MARVELOUS MOMS
Read “Love Ya, Mom!” pages 6–11. Then ask:
• What are some important things mothers do for their babies?
• Which of the animals in the story gets your vote for being the best mother? Why?
Together, brainstorm other animal species and how the mothers take care of their young. Now complete the Mother’s Day Tribute family page, which helps children explore and celebrate what makes their own mothers (or other important people in their lives) “special.”

WILD ENCOUNTERS
After reading “What Would You Do?” pages 16–18 together, share stories about wildlife encounters each of you have had as well as everyone’s reactions to the quiz. Here are some questions to guide your discussion:
• When you read the answers to the quiz, were there any that didn’t seem right to you? Discuss how sometimes what you might like to do in a situation, or what you think might be more fun or more interesting, might not be the best thing after all.
• Have you ever had an experience with a wild animal where you weren’t sure what to do? How did you finally handle the situation?
• Suppose you have that same encounter again. Now that you have read “What Would You Do?” would you react differently? Why or why not?

GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE MONTH
May is Garden for Wildlife Month—a great time to have your children read the Ranger Rick Adventures story, “Boomer Digs In,” pages 29–31. In this adventure, Boomer learns the best way to make a garden that is good for wildlife (as well as for people).

After reading the story, ask your children to make a list of tips for planting a healthy garden. The following questions can help shape the list.
• What are native plants? Why is it important to fill a garden with them?
• Should you spray a garden with pesticides? Why or why not?
• How else can you protect plants from insect pests?
• How can you improve the soil in a garden?

FISHY FISH
Ask your children what they think of when they picture a fish. Most likely they will describe a streamlined animal with scales, fins, and gills that lives in water. Now ask them to read “Fish Out of Water,” pages 32–35, and, as they read, to jot down facts about fishes called mudskippers that are not “typical” for most fish.

After reading the article, have your children use their notes to discuss how a mudskipper’s “fishy” behaviors and physical characteristics can help it to survive. End the learning on mudskippers by completing the “Picture This!” family page.

ONE MORE INSECT
The Just 4 Fun games, pages 36–38, feature many kinds of insects. Together, list them (honey bee, sandfly, housefly, horsefly, fruitfly, dragonfly, butterfly, firefly, sawfly, monarch, pillbug, lacewing, ladybug) and talk about their similarities and differences. You can even take your turn at drawing them.
Read “Love Ya, Mom!” on pages 6–11. Then answer the questions below.

1. What makes your mom special? (Or your grandmother or someone else important to you.)

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

2. How does she help you learn what you need to know as you grow up?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

May 10, 2020 is Mother’s Day. Make a special card to give your mom on this day. Here’s how:
• Cut out the shape below and fold it to make a card.
• Inside, write a few sentences telling what you appreciate about her. (Use your answers to Questions 1 and 2 to help you write this message.)
• On the front of the card, draw a picture.
Take a close look at the mudskipper photos on pages 32–35 of this issue.

1 How would you describe a mudskipper to someone who has never seen one? List several details on the lines below.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2 Find someone at home or Facetime a family member who has never seen a mudskipper to be your partner in this activity. Give him or her a blank sheet of paper and a pencil. Ask your partner to draw a mudskipper as you describe it. Turn your back and don’t look at your partner’s drawing! Use your notes above to help you remember all the important details.

3 When you finish describing, and your partner finishes drawing, put the photos and drawing side by side.
   • How does the drawing look like a real mudskipper?   _____________________________
     ____________________________________________________________________________

   • What is wrong or missing in the drawing?   _____________________________
     ____________________________________________________________________________

   • How could you have changed or added to your description to help your partner draw a mudskipper more accurately?   _____________________________
     ____________________________________________________________________________

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INSECTS IN ACTION

In the spring and summer, all kinds of insects come out where you can see them. And they do all kinds of interesting things. Go on an insect hunt and see what buggy action you can find. Place a check mark next to each insect behavior you see and draw a picture of it. Use a field guide to help you identify each insect. (See example below.)

### Keep a Record!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date _____</th>
<th>Time _____</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location ________</td>
<td>Weather _______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Helpful Things to Take Along

- [ ] Crayons or colored markers
- [ ] Insect field guide

### Insect Behaviors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behavior</th>
<th>Type of Insect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chewing</td>
<td>caterpillar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollinating</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiding</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Crawling</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Flying</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nest-Building</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Defending</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>