Look Who's Itchy!

Wally the Baby Whale

Desert Animals

Pool Party

August 2022

** Award-Winning Fun **
THANK YOU!
Thousands of readers sent us cards to celebrate our 10th birthday.
WE LOVED THEM ALL!
Congratulations to the twelve kids whose cards are shown here.

Chancey, age 4
Lydia, age 5
Audie, age 5
Liam, age 7
Evan, age 6
Aayana, age 6
GiGi, age 5
Charlie, age 5
Caroline, age 7
Oliver, age 3
Easton, age 7
Nick, age 6

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A dolphin mom whistles to her newborn calf.

The tail on a shingleback lizard looks like a second head.

Koalas have fingerprints.

Bats sleep hanging upside down.

The Australian pelican has the longest bill of any bird.

Elephants flap their ears to cool down.
Wally was 15 feet long and weighed one ton when he was born. His mom carried him to the surface so he could take his first breath.

Humpbacks sing songs that can be heard miles away.

Wally is a baby humpback whale. Discover how his mom will help him grow into an ocean giant.

Humpbacks whale facts

Humpbacks swim in all the oceans of the world.

Humpbacks breathe air through blowholes on their heads.

Humpbacks eat small fish and shrimp-like animals called krill.

Humpbacks grow to be about as long as a semi truck.

Humpbacks sing songs that can be heard miles away.

Listen to a whale’s “song.”
A baby whale is called a calf.

When Wally gets hungry, he drinks his mother's milk. Wally will start eating fish when he is a year old.

Wally looks like a grown-up whale—only smaller.

Wally swims close to his mom. She protects him and teaches him how to act like a whale.
Wally loves to play with his mom. The two of them leap out of the water together. When whales do this, it is called breaching.

Wally blows bubbles as he spins in the water. Playing helps Wally grow strong—and it’s fun!

Wally practices slapping the water with his tail. Humpbacks do this to talk to other whales.

¡Hola!
Read the story in Spanish.
RangerRick.org/WhaleBabySP
I wonder if it was Mrs. Cardinal,” said Sammy.

“It might be,” said Flora. “Mrs. C’s surprises can be mysterious, but they’re always fun!”

The next morning, everyone met at Ricky’s house, ready for their trip. Bizzie and Sammy were wearing pool floats. The friends were just about to leave when Mrs. C flew up.

“Good morning,” said Mrs. C. “I see you got the invitations I sent.”

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“Good morning,” said Mrs. C. “I see you got the invitations I sent.”

The four friends began asking questions all at once, but Mrs. C held up a wing to quiet them. “Just follow the directions, and I’ll meet you there,” she said. “By the way,” she added, “you won’t need those floaties. It’s not that kind of pool party.” Then Mrs. C smiled and flew off.

“What do you think Mrs. C meant by that?” asked Bizzie.

“I guess there’s one way to find out,” said Ricky. “Let’s get going!”

Ricky Raccoon was trying to decide what to do on a hot summer day. “I know,” he said to himself. “I’ll go over to Bizzie Beaver’s house at Clear Lake. Maybe he wants to go swimming.”

When Ricky opened his door, he got a surprise. On his doormat was an envelope with his name on the front. “What’s this?” Ricky wondered.

Ricky picked up the envelope and opened it. Inside was a card. It had a drawing of watery waves at the top. Under that, it said,

You’re Invited to a Pool Party!

“Awesome!” said Ricky. He kept reading.

Where: Rocky Beach
When: Tomorrow morning at low tide

Below that were directions to Rocky Beach. “Huh?” asked Ricky. “What kind of pool party is at a beach?”

Just then a voice called, “Hi, Ricky! I see you got one, too!”

Ricky looked up to see Bizzie headed toward him, waving an invitation.

A little bit behind Bizzie were Flora Skunk and Flora’s little brother, Sammy Skunk. They were holding up invitations, too.

