Teacher Guide

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES K-2

*Kind News, Jr. helps students learn about animals and think critically about their responsibilities towards the wellbeing of others, while practicing skills necessary for academic success. The magazine encourages empathy and critical thinking in students and motivates students to take action to improve the lives of animals. Kind News, Jr. uses articles and short features to introduce issues affecting animals, how to understand animal behavior and how to care for pets.

SUBSCRIPTION QUESTION?
We will be happy to help you. Please contact:
KindNewsSupport@RedRover.org
telephone: 1-877-902-9757 (toll free)

Did you know?
Your local or school library can get a FREE single-copy subscription simply by visiting KindNews.org, selecting the individual subscription option, and entering promo code LIBFREE18.

Happy Spring! In this issue we’ll learn about the myth of “teacup” pigs and what pet pigs need to be happy and healthy. We’ll meet an amazing young woman who is making a difference for bunnies, and check in with two rescued tigers.* We’ll also explore some cool science facts about composting, and learn how dog and cat tongues are different.

Looking for more ways to help your students build connection?
Check out our empathy app, The Restricted Adventures of Raja, a bilingual, interactive series of book and game apps that includes questions and play-based learning that parents and educators can use to help children practice the three steps needed for empathy.
Visit RedRover.org/empathyapp for more information.

* We are sad to learn that one of the tigers, Misty, passed away in January.

To learn about our educational program for students or groups ages K-6 visit our website at FWACC.ORG.

Prince William SPCA is celebrating 12 years of sponsoring Kind News for classrooms in Prince William County, Manassas Park, and Manassas, Virginia.

To learn more about sponsoring classrooms with Kind News, email KindNews@RedRover.org.

© RedRover. All Rights Reserved. Kind News may not be reproduced in any form without written permission from RedRover, student contributions may be edited for readability. The classroom edition of Kind News is published five times a year, September-December, March, June, and September. The classroom subscription, as ordered by Classroom Donations, is available at $50 per year and each issue includes 28 copies of Kind News plus a Teacher’s Guide. Kind News is also available as an Individual Copy Home Subscription, published five times a year, including a Parent’s Guide, for $10 per subscription.

© 2020, Kind News, Jr. All Rights Reserved. Kind News, Jr. may not be reproduced in any form without written permission from RedRover.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!
COMMON CORE AND NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS (NGSS) ALIGNED ACTIVITIES

Kindergarten: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.2. Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood. After reading “Isabella the Rabbit Rescuer,” review the concepts of happy, healthy, and safe. What does it mean for a person to be happy, healthy and safe? Make a list together of what items humans need for their health and safety. Then, write out/display the list of items under the section “What do rabbits need to be happy, healthy and safe?” and read it aloud. As you go, ask students to give a thumbs up for items they knew rabbits needed and a thumbs-down for items they didn’t know rabbits needed. Circle the items on the human and rabbit lists that are the same or similar. To extend the activity, ask students to imagine a day in the life of a pet rabbit that has what he or she needs. What do they see? What do they smell? What do they hear?

First grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.5 Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.2 Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. After reading “Way to Go, Worms!” review the compost diagram with students. What are the roles of plants, worms, and other animals in the compost process? How do sun and rain contribute to it? Then ask students to choose one step in the process and draw a picture of it with a one-sentence description of what is shown. Ask them to describe their drawing to a partner. If you wish, use the students’ visuals to create a class display that shows the process in steps. To extend the activity, have students play different roles — animals, the sun, the rain, plants, or soil — and act the process out.

Second grade: NGSS 2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.2 Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. After reading “To the Rescue! Meet Misty and Pouncer,” ask students why they think that Misty and Pouncer were not able to live safely in a house. What did they need that they did not have there? Ask students to reread the article in pairs and circle the items the tigers have at Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary that they didn’t have before. Then ask students to think of an animal kept as a pet, such as a cat. How do the pet’s needs differ from tigers’ needs? Make a list as a class. To extend the activity, ask students to draw a picture of one of the animals discussed — the tiger or the pet — and label at least three resources the animal gets from his or her environment, “for example, water to drink, food to eat, prey animals to hunt for food, space to play.”

BOOK NOOK

The True Adventures of Esther the Wonder Pig
Written by Steve Jenkins, Derek Walter, Caprice Crane, Illustrated by Corl Doerrfeld
Recommended for ages 6 to 9
When Steve and Derek adopted a mini pig named Esther, they had no idea that she would turn out to be not-so-mini after all. When her new family saw just how big and wonderful Esther really was, they fell in love — and their lives changed forever. Esther would soon grow too large for her bed and their small apartment. She got into everything, including her neighbor’s tasty garden. So the whole family moved from a small apartment to a big farm, where Esther and her animal friends could be happy and get into a little less mischief. Eventually, that farm would become the Happily Esther After animal sanctuary, home to rescued animals of all kinds.

Oliver’s Big Problem
Written by Stephanie Itle-Clark, Illustrated by Jessie Miller
Recommended for ages 4 to 7
Oliver is one happy pig with a big personality! He loves his home, his friends, and the healthy and exercise he gets at the farm. But Oliver did not always live on the farm. His first home was far too small! Discover how he ended up at the farm and get to know Oliver in the first of the Farm Tales Series written just for early readers in grades Pre-K-2. The book text incorporates early sight words as well as discussion questions for parents and educators to support growth in critical thinking and empathy for others.

Critter Clues
Our mystery critter is the wood duck.
If you visit your local park, chances are you’ve seen wood ducks! They’re easily recognizable due to the distinct differences between the male and female bodies. The male’s green head and markings help him attract a mate, while the female’s brown and gray feathers help her blend in with her surroundings.

Wood ducks get their name from being “cavity-nesters,” nesting in tree cavities near water. Due to forest loss and being hunted, the wood duck almost became extinct around the turn of the 19th century. The population began to bounce back in the mid 1900s, after the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was passed. People also began building nest boxes to help mitigate the loss of the wood duck’s habitat.

Although we often see people feeding bread to wood ducks, this is a harmful practice. Bread is like junk food for ducks—it has very little nutritional value. When ducks get used to eating bread, they are less likely to forage for healthy food themselves. This can also cause a deformity called “angel wing,” a condition that results in ducks losing their flapping abilities. When bread is easily available, it can increase duck populations drastically, which means there is less healthy food to go around. It’s best to allow ducks to stick to their natural diet.

What can you do to help wood ducks? Educate others about why ducks shouldn’t be given bread. If you have the space, consider building a nesting box. To learn more, visit nwf.org and search “duck nesting box.”

RECYCLE

Compost Puzzle

ANSWER KEY