



Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



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

BOBCATS

After reading “At Home with the Bobcats,” pages 6–11, give students a chance to share stories about how their parents or guardians are like Momcat. Students may discuss the ways their guardians protect them, feed them, teach them skills, and help them clean and groom themselves. Here are some questions to guide your discussion:

- What are some activities you enjoy/do not enjoy doing with your guardian?
- What is your favorite food/meal that your guardian makes for you?
- What is one skill your guardian has taught you?

ANIMAL ATHLETES

Have students read “Animal Athletes,” pages 14–19.

Then ask:

- Which animal athletes show incredible endurance?
- Which animal champion can lift 100 times its own weight?

Place students in small groups. Ask each group to choose a sport not mentioned in the story and then research animals that might win that event on the basis of their characteristics and adaptations. Last, all groups should prepare to shoot a video recap about the event, featuring their chosen animals. The video should include information about the sport, competition highlights, and a “snapshot” (photo or drawing) of the winning animal athlete. (If students don’t have access to video equipment, they may write the recap as a news script.)

HELLBENDERS

Nicknames, such as the ones found in this issue’s story about the large salamander known as a *hellbender*, can make us giggle. Each quirky name—*lasagna lizard*, *snot otter*—refers to one of the salamander’s physical characteristics.

After reading “Hellbenders,” pages 22–27, have students research other animal nicknames, such as “monkey-bear” (koala) and “dumbledore” (bumble bee). Have each student select four animals with interesting nicknames and create a digital mini-book. Each book should include the elements of a book (cover, title page, table of contents, and bibliography), images of the four animals, and their associated nicknames. On each page, include an explanation of how/why the animal was given its unique name.

FIRE BIRD

Not all forest fires are harmful. In fact, they play an important role in the overall health of a forest ecosystem and the wildlife that depends on it. After reading “Fire Bird” on pages 32–35, ask students to recall why small, fast-burning fires are important to red-cockaded woodpeckers.

Provide each student with a piece of unlined paper. Instruct students to turn the paper so it lies horizontally (landscape), then fold the paper in half, creating left and right panels. Title the page “Red-Cockaded Woodpecker’s Forest Habitat.” Label the left panel “Before a Fire” and the right panel “After a Fire.” Students will draw and color “snapshots” of the habitat before and after a fire. On the back, have students describe why natural fires or controlled burns are important to the birds’ survival.

“ANIMAL ATHLETES” ACTIVITY ANSWERS (PAGE 2): 1-B, 2-C, 3-A, 4-C, 5-B.





ANIMAL ATHLETES

Read "Animal Athletes" on pages 14–19. Answer the questions about animal champions below, then check your score. Will YOU earn a gold medal?

- 1 In the 100-yard dash, the cheetah wins the gold by zipping along at . . .
 - a. 25 mph
 - b. 60 mph
 - c. 75 mph

- 2 The cougar would take home the gold for its high-jump skills. It can leap as high as . . .
 - a. 8 feet
 - b. 12 feet
 - c. 18 feet

- 3 A sailfish can torpedo through the water at 68 miles per hour. How many seconds would it take the fish to complete the 400-meter freestyle?
 - a. 13 seconds
 - b. 35 seconds
 - c. 60 seconds

- 4 In a gymnastics floor routine, you're sure to see a lot of flips. How many times per second can Africa's golden wheel spider cartwheel downhill?
 - a. 10
 - b. 31
 - c. 44

- 5 In the weightlifting event, the super-strong rhinoceros beetle can lift how many times its own weight?
 - a. 25 times
 - b. 100 times
 - c. 250 times



GOLD MEDAL WINNER
5 correct answers



BRONZE MEDAL WINNER
3 correct answers



SILVER MEDAL WINNER
4 correct answers



PARTICIPATION
0–2 correct answers





HELLBENDERS

Hellbender populations are getting smaller. The story on pages 22-27 explores some of the reasons for the salamander's decline. Use the concept map below to identify cause-and-effect relationships.

EFFECT

Vertical box with three lines for writing.

Vertical box with five lines for writing.

Vertical box with three lines for writing.

HELLBENDERS

CAUSE

Vertical box with three lines for writing.

Vertical box with five lines for writing.

Vertical box with three lines for writing.

