



Educator's Guide

Educational extensions for the September 2008 issue of *Ranger Rick*® magazine

SAY WHAT?

In “Dear Ranger Rick” (page 4), you can read the funny lines some readers sent in response to a sea lion photo in a previous issue. And on page 15, you’ll find the latest “Say What?” photo: a kangaroo mom and her joey. Use these pages to introduce students to the “Say What?” challenge. Then have them cut out more animal photos from old magazines, and invite them to add speech balloons with words that the animal(s) could be thinking or saying. Decorate a bulletin board with the funniest examples for students to enjoy.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

“Project Koala” (pages 6-11) tells of scientist Alistair Melzer’s discovery that koalas need mixed forests, because they depend on eucalyptus for food and other trees for shade to keep cool. This is just one example of many that show why diversity is essential for wildlife survival. Does your neighborhood have a lot of tree diversity? Take an outdoor walk to find out. Have students collect fallen leaves and sort them into groups. How many different kinds of trees are represented? Discuss other ways these trees are different (such as size; shape; kinds of flowers, fruits, or nuts they produce). Then discuss why a variety of trees is more likely to support a variety of wildlife.

GREEN SCENE

Check out “The Buzz” on pages 20-21 for tips on “greener” school days. Then start off your own school year on a green note. Have a class discussion about these tips and other ideas students generate. Focus

on steps students can realistically take, and empower them to seek more information if questions arise. Agree on a plan to make this your greenest school year yet!

CRICKET CONCERT

Did you know that crickets tell the temperature? It’s true; you can calculate the approximate air temperature from a snowy tree cricket’s chirps. Try it! After you read “The Noisy Boys Band” on pages 22-28, have students use the following formulas to translate chirps to temperatures. Compare their answers with the readings on a standard thermometer.

- To find the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit, count the number of chirps in 14 seconds. Then add 40.
- To find the temperature in degrees Celsius, count the number of chirps in 25 seconds. Divide by 3. Then add 4.

HUNT LIKE HORNBILLS

In “Here Come the Hornbills” (pages 34-39), you learn that hornbills are African birds that hunt in groups and use their big bills to catch their prey. Play a tag game in which a few students are hornbills and the rest are prey. In order for the hornbills to catch their food, they must work together, with two or more hornbills tagging a “prey” student at the same time. Once caught in this way, the prey goes to an area designated as the “dining room.” The game ends when the hornbills catch all the prey, and the last students caught become hornbills in the next round. For extra fun, make masks for the hornbills to wear.





LAWS IN ORDER

“Don’t Laugh. It’s the Law!” (pages 12-13 in the September 2008 *Ranger Rick*) tells you about some animal laws that seem a bit silly. Can you think of some laws about animals that wouldn’t be silly at all, but would instead help protect both animals and people? Make a list of your suggestions for helpful animal laws below.

Law: _____

Why it would be helpful: _____

Law: _____

Why it would be helpful: _____

Law: _____

Why it would be helpful: _____

BONUS: Find out if any of your ideas are real laws.





GET TO KNOW THE NOISY BOYS

In the September 2008 *Ranger Rick*, read “The Noisy Boys Band” (pages 22-27) and “Catch a Concert” (page 28). Then head outside and listen for singing insects. Can you hear several different kinds—and even sneak up close enough to see some? Record your findings in the chart below.

What does the call sound like?	Where is the sound coming from?	What time of day is it?	Did you see the insect?	What kind of insect do you think it is?

