

Educator's Guide

Educational extensions for the June 2008 issue of $Ranger\ Rick^{\otimes}$ magazine

TALES IN THE TREES

In "Dear Ranger Rick" on page 4, check out the tree photo mailed in by a reader. The tree reminded her of a giraffe—and she even went for a ride! Take students on an outdoor walk to look at tree shapes in your neighborhood. Can you find any unusual ones? Any that remind you of animals or other things? Have students draw or photograph their finds and write captions describing their interpretations.

LOON APPRECIATION POSTER

Want to enjoy the beauty of loons in your classroom? LoonWatch (a program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College) offers a Loon Appreciation Week poster for educators. The 2008 poster features a loon photo and, on the back, small steps you can take to make a big difference for loons and lakes. Posters are free, but a shipping and handling fee may apply. Order your posters by calling 715-682-1223 or emailing loonwatch@northland.edu.

LETTERS FROM HOME

"Letters from Loon Lake" (pages 6-12) offers a glimpse of loons and their habits through a series of letters. Using the story as a model, have each student choose a common animal from your area to observe. Then have them write letters describing some of their observations. They could write to family members or friends—or to you, giving you an opportunity to respond and carry on the conversation.

CAMP OUT!

You read about a backyard camping adventure in "Backyard Campout" (pages 16-20). Why not join the fun? In 2008, the Great American Backyard Campout takes place on June 28. If possible, engage students in planning a group campout. If you can't camp as a group, have students create a plan for a family campout. For instance, they could make a list of supplies, create a meal plan, calculate food quantities, write an invitation to family members, and so on. Then they might just be inspired to do it! For more information and to sign up for the event, visit backyardcampout.org.

OPOSSUM INPUT

Check out "Say What?" on page 22. See that opossum mom carrying her babies on her back? Have students write their own answers to the question about what she might be thinking or saying.

VICUÑA VICTORY

As you read in "Viva Vicuñas!" on pages 34-38, people are doing a lot to help vicuñas in their Andean home. Conatura is a group that works in Peru on this project. The group's program director, Catherine Sahley, has offered to answer students' questions about the project or even set up an exchange between your students and kids in Peru. This is a great opportunity for cross-cultural contact! You can email Catherine at ctsahley@alltel.net and visit conatura.org to learn more about her work.





Turn to page 43 of the June 2008 Ranger Rick and read the poem called "Hooray for Summer." The fawn in the photo is running through a field as if it is celebrating the green grass. What do you love best about summer? How do you celebrate the season? Follow the steps below to write your own summer poem.

i. Start by making a list of some of your favorite things about summer. I hink about sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and feelings							
2. Now write	e your own "	Hooray for	Summer"	poem. Use	your list ak	bove for ide	eαs.



Read "What's the Buzz on Bees?" (June 2008 Ranger Rick, pages 24-30). Now imagine you are a scientist working at the Bee Station. Design your own bee experiment by following the steps below.

1. Ask a Question. What's something you would like to know about bees?						
2. Make a Hypothesis. What's your best guess about the answer to your question?						
3. Test the Hypothesis. What steps would you follow to see if the bees' behavior fits your hypothesis?						
4. Plan Your Experiment. What supplies or equipment would you need to carry out the steps above?						

