Use celery to make a special card for Mom this Mother’s Day.

RangerRick.org/celery-prints
ON THE COVER
A baby grebe catches a ride on its mother's back. 
Turn to page 6 to see how other baby animals get from here to there.

PHOTO BY CATHY & GORDON ILLG

What's going on at this beaver pond?
Find seven things that are silly.

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May 2020

That’s Wild!
Catch a Ride
Ricky and Pals
Look Who’s Crabby
Ever Wonder?

23 The Adventures of Bonnie & Chester
24 Animal Fun
26 Australian Animals
30 Guessing Game

Hippopotamus

Let’s play a game!
Try to find me 4 more times in this issue!

Have you outgrown this magazine?
Switch to Ranger Rick.
Call 1-800-611-1599.

There are hippos on pages 2 and 4.

There are 12 beavers.

"Animal Fun" Answers, pages 24-25.

 INSIDE

PHOTO TAKEN UNDER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS
PHOTO RETOUCHED

CHILDREN’S SUBMISSIONS: We receive many stories, photographs, and drawings from our readers, and we review every one carefully. We wish we had room to publish them all, but we can publish only a few each month. All reader submissions to Ranger Rick become the property of the National Wildlife Federation.

TO SUBSCRIBE: Rates are $24.95 per year (10 issues). Add $15 for an address outside the U.S. Send check or money order to Ranger Rick Jr., PO Box 420305, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0305 or call 1-800-611-1599.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Ranger Rick Jr., PO Box 420305, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0305.

Occasionally, we make our subscriber list available to carefully screened organizations whose goals and programs might interest you. (We do not release children’s names.) If you would like to be excluded from this service, please write: Ranger Rick Jr., PO Box 420305, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0305.

RANGER RICK JR. TM (ISSN 2169-2750) is published monthly, except January, by the National Wildlife Federation, a nonprofit corporation; 11100 Wildlife Center Drive; Reston, VA 20190. Periodical postage paid at Herndon, Virginia, and at additional mailing offices.

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PRINTED IN U.S.A.
The marine iguana is the only lizard that lives in the ocean.

Chimps can use sticks as tools.

A hippo tusk can be more than a foot long.
A baby shark is called a pup.

Elephants can’t jump.

A flamingo holds its breath when it eats.
Baby ducklings climb on Mom’s back to cross the pond.
A baby gorilla clings to Mom’s arm when she goes for a walk.
A baby lion gets carried in Mom’s mouth when they move to a new den.
A baby kangaroo rides in a cozy pouch on Mom’s belly.

Baby scorpions ride piggyback in a pile on Mom’s back.
A baby sea otter stays warm and dry riding on Mom’s chest.

Baby frogs climb onto Dad’s back so he can carry them to water.
A baby penguin sits on Dad’s feet when he goes for a walk.
Ricky Raccoon was feeling jumpy. He had been cooped up inside all morning.

“I think I’ll walk over to Clear Lake and see what Bizzie Beaver is doing,” he said to himself.

When Ricky got to Clear Lake, he saw Bizzie. The beaver was carrying a big stick in his mouth.

“Hi, Bizzie! What are you doing?” Ricky asked.

“Mm! Mm mm-mm mmmm,” Bizzie answered.

“What?” Ricky asked.

Bizzie took the stick out of his mouth. “I’m adding sticks to my lodge,” he said.
Ricky followed Bizzie to the edge of the water. There, a big mound of sticks poked out of the water. It was Bizzie’s lodge. To get in, Bizzie would swim underwater and climb up inside it.

“It must be fun to live in a lodge,” Ricky said. “I wish I could do that.”

“You can use some of my sticks to build one if you want,” said Bizzie.

“Really?” asked Ricky. “Thanks!” He picked up two sticks. He looked at them. He looked at the water. Then he looked at Bizzie. “What do I do now?” he asked.

“Put some sticks in the muddy bank,” explained Bizzie. “Then put more sticks on top. Fill in the gaps with mud.”

Ricky put the sticks into the bank. Then he added more sticks and a big scoop of mud. Ricky worked for a long time. Then he stepped back to admire his work. “What do you think, Bizzie?” asked Ricky.

