, to find out how Washington red foxes live. Then follow the steps below.

STEP 1

Imagine you are making a television show about Roxy, the little Washington red fox, and her family. What facts about these foxes will you include?

STEP 2

Describe an adventure that the family will have.

STEP 3

Now write an advertisement for your show that will make people really want to tune in. Use the back of this page if you need more space.

