

Ranger Rick's ADVENTURES

RANGER RICK RACCOON, SCARLETT FOX, AND BOOMER BADGER ARE OUT HIKING ON A WARM SPRING MORNING.



What a great day for a hike!

Sure is. Look at all the flowers. And listen to all the birds!

All right! Got 'im!



What are you doing, Boomer?

Playing a new app. It's called, "Terrible Terrapin Strikes Back."

Game apps on a day like this? You're really missing out on some great stuff, Boomer.



A SHORT TIME LATER...

Hey, look—there's a clearing up ahead. And do you hear those frogs?



It's a special kind of wetland called a bog!



Let's follow this log to get a better look.

A log into a bog... HEE, HEE!

Come on, Boomer. Put that thing away and watch where you're walking.



And what's that over there? Looks like a goat, but how could that be?



Whoops!



Uh-oh!



Boomer, I TOLD you to be careful.



My phone! Where's my phone?!



It landed in those plants.

I gotta find it!



I think I feel something!



Huh?

Wow! Is that what I THINK it is?



All I know is that it ISN'T my phone!

But you've found a bog turtle—one of the rarest turtles in North America!

Wow! Bring it over here, Boomer.



Hi! I'm Ranger Rick Raccoon, and these are my friends Scarlett Fox and Boomer Badger.

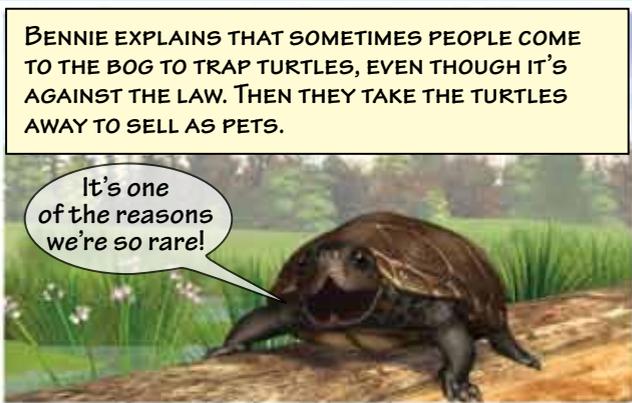
And who are you?

I'm... I'm Bennie. You aren't going to take me away from my home, are you?



Of course not, Bennie. Who would do such a thing?

The turtle thieves, that's who!



BENNIE EXPLAINS THAT SOMETIMES PEOPLE COME TO THE BOG TO TRAP TURTLES, EVEN THOUGH IT'S AGAINST THE LAW. THEN THEY TAKE THE TURTLES AWAY TO SELL AS PETS.

It's one of the reasons we're so rare!



Sounded like a car door slamming.

Come on—let's see what's going on! Boomer, bring Bennie with you.

Hey, what was that?



We need to stop them!

The turtle thieves are back!

We'll have to think of a way—and fast!



There's the first trap, and it looks like we caught one.

Just like finding buried treasure.



Here, Scarlett, you take Bennie. I've gotta DO something!

Boomer—look!



WHAT???



YEOWWWW!

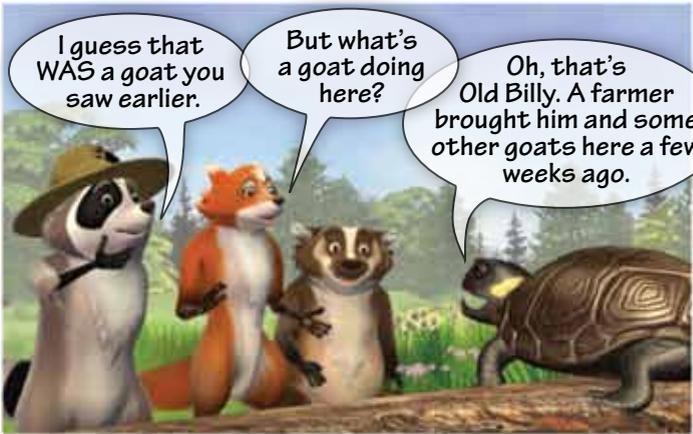


A FEW SECONDS LATER . . .



That was AWESOME! Did you see that guy fly?

I'll bet they won't be back again!



I guess that WAS a goat you saw earlier.

But what's a goat doing here?

Oh, that's Old Billy. A farmer brought him and some other goats here a few weeks ago.

BENNIE EXPLAINS THAT BOGS LIKE THIS ONE CAN QUICKLY BECOME OVERGROWN WITH BUSHES AND SMALL TREES. THE BOGS THEN ARE NO LONGER GOOD HOMES FOR BOG TURTLES. BY LETTING GOATS EAT THE YOUNG BUSHES AND TREES, PEOPLE HELP SAVE THE BOGS—AND THE RARE TURTLES.



And that's just one of the ways that people are helping us survive.

That's really great news, Bennie. Let's go free that trapped turtle and get rid of the trap. Then we'll be on our way.

A WHILE LATER . . .



What a great adventure!

Oh, I'll get over it. Hey, have you guys noticed what a nice spring day this is?

And great to meet Bennie, too. Sorry you lost your phone, though, Boomer.

MORE FACTS

- Bog turtles live only in a few places in the eastern part of the United States. They're the smallest turtle species in North America and one of the rarest.
- People are working hard to save the wetlands in which bog turtles live. They're also raising bog turtles in captivity and then releasing them into the wild.
- Goats may help save bogs, but they don't really defend the turtles from thieves. That's a job for the police and wildlife officers!

