ANIMAL HIDE-AND-SEEK

Nature’s Fireworks

POND ANIMALS

WHO AM I?

June/July 2022 ** Award-Winning Fun **
Submit your drawings and photos online at RangerRick.org/rickysmail.

Scan the QR code to see more photos and drawings online.

Look INSIDE

The furry creature staring at you is a kind of monkey called a baboon. Turn to page 16 to learn about baboons.

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ON THE COVER

June/July 2022

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Cover photo: Anup Shah / Naturepl.com

Draw, Make, or Do!

Get “Bizzie” exploring shapes with this beaver snack.

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Bizzie Beaver Snack

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JASON BLOCK, age 8

CROCODILE by Matteo, age 7

PIGEON by Betty, age 7

GIRAFFE by Marler, age 6

SWAN by Henry, age 5

KOALA by Cade, age 6

OCTOPUS by Owen, age 6

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Circle the objects that have the “oo” sound in baboon in their name.

All the animals have the “oo” sound in their name.

Use the letters in the box to use some letters more than once.

Name these animals. You’ll need to use some letters more than once.

You’ll need to use some letters more than once.

Try to find me more times in this issue!

Have you outgrown this magazine?
Switch to Ranger Rick.
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Jaguars are excellent swimmers.

A male frigatebird blows up his red throat pouch to attract a mate.

A three-banded armadillo rolls up into a ball when it gets scared.

Crocodiles open their mouths to cool off.

Jaguars are excellent swimmers.

A praying mantis is the only animal that has just one ear.

A whale shark is the world’s largest fish.
Many animals are good at hiding. They do it by living in places where their colors and shapes make them hard to see.

A deer is hard to spot when it stands still in a dense forest.

A great gray owl can have the same colors as tree bark.
A lion almost disappears when it sits quietly in tall, dry grasses.

The pattern on the skin of this snake blends in with fallen leaves on the forest floor.

The feathers on this parrot are the same color as the leaves on the trees where it lives.
Do you like to play Hide-and-Seek?

These two pronghorns look a lot like snow-covered boulders.

A little pika is the same color and size as many of the rocks where it lives.

This treefrog blends right in when it rests on a tree trunk.
The friends each went home to pack up some food. Then they met at Shady Pond. They spread the food on a blanket and sat down. Sandwiches, fruit, and cookies all quickly disappeared.

"Time to cool off," said Ricky as he ran to the edge of Shady Pond and splashed into the water.

Bizzie and Flora were right behind him. Mitzi tossed her hat onto the ground. Then she waded into the cool water, too.

"Aaah, this feels so good," said Ricky, floating along on his back.

"You said it," agreed Flora.

The friends spent all afternoon splashing and playing in the pond. Finally they got out and shook themselves dry.

"That was so much fun," said Ricky.

"Sure was!" Flora said.

"Definitely!" agreed Bizzie.

Ricky looked at Mitzi. She seemed to be looking for something. "What's wrong, Mitzi?" he asked.

"I can't find my hat," Mitzi said. "I tossed it on the ground before we went into the water. But now I don't see it anywhere."

It was a hot, sticky summer day, and everyone felt icky.

Ricky Raccoon fanned himself with a leaf. "I think I'm melting!" he said.

"I'm so hot that I've lost my appetite," said Bizzie Beaver. "And that doesn't happen very often."

"I know what we can do," said Flora Skunk. "Let's go swimming in Shady Pond. That will cool us off."

Everyone thought that was a great idea. "We can take a picnic lunch with us," said Mitzi Mink.

"Hurray!" said Bizzie.

The others looked at him in surprise. "You just said you lost your appetite," said Mitzi.

Bizzie smiled. "Well, I guess my stomach didn't hear me!"

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The others looked around. “Maybe the wind blew it away,” said Bizzie.

Flora shook her head. “There’s no wind,” she said. “That’s why the day feels so hot and sticky.”

“Oh, yeah. I forgot,” said Bizzie. “Maybe I need something to eat to help me think. Are there any more cookies?” Everyone laughed.

“Well, if the wind didn’t blow your hat away, where is it?” Ricky asked. “It couldn’t have just walked away.”

The four friends began hunting for Mitzi’s hat. Bizzie looked behind some big rocks. Ricky checked in a clump of cattails. Flora peeked behind a fallen log. And Mitzi looked under a bush.

“My hat seems to have disappeared into thin air,” said Mitzi.

Ricky scratched his head. “It is a mystery,” he said.

“I know what you do to solve a mystery,” said Bizzie. “You look for clues!”

“What kind of clues?” asked Mitzi.

“Maybe footprints,” said Flora. “Like, if someone took the hat, we might find the thief’s footprints.”

The friends began searching for footprints. But there were no marks on the dry ground. “Let’s spread out and look for the hat,” said Ricky. “It must be somewhere nearby.”

Mitzi decided to search along the shore of Shady Pond. “I think I see it!” Mitzi called to her friends as she ran over to her hat. She reached down to pick it up. But suddenly, the hat jumped away!

“Huh?” Mitzi said. She tried to grab the hat again. And again, it jumped away from her.

By this time Ricky, Flora, and Bizzie were by Mitzi’s side. “You found it!” Bizzie said, excitedly.

“Yes,” said Mitzi, “but I can’t catch it!” She tried to pounce on the hat. But it leaped away again!

Mitzi tried one more time to pick up her hat. This time it stayed still. But when she lifted it up, she started to laugh. Underneath the hat was a frog!

“Aha!” said Ricky. “Mystery solved!”

“I just thought of something,” said Mitzi. “Remember how you said my hat didn’t just walk away? Well, you were right. It hopped away instead!”
Meet the **Baboons**

This furry creature with a dog-like snout is a **baboon**. A baboon is a kind of monkey that lives on the ground.

The baboons in this story are olive baboons. They live in the part of Africa shown in orange.
Baboons live in large groups called troops. Members of a troop travel to look for food.

Baboons eat plants and some small animals. They love eating fruit and anything else that is sweet.

Baboons spend time each day picking insects and dirt out of each other’s fur. This is called grooming.

Would you like to live in a troop?
The little baboons in a troop like to chase each other and play together.

A baby baboon stays very close to its mom until it is about two years old.

The baby rides on its mother’s back when the troop travels.
Is it easy for you to stand on one leg?

When a flamingo raises one leg, its body weight shifts. This causes the joints of the leg it is standing on to lock. So the bird no longer has to use its muscles to stand.
Use the letters in the box to name these animals. You’ll need to use some letters more than once.

A B C E K L M N R S

B _ O O _

_ O O _

_ O O _

B A B O O N

L O O N N B O O N

R A B C O O N

K A N G A R O O N

All the animals have “oo” in their name.

Circle the objects that have the “oo” sound in baboon in their name.
We live in a pond... POND

Cattails and lily pads grow in our watery home.

**Bullfrog** croaks “jug-o-rum!”

**Duck** swims with her ducklings.

**Turtle** sits on a log.

I live in a pond, too. Guess who I am.

1. My teeth are the same color as a traffic cone.
2. I use my teeth like a hatchet.
3. My tail is shaped like a paddle.

Turn the page to see who I am.
This beaver has trees to chop, bark to gnaw, and a dam to build.
Why does this piping plover have so many legs?