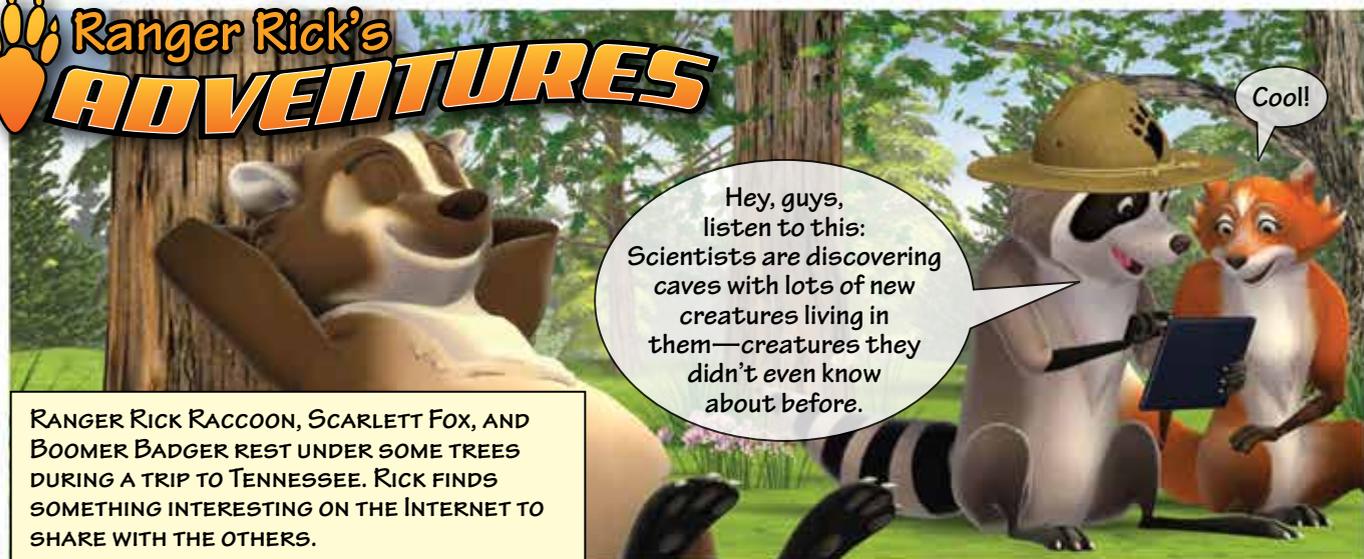


Ranger Rick's ADVENTURES

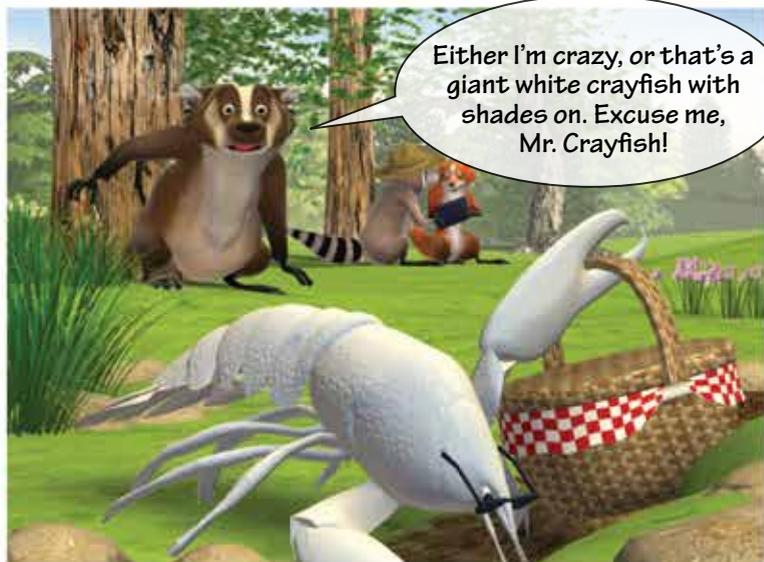


Hey, guys, listen to this: Scientists are discovering caves with lots of new creatures living in them—creatures they didn't even know about before.

RANGER RICK RACCOON, SCARLETT FOX, AND BOOMER BADGER REST UNDER SOME TREES DURING A TRIP TO TENNESSEE. RICK FINDS SOMETHING INTERESTING ON THE INTERNET TO SHARE WITH THE OTHERS.



Huh?



Either I'm crazy, or that's a giant white crayfish with shades on. Excuse me, Mr. Crayfish!



Where did he... YIKES!



Yaaaaaahaaa!



Oof!



Whoa! I fell into a cave—a scary dark cave! It's probably full of bats and spiders and...



Ack! What's that?!



Huh? A headlamp? But where did it come from?



Oh, well, at least I can see now. And there's the basket that crayfish was carrying!



Mmmm!



Ooh, chocolate chip cookies—my favorite! I'll just sit here and try one. I'm sure the crayfish wouldn't mind.



Yikes...

...I'm...

...shrinking!



Good grief—I'm no bigger than a bug. And the basket shrank, too! What's going on?



Huh?

Yiiii!

Don't worry. I won't hurt you.



Good! Then maybe you can help me. Did you see a white crayfish around here?

He went that way.



OK, thanks!

No problem. Just watch your step.



Wha-a-a-a-a?!



Wow— an underground river. And it's heading into a tunnel!



Wait a minute. Is that tunnel moving? Uh-oh, that's no tunnel!



Aagghhhh!



WILL BOOMER ESCAPE THE HUNGRY FISH AND FIND THE WHITE CRAYFISH? FIND OUT IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE!

MORE FACTS

- There are thousands of caves all over the world. In this country, more caves have been discovered in Tennessee than in any other state.

- Caves often are home to strange creatures found nowhere else. Most are very small animals such as beetles, crickets, and spiders. But some—such as salamanders, fish, and bats—are larger.

- Some animals, such as bats, are part-time cave dwellers. But others spend their entire lives deep inside caves. In fact, they can't survive anywhere else. Scientists call them troglobites (TROG-luh-bites).

- Troglobites live in total darkness, so they have sightless eyes or no eyes at all. (They find food and mates through touch, smell, and sound.)

Ranger Rick 