OUR HAPPY HOME
Who knew there were so many “wild” housemates right under your nose? Have your children reread “Your House Is Our House” on pages 14–17 and create a check-list they can use to make observations. After providing time for them to make their observations, make time to share what they learned. From their checklist, what did they see a lot of, and what did they not see? Next, collect the total number for each “housemate” and display it for everyone to see. Finally, have your children create a housemate graph. They should decide which graph to use to best represent the data they collected, e.g. bar, pie, pictograph, etc.
Writing can be fun, so tack on this activity to get the creative juices flowing. Have your children write about a day in the life of one of their housemates. Allow them to write in a format of their choosing—a narrative, song, poem, comic, etc.

USING ART TO PROTECT WATERWAYS
All wildlife rely on healthy water systems to survive. Together read in “Sprawl Surprise,” pages 18–20, about how ongoing development changes the landscape and impacts habitat for wildlife. There are many different ways to spread the word that wildlife habitat is worth protecting. One way to inform the public is through artwork.
Have your children research stormwater art. Note: they should focus their research on city stormwater art projects, such as those in Colorado Springs, CO, or Springfield, OR. These questions can be helpful:
- Why is it important to raise awareness around stormwater?
- Why are cities using art to raise awareness?
- Does your city have a stormwater art project in place?
Next, have your children brainstorm ideas for their stormwater art project. Work together to collect materials they need to create a detailed model of their stormwater artwork.
Finally, have your children write a letter about what they learned, why raising awareness around stormwater is important, and include an image of their stormwater art, then share it with your local municipality.

SQUIRRELY FACTS
The eastern gray squirrels in “Nutty Neighbors,” pages 22–27, are sly and agile members of the rodent family! Let’s learn more about their cousins, Douglas, Kaibab, Sherman’s fox, flying, and red squirrels, introduced on page 27. Of course, you can include other squirrel family members, too.
Create a storymap using technology, such as ArcGIS, 3D multi-medium art, or simply writing. The storymap should include the following elements:
- an image of the rodent
- location found in the United States
- two facts about the species
Interested in seeing some examples of ArcGIS storymaps?
- Nature’s Witness Virtual Photo Field Trip
- Salmon Migration: A journey that connects us all

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In “Sprawl Surprise,” pages 18–20, Ranger Rick and friends learned how vital a healthy stream is to local wildlife. Use the stream elements below to build a healthy stream (creek? Or crick?). First, draw a line from each healthy stream element to Ranger Rick and his friends. Then at the bottom, draw a healthy stream for wildlife using the features you identified.

Need help? Reread the story to find the elements of a healthy stream.

**STREAM ELEMENTS**

- many boulders and large rocks
- little or no wildlife
- straight stream
- low banks, lots of vegetation
- an abundance of wildlife
- few or no boulders and large rocks
- curvy stream
- eroded banks, little vegetation

**HEALTHY STREAM DIAGRAM**
Youth leaders are making a difference across the globe. In “Helping Nature Near You” on pages 6–13, you read about young people who are environmental leaders in their communities. First, identify an environmental issue and why it is important to you. Next, do some research about the topic. Finally, propose your helping nature idea. (Consider what resources and support you will need to realize your idea.)

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE

FACTS ABOUT THE TOPIC

HELPING NATURE IDEA
If you walk through your neighborhood, you’ll see buildings where people live. But you’ll also pass the homes of many animals—they’re just not as easy to spot! Take a hike through your neighborhood or a nearby natural area and keep a record of the animal homes you observe.

**Keep a Record!**

Date _____ Time _____
Location _____________ Weather _____________

**Helpful Things to Take Along**

☐ Magnifying glass ☐ Binoculars
☐ Camera

Draw and describe the animal homes you see in the boxes below.

**LOOK FOR:**
- a tree hole
- a hole in the ground
- a bird’s nest
- a leafy squirrel’s nest
- a big rock or log (look underneath!)
- a rolled-up leaf
- holes or tunnels in tree bark