



# Ranger Rick

## EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

EDUCATIONAL EXTENSIONS FOR THE MAY 2021 ISSUE OF RANGER RICK® MAGAZINE

### THE TURTLE AND THE TORTOISE

In “**The Island of Giants**” on **pages 6–11**, you’ll read about some of the largest tortoises in the world. Here in the United States, there are 57 species of turtle and only five species of tortoise. First, have students first identify the differences between turtles and tortoises. (Hint: Tortoises are turtles, but not all turtles are tortoises!) Each student should choose one North American turtle or tortoise species to learn more about. As a class, discuss and decide what information should be gathered. Once students have their research complete, have them create art to share their species with the class. Students’ art could include painting, poetry, digital story mapping, dance, or song.

### ALL IN THE FAMILY

You may think you know raccoons. But you’ve probably never seen raccoons quite like the ones in “**Little Raccoons**” on **pages 14–19**! Mexico’s pygmy raccoons are relatives of the common raccoons we have here in the United States.

Using facts from the story, have students create a graphic organizer comparing the two raccoon species. Encourage students to learn about another raccoon species, the crab-eating raccoon of Central and South America. Once their research is complete, students may write a short fact-based booklet about different raccoon species or a creative writing story about a raccoon family reunion.

### LOCAL BIOBLITZ

In “**The Big Bioblitz**,” **pages 26–28**, Ranger Rick and friends host a bioblitz, where they count as many

plants and animals as they can within a certain period of time. Bioblitzes occur all over the nation, sometimes in national and state parks and sometimes at local city parks. Even a schoolyard can be the site of a bioblitz. Check out the [iNaturalist calendar](#) for currently occurring bioblitzes near you. Or work with students to plan a local community bioblitz! Use [iNaturalist’s](#) resources at [inaturalist.org/pages/bioblitz+guide](https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/bioblitz+guide) to guide your planning.

### INSECT IDENTIFICATION

After reading “**Mama Bug, Baby Bug**,” **pages 30–34**, take students outside and have them bring along their science notebooks—we’re going on a bug hunt! Bug boxes are a great way to observe insects up close without harming them. But if bug boxes are not available, the human eye will work just fine. Observing wildlife requires patience and the ability to be still and quiet. Have each student divide a piece of paper into four quadrants and number the quadrants from 1 to 4. On the header of the page, have each student write a title, the date, and a statement describing the current weather conditions. Each student should:

- find four different insects to observe
- sketch each insect
- attempt to identify each insect. (Note: the [SEEK app](#) is a user-friendly application to identify and catalog wildlife observations.)

Allow enough time for students to share their observations with their peers. Once back in the classroom, have students research the life cycle for each insect they observed. How do the mama bugs look the same as or different from the baby bugs?





# TEST YOUR DUGONG KNOWLEDGE

The dugong is a fascinating mammal! After reading **“Don’t Call Me a Manatee,”** pages 20–25, see how deep your knowledge flows. If you come across a false answer, rewrite it to make it true.

- 1 The dugong and the manatee are not related.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 A dugong doesn’t have nails on its flippers.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 A dugong eats tiny fish for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 A dugong can stay underwater for as long as six minutes.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Dugongs communicate using long, bellowing calls.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 A dugong mom gives birth to as many as three babies at a time.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Predators of the dugong include large sharks and killer whales.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8 People are trying to save the seagrass meadows that dugongs need to survive.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWERS**  
1-False, 2-True, 3-False, 4-False, 5-False, 6-False, 7-True, 8-True

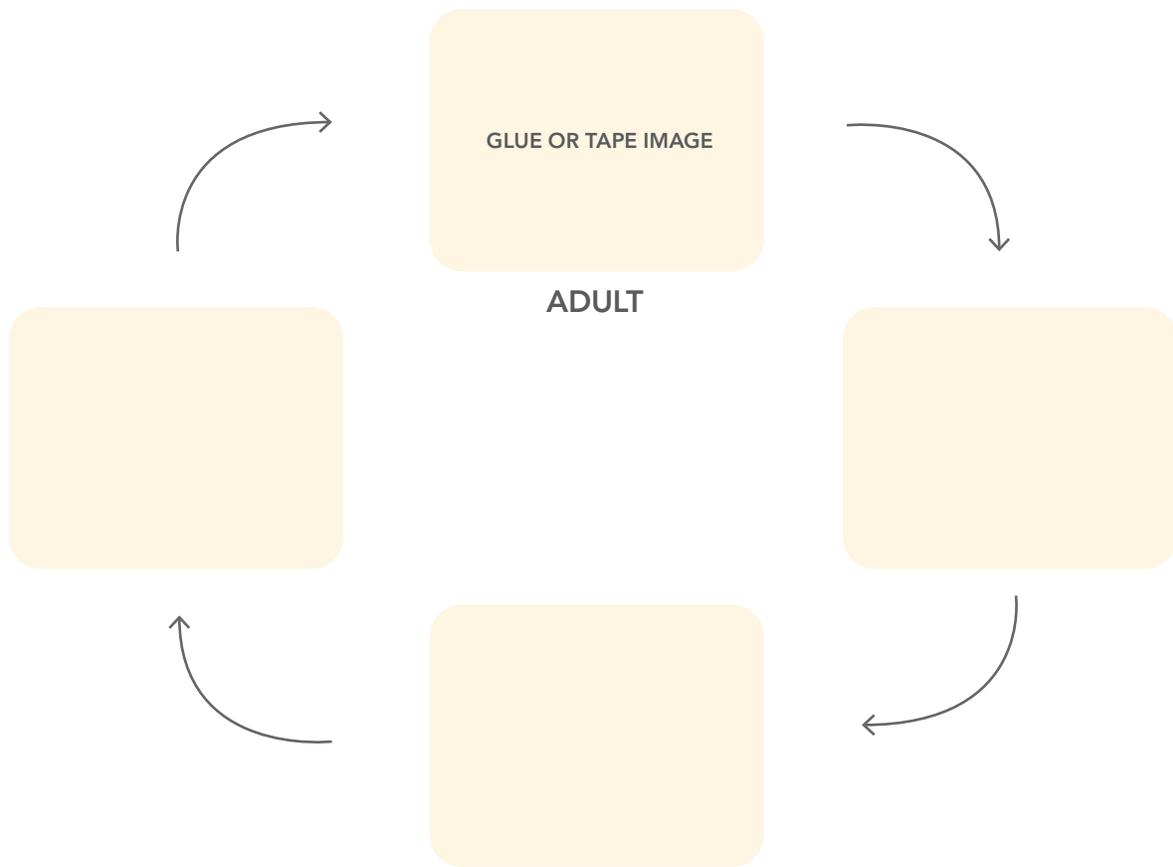


# MAGNIFICENT METAMORPHOSIS



In "Mama Bug, Baby Bug" on pages 30–34, we learned how an insect's body changes throughout its life cycle. Like the butterfly pictured on page 34, a ladybug undergoes *complete metamorphosis*. Using the ladybug photos, diagram, and online research, draw the four life stages of a ladybug in the boxes below. Then cut out the drawings and tape or glue each one in the correct spot on the life cycle diagram.

Now make plans to use your diagram to look for ladybug life stages at home, in your neighborhood, at school, or at the park.

Four empty, rounded rectangular boxes with dashed outlines, arranged horizontally. These are intended for students to draw the four life stages of a ladybug.