



Ranger Rick

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

EDUCATIONAL EXTENSIONS FOR THE JULY 2021 ISSUE OF RANGER RICK® MAGAZINE

OUR HAPPY HOME

Who knew there were so many “wild” housemates right under your nose? Have students reread **“Your House Is Our House”** on **pages 14–17** and create a checklist they can use to make observations at home. After providing time for students to make their observations, allow time in class 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 students create a housemate double-bar graph. One bar will show their data, and the second bar will be the total class data.

Writing can be fun, so tack on this activity to get the creative juices flowing. Have students 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. Students read in **“Sprawl Surprise,”** **pages 18–20**, that 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 students research stormwater art. Note: students 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 students brainstorm ideas for their stormwater art project. Then, work with the art teacher to give students time to create a detailed model of their stormwater artwork.

Finally, have students 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](#)



BUILD A HEALTHY STREAM



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

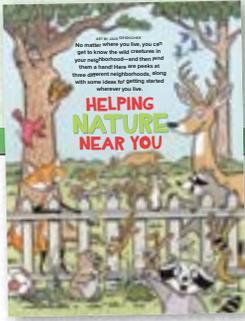
curvy stream

eroded banks, little vegetation



HEALTHY STREAM DIAGRAM





LENDING NATURE A HELPING HAND

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