Bizzie stopped working on his lodge and came to look. Ricky was muddy from head to toe. Poking out of the water was a messy pile of sticks. It was covered with gooey glops of mud.
“Uh, that’s good, Ricky,” Bizzie said, trying to be nice.

“Let’s see how sturdy it is,” Ricky said. He stepped onto the lodge. The sticks held for a minute. Then suddenly, the whole thing fell apart. “Yikes!” shouted Ricky. The next second, he was sitting in the water. The sticks from his broken lodge floated around him.

Bizzie rushed over to help Ricky out of the water. “Maybe you have to be a beaver to build a lodge,” said Bizzie.

“Maybe you’re right,” said Ricky. He headed for home to get cleaned up. But on the way, he heard a happy song above his head. He looked up to see his friend Mrs. Cardinal sitting in her nest. The bird’s nest was made of twigs, dry grass, and vines. It was shaped like a cup. And it was very tidy compared to Bizzie’s messy-looking lodge.

“Hi, Mrs. C,” Ricky called.

“Hello, Ricky,” said Mrs. C. “What have you been doing today?”
Ricky sighed. “Well, I tried to build a beaver lodge. I wanted to live in the water like Bizzie. But I’m not a very good builder.” Ricky looked at Mrs. C’s nest. “It would be fun to live in a nest like yours—only bigger,” he said. “Will you teach me to make one?”

“Ricky, raccoons don’t build nests. And they don’t build lodges,” Mrs. C explained. “You already live in the very best home for you—your hollow tree.”

“But I didn’t build that. It was already there,” said Ricky.

“Not all animals build their homes,” explained Mrs. C. “Some animals are good at finding a place to live without having to build it.”

“Oh, I see,” Ricky said. Then he waved good-bye and headed home to his house in the oak tree. When he got inside, he looked around.

“At least my house is cozy and dry,” Ricky said to himself. “Not like a beaver’s lodge. And I always have a roof when it rains. Not like a bird’s nest,” he added. “I guess I really do live in the very best home for me!”
Most crabs have flat bodies. A hard shell protects a crab’s soft body. Most crabs have flat bodies.
Meet seven crabs and find out what makes these creatures crabby.

A ghost crab scurries across the rocky shore in search of food.

A crab’s eyes sit on top of stalks on its head.

A crab has ten legs. The front two are claws.
An *arrow crab* has super skinny legs. It looks more like a spider than a crab.

How are the crabs alike? How are they different?
A **spiny crab** lives deep in the ocean. Its shell is covered with sharp spines.

A **coconut crab** can climb trees. It uses its big claws to break open coconuts. This crab is the largest land crab.
A tiny **pom-pom crab** holds stinging sea creatures called anemones (uh-NEM-uh-neez) in its claws. The crab uses the anemones to sting its enemies.

An **orangutan crab** gets its name from the orange hairs that cover its shell. The hairs look like the fur on an orangutan.
A **hermit crab** does not have a hard shell on the back part of its body. So, it finds an empty shell and moves in.
Beavers use sticks and mud to build a home called a lodge.

A beaver enters its lodge from holes beneath the water.

ILLUSTRATION BY VIRGINIA GREENE
My name is Cody. I'm looking for my mother.

We'll help you find your mother.

My baby! Cody is a baby swan.

Yes, he will grow up to be a big, white swan.

Is this bird your mother?

I don't think that's my mother.

Is that bird your mother?

That's not my mother either.

"Are you my mother?"

"Are you my mother?"

Fooled by Feathers

ILLUSTRATIONS BY PARKER JACOBS
What’s going on at this beaver pond? Find seven things that are silly.

Look again. How many beavers can you count?
We live in ... **AUSTRALIA**

Australia is an island country that is far, far away from the United States. Many unusual animals live there.

**Koala** sits in a tree with her baby.

**Kookaburra** calls to its family.

**Echidna** (ih-KID-nuh) slurps up ants.
I live in Australia, too. Guess who I am.

1. I can hop over a car in a single bound.

2. I use my tail as a stool.

3. My baby rides in a pouch on my belly.

Turn the page to see who I am.
Hop, Hop, Hop!

A kangaroo can hop farther in one leap than any other animal.
Hungry, Hungry Hippo!

Hippos eat grass—lots and lots of grass.

Hippos love to sit in water. It keeps them cool.