

RANGER RICK RACCOON, SCARLETT FOX, AND BOOMER BADGER ARE DECORATING A TREE FOR THE HOLIDAYS. RICK AND SCARLETT HAVE SELECTED DECORATIONS THAT COME ONLY FROM NATURE, BUT BOOMER HAS OTHER IDEAS.



That's really cute, Boomer, but it's not at all natural.



Oh, never mind that. This is the coolest ornament ever.



Boomer Badger! That's not cool at all!

Yeah, Boom. This is supposed to be a time of peace and goodwill, not of scaring others!



Oh, you two are no fun.



Rick! Scarlett! Boomer! You have to help us!

Yes, come quickly. We have to stop the tree killers!



Tree killers? What do you mean?

Over in the next valley! People are sawing down trees!

Our homes are being destroyed!

A SCARED RABBIT AND BOBWHITE RUSH INTO VIEW.

A WHILE LATER, RANGER RICK AND HIS FRIENDS COME TO A BEAUTIFUL FARM. ROWS OF EVERGREEN TREES GROW IN MANY OF THE FIELDS.



See that batch of trees? That's our home—the place where we find shelter and food.

And see all those people? They're the tree killers!

Hmmm—I think I know what's going on, but let's get closer.



I like that one!

OK, go for it!



See? We have to stop them!

Well, wait a minute. I think...



Hey, where's Boomer?

I don't know, but let's find him before he finds trouble!



MEANWHILE, NEARBY...

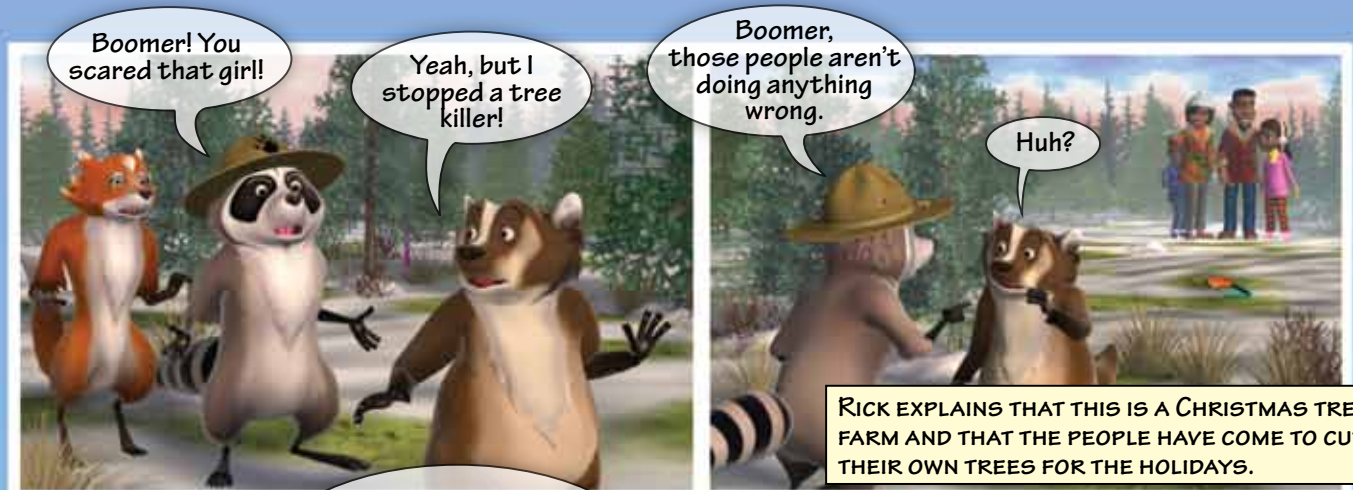
OK, come just a little bit closer.



Aaaah!



Hee-hee! I sure showed her!



Boomer! You scared that girl!

Yeah, but I stopped a tree killer!

Boomer, those people aren't doing anything wrong.

Huh?

RICK EXPLAINS THAT THIS IS A CHRISTMAS TREE FARM AND THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE COME TO CUT THEIR OWN TREES FOR THE HOLIDAYS.



But they're taking our shelter—our HOMES!

They aren't going to take many of the trees—just those marked with ribbons. There will be plenty left for the wild creatures that live here.



Besides, the tree farmers will be planting young trees to replace the ones that are cut.

And that means you'll always have a good place to live. Come on, let's find a spot where the people aren't cutting trees.



MEANWHILE, BOOMER HAS GONE OFF ON HIS OWN AGAIN.



There—almost done!



Don't worry, kids. I'll cut our tree—and Mom will keep an eye out for any mean old badger that might still be around!



What's this?



Annie...

... I think this is for you.



A FEW MINUTES LATER...



See? Here's a great place for you two to live.

Hi, guys!

Boomer! Where have you been?

Oh, you might say I was off getting into the Christmas spirit.

You, Boomer? Really? No more monster ornaments? No more scaring nice families?



That's right, Scarlett. From now on, it's nothing but peace and goodwill for me!

MORE FACTS

- Christmas trees are grown on farms all over North America. This can be good for the Earth. For example, the trees provide homes for many different kinds of wildlife like the rabbit and quail in this story. The trees' roots also hold the soil in place and keep it from washing away. And they take in carbon dioxide, a gas that increases global warming.
- Like other crops, Christmas trees are best grown without using lots of chemicals that can be harmful

to wildlife and people. So when your family looks for a tree this holiday season, try to find one that has been grown organically. For a list of some organic Christmas tree farms, visit greenpromise.com/resources/organic-christmas-trees.php online.

- After the holiday season, make sure you recycle your tree. Find out how at pickyourownchristmastree.org/disposing.php.

Ranger Rick 