Can you find an animal that purrs when it eats?

What's special about the way a hummingbird flies?

March 2021

** Award-Winning Fun **

Watch it
RangerRick.org/HummingbirdFly
Submit your drawings and photos online at RangerRick.org/rickysmail.
Or mail them to Ricky’s Mail
11100 Wildlife Center Drive
Reston, VA 20190

Include your name, address, and age on the back of your drawing or photo.

Draw, Make, or Do!

COYOTE
by Cole, age 6

ANTELOPE
by Will, age 6

PANDA
by Mary-Margaret, age 4

LION
by Theo, age 5

BOXFISH
by Willa, age 7

KOALA
by Cecily, age 5

Use your thumb to make a bug zoo!

RangerRick.org/Thumbprint-Insects

Try to find me
Let’s play a game!

Answer to Back Cover Question:
Elephants sometimes purr when they eat.

(See page 5.)

March 2021

ON THE COVER
Meet Larry—a little chimp that had to learn how to act like a chimp. Turn to page 6 to read Larry’s story.

PHOTO BY GERRY ELLIS / MINDEN PICTURES

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Let’s play a game!
Try to find me 4 more times in this issue!

Have you outgrown this magazine? Switch to Ranger Rick. Call 1-800-611-1599.
Every year, arctic terns fly from the top of the world to the bottom and back again.

A pygmy marmoset weighs as much as a stick of butter.

A tiger’s tongue is as rough as sand paper.

A pygmy marmoset weighs as much as a stick of butter.

Elephants sometimes “purr” when eating.

Only male cicadas sing.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MINDEN PICTURES
TIGER: ESPEN BERGERSEN/NFA; PYGMY MARMOSET: RAE GORDO; ANT: MADDIE DE CARTERET/BIOSPHOTO; ARCTIC TERN: BART BREET/NIS; CICADA: THOMAS MARENT; ELEPHANT: SEAN CRANE
The True Story of a Chimp Who Learned How to Be BRAVE

A wildlife sanctuary is a place where hurt or orphaned animals can live safely. Larry lives in a sanctuary run by Ape Action Africa in Cameroon.

Little Larry is a chimpanzee. He lives in a special place called a wildlife sanctuary.

When Larry was a baby, the people at the sanctuary took good care of him.
Larry’s caregivers taught him how to act like a chimp.

They introduced Larry to other chimps that lived at the sanctuary. Larry made lots of friends.

Larry was happy and playful. He was also curious. But there was one thing Larry would not do. He was too afraid to try.
Larry would not climb a tree. While his friends jumped from branch to branch, Larry sat on the ground.

At first, Larry stayed close to the ground. But he climbed a little higher each day. After months of trying, Larry finally reached the top.

Then one day, after several weeks of watching, little Larry felt brave. He started to climb.

It was important for Larry to learn how to climb. Chimps eat fruits that grow in trees. And chimps sleep in nests they make in trees.
“I’ll bet there are lots of other mysterious things going on in Deep Green Wood,” said Sammy.

“What are we waiting for?” asked Bizzie. “Let’s go find a mystery!”

The two friends headed off through the woods. In the distance, they saw Flora Skunk, Sammy’s big sister. Flora had just come out of their house, and she was carrying a shovel.

“Let’s sneak up on Flora and see what she is doing,” said Sammy. The two friends quietly crept up behind a bush and watched.

Flora had begun to dig. “What is she digging for?” asked Bizzie.

“I don’t know,” said Sammy. “Maybe she’s burying something. Or maybe she’s digging up buried treasure!”

But after Flora had dug a hole, she picked up something Bizzie and Sammy had not noticed. “A plant!” Bizzie said in disappointment. “She’s just planting a plant.”

“Oh, well,” said Sammy. “No mystery here. Let’s go look for something else.”

The two friends kept walking through the woods until they got to Sunny Meadow. Suddenly Sammy grabbed Bizzie’s arm. “Look, Bizzie!” he said. He and Bizzie ran until they came to a pole with a wooden box on top.

“Nice,” said Bizzie. “It would be so cool to solve a mystery.”

Sammy looked excited. “Maybe we can,” said Sammy. “Remember how we solved a mystery a few years ago? Ricky had mysterious marks on his door. We found out they were made by slimy slugs crawling across it.”

“That’s right,” said Bizzie, “The Mystery of the Scribbling Slugs!”

“I don’t know,” said Sammy. “Maybe she’s burying something. Or maybe she’s digging up buried treasure!”

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“It’s a birdhouse!” Bizzie said. “I wonder who put it here?”

“It’s a mystery!” Sammy said happily. Then he got serious. “OK,” he said. “The first thing Secret Skunk would do is look for clues.”

