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CHILDREN’S SUBMISSIONS: We receive many stories, photographs, and drawings from our readers, and we review every one carefully. We wish we had room to publish them all, but we can publish only a few each month. All reader submissions to Ranger Rick Jr. become the property of the National Wildlife Federation.

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Occasionally, we make our subscriber list available to carefully screened organizations whose goals and programs might interest you. (We do not release children’s names.) If you would like to be excluded from this service, please write: Ranger Rick Jr.; PO Box 3056; Harlan, IA 51593-0120.

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Join us on a trip across America to see some giant roadside animals.

First stop—Idaho. We stay at the Dog Bark Park Inn. Our bedroom is in the belly of this giant beagle!

Roadrunners live in the desert. We see a giant one made out of trash in New Mexico.

In Minnesota, we meet a giant river otter named Otto.
A giant pink elephant wearing glasses greets us when we stop for gas in Wisconsin.

In Oklahoma, we go swimming in a pond with a giant blue whale. It feels good to cool off after so much time in the car.

The restaurant we eat at in South Carolina has a giant crab above its door.

Our trip ends in New York. We go into a giant duck to buy a t-shirt.

Which giant animal do you like best? Why?
The Map and You
Mark your home on the map.
1. Which giant animal is closest to your home? Which direction do you need to go to get there from your house?
2. Which giant animal is farthest from your home? Which direction do you need to go to get there from your house?

A compass rose shows the directions—North, South, East, and West—on a map.

The Map and Roadside Animals
1. Which animal is farthest west?
2. Which animal is farthest north?
3. Is the elephant north or south of the whale?
4. Is the duck east or west of the river otter?
5. What direction do you need to go to get from the crab to the roadrunner?
Turn your neighborhood into a zoo with **SIDEWALK CHALK**

Submit photos of the animals you draw at RangerRick.org/rickysmail. We’ll include some of them in the December/January 2022 issue of the magazine.
A toad is just a special kind of frog. But you can tell it’s a toad by looking at its skin.

Toads have bumpier, drier skin. Frogs have smoother, wetter skin.

Most frogs have longer legs than toads do.
Ricky’s Mad Lib

Fill in the blanks to finish the story.

It was a beautiful ___________ day. Ricky Raccoon and Flora Skunk were ___________ on the beach. Big ___________ waves washed onto the sand.
The air smelled like ___________.

Ricky and Flora went to the edge of the water. There they saw a little ___________. It was ___________ back and forth across the sand.

As cool water washed over their toes, Ricky and Flora heard a loud ___________ coming from above their heads. “Look,” said Ricky, pointing.

“It’s a ___________ in the sky.”

Ricky and Flora heard a splash in the distance. A ___________ leaped out of the water and then disappeared back under the waves. “There are so many fun animals to see at the beach,” said Ricky.

“I don’t know about you,” said Flora, “but I’m hungry. Let’s eat.”

“That’s good,” said Ricky. “I brought ___________ and ___________ for our lunch.”

“Before we eat,” said Flora, “let’s take a picture of us at the beach.”

“OK,” said Ricky.

But just as Flora snapped the picture, a ___________ landed right on Ricky’s head. “You’re right, Ricky,” said Flora, laughing. “There are a lot of fun animals to see at the beach!”
Animals have many ways to stay cool on hot summer days.

A jay pants to move heat out of its body.

A lion sits under a shady tree.

A prairie dog stays in its cool underground home.

An elephant gives itself a shower.

A hippo sits in a pool of water.

A bat star

What's the Same?

oystercatcher

A N I M A L  G A M E

Turn the page to see how these animals are alike.
Bat stars live in the sea. But they may be left high and dry when the tide goes out.

Sea lions spend most of their time in the water. But they like to come ashore to sunbathe.

Shore crabs scuttle about in search of rocks to hide under.

Oystercatchers walk along the shore in search of oysters, mussels, and clams to eat.
Beach Fun

Two of these sea lions match! Can you find them?

Help the crab find its way to the party!

Why do sea lions swim in salt water?

Because pepper makes them sneeze.

Can you find four differences between the two islands?

How many sea lions are there?
Dogs like summer because it's doggone fun!

Dogs like to go on walks.

Dogs like to swim.

Dogs like to nap in the shade.

Some dogs even like to surf!
**CANINE COOKIES**

**What You Need**
- 2 cups of whole wheat flour
- ½ cup of rolled oats
- ½ cup of applesauce
- 1 tablespoon of honey or maple syrup
- ½ cup of water
- carob chips (optional)
- cookie cutters

**What You Do**
1. Preheat oven to 325° F.
2. Combine the flour and oats in a large mixing bowl.
3. Stir in the applesauce, honey or maple syrup, and water. Then knead until well mixed.
4. Form the dough into a soft ball. Spread it out with a rolling pin until the dough is about ¼ inch thick. (If it’s too sticky, you can add more flour.)
5. Use your favorite cookie cutters to create fun shapes.
6. Place the cookie shapes on a greased cookie sheet or one lined with parchment paper. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes. (Ask an adult for help.) Let the cookies cool completely.
7. If you want, ask an adult to help you melt some carob chips. Then use a toothpick or small spoon to decorate the cookies with the melted carob.

**CAUTION:**
Never feed chocolate to dogs. It can make them very sick. Carob is safe for dogs to eat—and most dogs love the taste!

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**PUP-SICLES**

**What You Need**
- 1 ripe banana
- 1 cup of yogurt (approximately 2 small containers)
- 1 tablespoon of peanut butter
- ice cube trays or molds

**What You Do**
1. Mash the banana in a large bowl. Add the yogurt and peanut butter. Mix together until smooth.
2. Pour the mixture into ice cube trays or molds and freeze for several hours.
3. Store the pup-sicles in the freezer until your dog deserves a cool treat. Then pop one out for your pup. Who’s a good pooch?
Shells for Sale

Helen the Hermit Crab needs a new home. Read Helen's list of things she likes and dislikes. Then pick the perfect shell for her.

1. I do not like the color purple.
2. I do not like pointy shells.
3. I need a shell that's bigger than the one I have now.
4. I do not like the color yellow.
5. I love stripes.
6. My favorite color is green.

Chalk Pops

What You Need
• water
• plaster of paris
• neon tempera paint
• silicone pop molds
• wooden craft sticks, cut in half
• disposable cups and spoons

What You Do
• Chill water in the refrigerator for 30 minutes. Then put 1/3 cup cold water in each disposable cup.
• Add 2 tablespoons of tempera paint to each cup. Stir gently with disposable spoons to mix.
• Add 2/3 cup plaster of paris to each cup. Stir until combined.
• Pour the contents of each cup into a silicone mold. After two minutes, place a craft stick in the center of each.
• Set aside to dry in the sun for 24 hours. Caution: Do not put plaster of paris down the drain! Throw it in the trash.

Game Answers

There are 8 sea lions. See front cover and pages 8–9, 20–21, 22, 23, 24, 25.

1. Beagle, Idaho
2. River otter, Minnesota
3. North
4. East
5. West

Why do sea lions swim in salt water? Because pepper makes them sneeze.

How many sea lions are there? Answers, pages 20–21

There are 8 sea lions.
How does a bison clean its coat?