



Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



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

CONSERVATION INTERVIEW

Rhinoceroses are fascinating mammals! Read **“Get Ready for Rhinos”** on **pages 6–11**. Have students write down the five rhino species, then find the website of the nearest zoo that exhibits rhinos. Which rhino species are on exhibit? Have students reread the story and write down the facts related to the rhino species at the local zoo. Help students develop interview questions for the rhino keepers, such as, “What role does the zoo play in rhino conservation?” and “How does the enclosure mimic the rhinos’ natural habitat?” If possible, set up a Zoom chat interview with one of the rhino keepers or conservation scientists.

FIND A SPRING!

There are cold and hot freshwater springs throughout North America, in almost every state. After reading **“Pool Party”** on **pages 14–19**, have students visit findaspring.com to find the spring closest to school.

- Choose your state from the drop-down menu. Once the state map appears, students may need to zoom in or out to find the closest spring.
- Have students write down the name and address of the spring.
- Using the key, determine if it is a hot or cold spring. Is it free, or do you have to pay to visit?
- Ask students to talk in small groups about how they can find out which kinds of wildlife live in and around the stream. Give groups time to share with the class.

EVEN ANIMALS VOTE!

In November 2020, Americans will head to the polls to vote in the presidential election. In reading **“Animals That Vote”** on **pages 20–23**, we learned how some wild animals also exercise their right to “vote.” Even though children cannot vote in this year’s election, why not have a mock election in the classroom? Engage students in deciding what questions they’d like to vote on. For example, “Which do you prefer: mammals, birds, or fish?” After voting, have students work in groups to tally the votes, then make bar graphs showing the results. As a check for accuracy, groups can compare the bar graphs—all graphs should be identical. Discuss why accuracy in vote-counting is essential for humans *and* wildlife.

WHAT’S THE BEST SOLUTION?

Before reading **“Backyard Wildlife”** on **pages 34–36**, pose this question to your students: “If you find a box turtle trying to cross the road, what do you think you should do?” Allow students a few minutes to think about and write down their responses. Next, have students pair off to share their answers.

By a show of hands, how many student pairs had the same solution? How many had different solutions? Now read the story, encouraging students to listen for the answer. As students listen, ask them to write down what the story says they should do when they find a box turtle crossing the road. Ask for a thumbs up, thumbs sideways, or thumbs down: How close was your solution to the story’s solution?





GUESS WHO?

Using the story **"Get Ready for Rhinos,"** pages 6–11, circle the rhino species that is associated with the fact. Each fact may be related to more than one rhino species.

- 1** We are the two African rhino species.

white rhino black rhino Sumatran rhino Javan rhino greater one-horned rhino

- 2** I am the smallest of the five rhinoceroses.

white rhino black rhino Sumatran rhino Javan rhino greater one-horned rhino

- 3** I am the best swimmer of the five rhinoceroses.

white rhino black rhino Sumatran rhino Javan rhino greater one-horned rhino

- 4 We have two horns made of keratin, just like your hair and fingernails.

white rhino black rhino Sumatran rhino Javan rhino greater one-horned rhino

- 5** I eat up to 120 pounds of grass per day.

white rhino black rhino Sumatran rhino Javan rhino greater one-horned rhino

- 6** People were banned from hunting us in 1977, but many of us are still poached or hunted illegally.

white rhino black rhino Sumatran rhino Javan rhino greater one-horned rhino

- 7** We are the most endangered rhino species. There are fewer than 100 of each of us left.

white rhino black rhino Sumatran rhino Javan rhino greater one-horned rhino

- 8** Our species numbers are making a comeback and doing better because of conservation efforts.

white rhino black rhino Sumatran rhino Javan rhino greater one-horned rhino

1. white and black 2. Sumatran 3. greater one-horned 4. white, black, and Sumatran 5. white 6. all 7. Sumatran and Javan 8. white and greater one-horned

ANSWERS





GOING ON A SHAPE HUNT

In **"Spirals,"** pages 24–29 you were introduced to naturally occurring spirals. Take a walk with a friend or family member and look for the shapes below in nature. Do you see circles, arches, diamonds, and other shapes? In each space, draw what you see. (Do not add man-made objects to your chart.)

					
					

