



Educator's Guide

Educational extensions for the March 2010 issue of *Ranger Rick*® magazine

A WEEK FOR WILDLIFE

National Wildlife Week is coming up on March 15-19. It's a great time to get outside and celebrate wildlife and wild places—and you can find lots of ideas for doing just that online at nwf.org/nationalwildlifeweek. Be sure to visit the special section just for educators to find activities for watching wildlife, greening your school grounds, and more.

ANIMAL ADVICE

Have students turn to [pages 2-3](#) and read the “gorilla advice” imparted there. Discuss what it is about gorillas’ behavior that might have led the author of the caption to choose these particular instructions. Then ask students to choose another animal (or an element of nature such as a tree, a rock, or a river), consider how it interacts with the world, and then write their own “advice from a ___” lessons. Have them draw a picture to go with the advice. Then display the students’ work in a classroom gallery. For more examples to share with students, type “advice from a” into an online search engine.

SEAHORSE Q&A

“Seahorses” ([pages 6-11](#)) is packed full of facts about these unusual fish. As students read the story, ask them to create a list of questions with answers that can be found in the text. For example, “How do seahorses use their tails?” and “What predators eat seahorses?” Then let students use their lists of questions to quiz you. Be sure to read the story carefully, because you can be sure they’ll try to stump you!

HOKEY-POKEY IN BLUE

Look at [page 18](#) in “Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Blue!” See the blue-footed boobies that seem to be doing the hokey-pokey? Discuss how the boobies use their blue feet and their “dance moves” to attract mates. Then, as a group, make up a blue-footed booby version of the classic hokey-pokey. For extra fun, invite students to make blue feet for themselves out of construction paper or felt. Attach rubber bands or yarn ties to strap the blue feet onto students’ own feet, and then perform the dance!

TRACK A TRAIL

Check out the do-it-yourself trail signs in “Way to Go!” ([pages 24-25](#)). With an extra adult or two to assist, take students outside to practice these tracking skills. Then play one of the suggested games. These activities are great ways to help students get a closer look at the natural world and feel more confident outside.

NEW ZEALAND ANIMALS

This month’s “Fun on the Run” games ([pages 36-38](#)) are all about the unusual animals that inhabit New Zealand, from kiwis to kakapos. Have each student choose one New Zealand animal to research. (A good place to start is doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals online.) After students look up facts about the behavior, habitat, and life cycle of their chosen animals, invite them to make an animal puppet or mask. Students can then use these props to give reports to classmates about their animals and what makes them unique.