When everyone got to his house, Ricky asked, “Who do you think sent these?”

Story by Kathy Krarking
Illustrations by Christian Slade
The friends hiked and hiked as Ricky read the directions. Finally, he said, “It should be just up ahead.”

Ricky and his friends all started running. When they got to the beach, they stopped and looked around. The ocean water sparkled in the sun. But instead of sand, the shore was covered with rocks.

“Now we know why it’s called Rocky Beach,” said Flora. “It’s pretty.”

“Forget about the rocks,” said Sammy. “When does the party start?”

“Mrs. C said she’d meet us,” Ricky said. “Let’s look around until she gets here.” So the friends began exploring the rocky shore.

“This is fun!” Bizzie said. “There’s water in some places between the rocks. Maybe we can sit and dangle our feet.” Then he looked even closer. “Wow,” said Bizzie. “Come check this out!”

The others scrambled over the rocks to where Bizzie was crouched down, looking into the water. When Ricky, Flora, and Sammy peeked in, they could hardly believe what they saw!

“Sea stars!” shouted Ricky.

“And anemones!” yelled Flora. “They look like flowers!”

“I see a little crab!” shouted Sammy with excitement.

The pool of water was alive with different creatures. “It’s like an aquarium,” said Bizzie.

Just then, Mrs. C arrived. “I see you found the surprise,” she said. “What do you think?”

“This rocky beach is really cool, Mrs. C,” said Bizzie.

“There are all kinds of fun animals in the little pools of water,” said Sammy.

“At high tide, waves come in and cover all these rocks with water,” explained Mrs. C. “When the tide goes out, it leaves these little pools behind.” She winked and added, “They’re called tide pools.”

“Oh, I get it!” said Ricky with a big grin. “This is a different kind of pool party. It’s a tide pool party!”
Poems by Jennifer Bové

**Scratch MyITCH!**

When the itching starts, what's an animal to do?

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When these animals feel itchy
In their feathers or their hair,
They use their toes as fingers,
Scratching here and there.
Some itches can be hard to reach,
Even with your toes.
That’s when you need a special tool:
A horn, a bill, … a nose!
But sometimes there’s an itch so big
That scratching’s not enough,
So these guys rub their itchy spots
On bark that’s nice and rough.
A snake doesn’t have ears like you do. But a snake can hear—just not well. A snake’s body also can feel the vibrations of something moving nearby. For a snake, that’s as good as hearing.

**Why can’t a snake wear glasses?**

It doesn’t have any ears!

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**WONDER?**

Can a snake hear?

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**THE ADVENTURES OF Bonnie & Chester**

No Beach, No Problem

Bonnie and Chester were getting ready to go to the beach.

I think that’s everything. Let’s go.

Oh, no. We can’t go to the beach. It’s raining.

A little while later...

The sun’s out, Chester. Get our beach stuff.

Whoaa!

Hey, we’re swimming anyway.

Who needs the beach when we have our own private puddle?

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No Beach, No Problem

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ILLUSTRATION BY PARKER JACOBS

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August 2023

No Beach, No Problem

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ILLUSTRATIONS BY VIRGINIA GREENE

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Make your own comic!
What else can you find in the water?

Look at all these ocean animals. See if you can find . . .

- a humpback whale.
- a sawfish.
- a sea star.
- a porcupine fish.
- a hammerhead shark.
- a unicornfish.
We live in a... **DESERt**

It doesn’t rain often in our desert home.
It is very hot during the day. Cactuses grow here.

**Roadrunner** scurries across the ground.

**Kangaroo Rat** hops back to its burrow.

**Javelina** nibbles on a cactus.

Can you say hah-vuh-LEE-nuh?

I live in the desert, too. **Guess who I am.**

1. I can be as long as a park bench.

2. My tail makes the sound of a baby’s toy.

3. I like to nap in the sun.
A rattlesnake shakes its tail to say, "Stay away!"
How big is a harvest mouse?