



# Ranger Rick

# EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

EDUCATIONAL EXTENSIONS FOR THE OCTOBER 2014 ISSUE OF RANGER RICK® MAGAZINE

## SCARY ANIMALS

Tell students that in this Halloween issue of *Ranger Rick*, they'll find spiders, bats, and black cats—all animals that fit the mood of the holiday. What characteristics make these animals seem scary? Ask students to consider which of these aspects reflect each animal's true nature and which are based on myths or exaggerations.

Then have the class read “**Scary Animals**” (pages 6–10). What facts about these animals were surprising?

## TO RESCUE, OR NOT TO RESCUE

After students have read “**Raccoon Rescue**” (pages 14–19), ask them what they should do if they came across a baby raccoon that appeared to be an orphan. (Call an animal rehabilitator or a veterinarian.) To learn what to do for other orphan animals, have students visit online at [nwf.org/kids/rescue](http://nwf.org/kids/rescue) and take the quiz called “What Would You Do?” Then as a group, discuss the best ways to react to what may be an abandoned baby bird, deer, or rabbit.

Conclude by having students write a response to the following question: How did your opinions about rescuing baby animals change after taking this quiz? Remind students to use good paragraph structure when crafting their answer.

## METAPHORICALLY SPEAKING

In “**Aspen Grove Grocery**,” pages 32–35, the author uses grocery metaphors to describe how an aspen grove provides food for many animal species. Before students read the article, review the definition of a metaphor with the class: *A metaphor compares two unlike things by stating that one thing is the other thing.* Then display the following metaphors on a chalkboard or chart. For each metaphor, ask the class to: (1) identify the two things being compared and (2) discuss how

this comparison helps to explain something about an object, idea, or person.

- The moon is a ball of cheese.
- Love is a rose.
- That person is a rock.

Now ask students to read “**Aspen Grove Grocery**.” Then have them complete the “**Grocery Metaphors**” student sheet. This sheet helps students take a closer look at the metaphors used in the article.

## EXPLORE AN ASPEN GROVE

Do aspens grow near you? If so, after students read “**Aspen Grove Grocery**” (pages 32–35), take them to a local aspen grove. The activities on page 35 of the article tell you how to identify an aspen, hear an aspen quake, and look for evidence of local animals that rely on aspens for food.

## CATCH A SPIDER WEB

After students have read **Ask Rick** (page 11), lead the class outside to look for a spider web. If you find one, point out the web's anchor lines and review what students learned in **Ask Rick** about making a web.

If you find a web without a spider, you can take it back to the classroom intact. First, lightly spray the web with white spray paint. Then position a piece of dark construction paper behind the web and lift the paper until the anchor lines break. The web will stay on the paper, and the white paint will make it easy to see.

Back in the classroom, assign a group of students to gather pictures of different types of webs (e.g., triangle, orb, and funnel webs) and facts about them. Use students' research to identify the type of web you “caught” and to speculate on what kind of spider may have built it. Hang your web specimen in the classroom and you've got an awesome Halloween decoration!







# GROCERY METAPHORS

In "Aspen Grove Grocery," pages 32–35, the author describes a grove of aspen trees by saying it is a grocery store for animals. In other words, she uses a *metaphor*.

*A metaphor compares two unlike things by stating that one thing is the other thing.*

Each sentence below uses a metaphor to describe something discussed in "Aspen Grove Grocery." In each sentence, underline the two things being compared. On the blank lines, tell how these two things are alike.

1. An aspen grove is a grocery store for many animals.

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2. A tree trunk is an energy bar for nibbling creatures.

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3. A pocket gopher's furry cheeks make perfect grocery sacks for bits of aspen roots.

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**YOUR TURN:** Write your own metaphor. Circle the two things that you are comparing and explain the meaning of the metaphor.

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**BIG QUESTION:** How do metaphors help us understand the world better?

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