Bizzie and Sammy searched around the birdhouse. “Hey, look,” Bizzie said, pointing at the ground. “The dirt around the pole looks freshly dug. So that means the birdhouse hasn’t been here very long.”

Just then, a loud banging sound rang out from the woods. “What’s that?” asked Sammy.

“It sounds like someone hammering,” said Bizzie. “But who?”

Sammy grinned. “At first we couldn’t find any mysteries,” he said. “Now we have two!”

“Let’s go investigate!” said Bizzie, and the two ran off toward the sound. Soon they realized it was coming from the direction of Ricky Raccoon’s house. They could see Ricky sitting at his picnic table. He was hammering two pieces of wood together.

Bizzie and Sammy darted behind some bushes. As they watched, Flora came walking up.

“Sorry I’m late, Ricky,” said Flora. “I was gardening.”

“No problem,” said Ricky. “There’s still plenty to do.”

“Ah-CHOO!” sneezed Bizzie loudly.

Ricky and Flora looked up, startled. “Who’s there?” called Ricky.

Bizzie and Sammy came out from the bushes. “It’s just us,” said Sammy.

“What are you two doing?” asked Flora.

“Let’s go investigate!” said Bizzie, and the two ran off toward the sound. Soon they realized it was coming from the direction of Ricky Raccoon’s house. They could see Ricky sitting at his picnic table. He was hammering two pieces of wood together.

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“Sorry I’m late, Ricky,” said Flora. “I was gardening.”

“No problem,” said Ricky. “There’s still plenty to do.”

“What are Ricky and Flora doing?” whispered Sammy.

“I don’t know,” whispered Bizzie. “Let’s just be really quiet and—ah, ah….”

“Bizzie!” said Sammy, “Don’t snee—”

“Ah-CHOO!” sneezed Bizzie loudly.

Ricky and Flora looked up, startled. “Who’s there?” called Ricky.

Bizzie and Sammy came out from the bushes. “It’s just us,” said Sammy.

“What are you two doing?” asked Flora.

“The real question is: What are YOU two doing?” Sammy said.

“We’re building a bluebird box,” Ricky explained.

“We already put one in Sunny Meadow,” Flora added. “The boxes are great places for bluebirds to make their nests.”

Bizzie and Sammy looked at each other. “Case closed,” said Bizzie.

“Yes,” Sammy said with a big grin. “The Mystery of the Birdhouse Builders is solved!”
Let’s Read

Meet 10 Oddballs of the Insect World

1 A man-faced stink bug gets its name from the markings on its back.

2 A spiny devil katydid has sharp spines on its legs and a thorny crown on its head.

3 The tiny Brazilian treehopper has a helmet on its head that makes it look like a helicopter.
An orchid mantis looks like a flower. That tricks insects into coming close enough to catch.

A trap-jaw ant can snap its jaws shut faster than any other animal—even an alligator.

The shiny blue spider wasp catches spiders to feed its young.

A bottlebrush weevil has a long, hairy snout that is uses to drill holes into palm trees.
8
A lantern bug has a funny-looking “nose” and polka dots on its wings.

9
This hawk moth looks more like a hummingbird than an insect.

10
It’s easy for a leaf insect to hide because its flat body looks like a rotting leaf.
Ever WONDER?
Why do snakes have forked tongues?

A snake smells with its tongue! To pick up a scent, a snake flicks its tongue in the air. Because the tongue is forked, it can pick up scents coming from different directions.

Bonnie and Chester were walking to the pond one spring morning. Look! There’s a nest in those grasses. What kind of animal hatched from that egg? I’ll give you a clue. The animal is gray.

I know, I know. It’s an elephant!

Don’t be silly. Elephants don’t hatch from eggs. Try looking at the pond.

It’s a baby swan! Eggs-actly!

THE END
Find each of these students in Mrs. Owl’s class:

_____ has poor eyesight.  _____ wants to be an artist.

_____ is always hungry.  _____ likes math.

_____ loves to read.  _____ wants to travel.
We live in ... **AUSTRALIA**

Australia is an island country that is far, far away from the United States. Many unusual animals live there.

**Wombat** digs in the dirt.

**Platypus** (PLAT-uh-pus) swims in the water.

**Kangaroo** hops across the grass.

**I live in Australia, too.**

**Guess who I am.**

1. I was the size of a jellybean when I was born.

2. I carry my baby on my back like a backpack.

3. I spend most of my life up in a tree.

Turn the page to see who I am.
Piggyback Rider

A baby koala holds on tight to Mama's back.
Can you find an animal that purrs when it eats?

What's special about the way a hummingbird flies?

Watch it: RangerRick.org/HummingbirdFly