



Educator's Guide

Educational extensions for the April 2010 issue of *Ranger Rick*® magazine

WHICH WINGS?

“Dear Ranger Rick” (page 4) shares letters from readers who imagined how their lives would be different if they had wings. Engage students in a discussion about the many different kinds of wings in the animal kingdom. Then ask students to think about whether they’d like to have wings and, if so, what kind they would choose. They could write their responses or come up with other creative formats to present them, such as a skit, a comic, or a photo collage.

FUN WITH FROGS

This month’s “Be Out There” activity (page 5) gives you some tips to get outside and explore the world of frogs. Why not head out and see if you can find frogs this spring? And while you’re at it, celebrate “Save the Frogs Day” on April 30. Find more information at savethefrogs.com/day.

MORE FUN WITH FROGS

To find lots more outdoor activities for educators and parents, look for a new book called *The Green Hour: A Daily Dose of Nature for Happier, Healthier, Smarter Kids* by Todd Christopher (Trumpeter Books, 2010). The book includes a variety of topics for child-friendly nature explorations, including Chapter 15, “Having Fun with Frogs and Toads.”

LIONS AT HOME

As you see in “The Sweet Life of Lions” (pages 6-11), lion moms take good care of their cubs—and many of the things they do look a lot like things human parents do. Ask students to choose two photos from the story and, for each one, describe a scene at their house that is similar in some way.

FACING FEARS

“I learned that I can push myself beyond the limits I thought I had,” says one of the young rock-climbers in “Climb On” (pages 15-20). The scouts learned a new skill while exploring some big ideas, including fear, trust, and personal goal-setting. As a class or in smaller groups, give students a chance to discuss these themes. Have students had similar experiences that helped them trust others while facing and overcoming fears?

SUPER STICKY

In “Stick to It” (pages 22-27), you meet a wide variety of animals that use “stickiness” as a survival strategy. Ask students to recall how the different animals featured in the story are able to stick (mucus, suction cup-like body parts, tiny hairs, etc.). Then invite students to use what they’ve learned to invent a super hero with the power of stickiness. Ask them to describe what gives their hero the ability to stick and also how the hero uses the ability.

GUIDE TO GOOD FISHING

In “Ranger Rick’s Adventures” (pages 28-31), Rick and his friends get into trouble with abandoned fishing gear. The tale concludes with a list of steps readers can take to be responsible anglers, such as properly disposing of fishing line and using non-lead sinkers. Have students use these tips to create an informational poster about how to keep fishing holes safe for wildlife.



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BUDGIE SURVIVAL GUIDE

Life in Australia's hot, dry Outback isn't easy for wild budgies. But with the right tricks, they manage to survive. Read "Wild Budgies" (pages 32-36 in the April 2010 issue of *Ranger Rick* magazine). Then use what you learned in the story to write a survival guide for budgies. Describe what a wild budgie should do in each of the following situations.

The Outback is very dry. If you're thirsty but there's no water around, you can:

If you eat all the food in one spot, it's time to:

If you can't find any food nearby at all, then you should:

When the rains come and the grass grows, the time is right for:

If there's still plenty of food and water after your chicks leave the nest, take advantage of your good luck and:





STICKY BUSINESS

Being sticky really works for some animals. Read “Stick to It” (pages 22-27 in the April 2010 issue of *Ranger Rick* magazine). Then complete the chart below. Look at the example, and then fill in the rest of the boxes for three more animals from the story.

ANIMAL	HOW IT STICKS	WHY BEING STICKY IS HELPFUL
<p>Treefrog</p>	<p><i>Pads on its toes are divided into tiny sections. Spaces between each section are filled with sticky mucus.</i></p>	<p><i>Can hop from leaf to leaf in a tree without slipping.</i></p>

