



# Ranger Rick

# EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



EDUCATIONAL EXTENSIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY 2022 ISSUE OF RANGER RICK® MAGAZINE

## OWL ADVENTURES

After reading “Who’s Whooo?” on **pages 6–11**, students might be excited to read and learn more. There are many books where owls are the main characters or central to the storyline. Students can participate in reading circles using the following titles or any titles from your collection. Reading circles are like book clubs for kids: They are structured to analyze story components and increase children’s comprehension skills.

### Younger Readers

- *Owl Moon*, Jane Yolen
- *The Barn Owls*, Tony Johnston
- *Owl Eyes*, Frieda Gates
- *A Snowy Owl Story*, Melissa Kim

### Older Readers

- *Hoot*, Carl Hiaasen
- *There’s an Owl in the Shower*, Jean Craighead George
- *The Capture: The Guardians of Ga’hoole*, Kathryn Lasky
- *Owly*, Andy Runton

## DAY/NIGHT NATURE JOURNAL

A nighttime “owl prowling” is a great way to get students excited to go outside and observe nature with their families. After reading the tips in “Owl Prowl,” **pages 12–13**, as a class, have each student create a personalized day-and-night nature journal. Students should add side-by-side pages, labeled “Day” and “Night,” to make observations during both times of day. Students may want to make their journals digitally and

then print them out or create their journals on paper.

Journal elements may include:

- list of useful tools
- safety considerations
- weather conditions
- signs of wildlife: scat, tracks, sounds, etc.
- tree rubbings, measurements, and IDs
- “Owl Prowl” tips

Give students a week to make observations, then have them share their observations in small groups.

## CAUSE AND EFFECT

As students learned in reading “The Forest Gardeners,” **pages 16–21**, tapirs are essential to the survival of 200 different plant species. Have students create a graphic organizer explaining tapirs’ importance to the ecosystem. The graphic organizer will show:

- A. How tapirs are part of a cycle or food chain, keeping a great variety of plants thriving, and
- B. How that cycle would be affected, should the population of tapirs continue to decline.

## HELP WANTED: PARTY PLANNERS

In this month’s **Ranger Rick’s Adventure**, “A Sweet Idea” on **pages 22–24**, students read about the fun and fantastic ways Rick and his friends repurpose materials for Valentine’s Day. Group students into threes or fours. Each group is a different party planning company. Let each group choose a company name. Using any of the school’s upcoming celebrations, have each company develop a realistic low-waste party plan. You, as the teacher, will share each plan with the class without identifying the company, and students will vote for a favorite plan that is low-waste and fun.





## HOOT IS IT?

Aren't owls fascinating? After reading "Who's Whooo?" on pages 6–11, it's time to test your owl knowledge! Match the owl with the correct fact. Then go back to the story and check your answers.

### 1. BARRED

A. Depending on where you live, you might see the eastern or western species.

### 2. LONG-EARED

B. This owl has tufts of feathers on its head that look like horns.

### 3. GREAT GRAY

C. In the United States, this owl is found in the \_\_\_\_\_ in northwestern pine forests.

### 4. SCREECH

D. The song of this owl is a loud, gruff "hoot."

### 5. BARN

E. This owl is the size of a robin.

### 6. SAW-WHET

F. This owl's brown back feathers have bars of white.

### 7. SNOWY

G. The song of this owl is a classic "hoot."

### 8. GREAT HORNED

H. This owl has a heart-shaped white face.

1-F, 2-G, 3-C, 4-A, 5-H, 6-E, 7-D, 8-B

ANSWERS



# LOW-WASTE LIST



In the **Ranger Rick's Adventure "A Sweet Idea,"** on pages 22–24, you read how Ranger Rick and his friends used recycled materials to celebrate Valentine's Day. Make a list of the ways your family tries to be environmentally aware while celebrating a holiday or other special occasion. If you don't currently practice low-waste celebrations, create your ideal low-waste or eco-friendly plan for an upcoming family celebration.

1. Avoid individually-packaged food items like snack packs.

