



Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

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

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

At first glance, Asian and African elephants may look pretty similar. But after kids read **“Roaming with the Herd,”** pages 6–13, they’ll have no problem telling the two species apart. With their new knowledge, you can play a game. Have all students gather in the center of the room. Identify and label one side of the room as “Asian Elephants” and the other as “African Elephants.” Share characteristics of each species in turn (for example, “has three toenails on its back feet”). Students should move (like an elephant herd!) to whichever side of the room represents the correct answer.

STORYTIME: SHRIMP STYLE

There’s a lot more than meets the eye in **“A Peek at Shrimps,”** pages 16–21. Have students pick one of the shrimp species shared in the story to write about, such as the nearly blind pistol shrimp or the hard-working scarlet cleaner shrimps. Give students this prompt to start their story: “It was just a regular day until...” Encourage students to share their stories with a classmate or in small groups.

TAKE ACTION FOR WILDLIFE

In **“Ranger Rick’s Adventure: A Traveler’s Tale”** on pages 22–24, Owen Oriole narrowly survives a dangerous migration to visit Ranger Rick, Scarlett, and Boomer. There are four data points in Ranger Rick’s Field Notes for further investigation. Place students into four groups and follow the prompts below.

Bird Habitat Team

- Identify local birds.
- Identify their habitat needs.
- Design a habitat.
- Share the design with the class.
- Reflect on what it would take to build the habitat.

Bright Lights Team

- Identify local businesses that are brightly lit at night.
- Write a persuasive letter using evidence to convince them to reduce their light output.
- Share the letter with the class and encourage everyone to sign it.
- Send a letter to each business.

Window Design Team

- Learn more about patterns birds can see when flying.
- Develop three window designs that will keep birds safe.
- Share designs with the class. Let the class vote on the best design.
- Create a prototype.
- Reflect on what it would take to sell the design.

Catio Design Team

- Research catios (enclosed patios for indoor cats).
- Develop three designs.
- Build three models based on the designs.
- Share with the class and hold a vote for the best design.
- Create a brochure featuring the winning design to raise awareness and encourage the use of catios.





MAKE IT RIGHT

On pages 6–13, you read **“Roaming with the Herd”** and learned some fascinating facts about Asian elephants. Are you as brainy as an elephant? All the statements below are incorrect. Let’s make them right! Your job is to rewrite each statement so that it is correct.

1 Elephants are known for their inability to solve problems.

2 Asian elephants have smooth forehead curves and two “fingers” for grasping (on the tips of their trunks).

3 All the bulls in a herd share the work of caring for the calves.

4 An elephant’s trunk is made up of 600 muscles.

5 Elephants do not have good hearing and must be near each other to communicate.



ORDER, PLEASE!



"A Traveler's Tale" on pages 22–24 shared Owen Oriole's harrowing adventure on his way to visit his friends. Using numbers 1–7, retell the story by putting the events in the correct order.

- _____ Owen tells his friends how he was blown off course by a storm and nearly caught by a cat.
- _____ Boomer shares an orange with Owen before the bird continues his travels.
- _____ Owen narrowly misses a large window; luckily, the window has a bird-safe pattern on it.
- _____ Owen finally shows up at a nearby hummingbird feeder feeling tired and hungry.
- _____ Boomer doesn't share his backpack full of oranges with Ranger Rick and Scarlett.
- _____ Ranger Rick, Scarlett, and Boomer are waiting for their friend Owen who is on his way to his summer home up north.
- _____ Owen explains that birds use a lot of energy when they migrate each fall and spring.



5-7-6-3-2-1-4

ANSWERS

