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Teacher Guide

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 3-6

Kind News helps students learn about animals and think critically about their responsibilities towards the wellbeing of others. The magazine encourages empathy and critical thinking in students and motivates students to take action to improve the lives of animals. *Kind News* uses articles and short features to introduce issues affecting animals, how to understand animal behavior and how to care for pets. There are questions built into articles throughout the magazine. These questions can be used to guide whole- or small-group discussions with your students.

SUBSCRIPTION QUESTION?

We will be happy to help you. Please contact:

KindNewsSupport@RedRover.org
telephone: 1-877-902-9757 (toll free)

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kind NEWS™

Teacher Guide

JAN/FEB 2020

RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 3-6

Happy New Year from *Kind News*! In this issue we meet an inspiring young woman who decided to be the change she wanted to see—and became our 2020 *Kind News* Humane Hero! We share some cool facts about bird migration and how to keep pets safe during the winter, and meet a resilient, special horse who overcame his past to make a difference in children's lives.

The content and "Kind Questions" in the magazine, as well as activities in this guide, are designed to address self-awareness, social awareness, responsible decision-making, and relationship skills—four of the core competencies for social and emotional learning (SEL) identified by CASEL. Learn more at casel.org.

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.



A PUBLICATION OF



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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.

FLIP OVER!

Turn the page for activities to use in your classroom that align to standards.



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KIND NEWS
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COMMON CORE AND NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS (NGSS) ALIGNED ACTIVITIES



Third grade: NGSS 3-LS2-1. Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.

After reading *The Amazing World, "Time to Fly,"* ask students if they have seen birds migrating. Then ask if they have seen birds migrating together and why they think birds do this. As a class, brainstorm other animals they have seen or heard of that do things in groups. How does doing things together help the groups survive? To extend the activity, have students research a social animal of their choice and share with the class how one of their shared activities helps the animals get the resources they need for survival.

Fourth grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 4 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. After reading about Humane Hero Evelyn, ask students to think about an issue they feel strongly about that they think needs to change, or discuss it with a partner. Is it taking care of the environment? Helping those in need? Raising awareness about kindness to animals? Then ask them to take a look at the tips for starting an animal club. Allow students time to brainstorm about how they could use these tips as a starting point to be "activists" for the causes they care about. As an extension, choose a cause as a class and allow students to work on them as a group or class service-learning project.

Fifth grade: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. After reading about Humane Hero Evelyn, ask students what techniques they noticed Evelyn used to speak to the audience. Can you tell that she knows who her audience is? What clues does she give? How does she engage her audience or make them interested? Then, ask students to choose something they are knowledgeable about and write a short "how-to" essay on that subject with a focus on: 1) understanding their audience: what do they already know or want to learn, and 2) speaking to that audience using engaging techniques, such as questions. Have students work in pairs and interview each other about their subjects and then write their essays with their partners in mind as the audience. To extend the activity, have partners provide feedback on the essays.

Sixth Grade: NGSS MS-LS1-5. Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how environmental and genetic factors influence the growth of organisms.

After reading *The Amazing World, "Time to Fly,"* ask students to vote: Do they think migration is something birds do because of genetics, environmental conditions or both? Ask students to choose and research an animal behavior that determines how well an animal thrives, such as migration or hibernation, and make an argument that this behavior comes from from genetics, environmental influences, or both. Students should be sure to give evidence that supports their argument.



Where's Raja?

RAJA IS HIDING ON PAGE 7!

Did you know?

- ▶ Your local or school library can get a **FREE** single-copy subscription simply by visiting KindNews.org/subscribehome and entering promo code **LIBFREE18!**

ANSWER KEY

Critter Clues FROM PAGE 7

Our mystery critter is the deer.

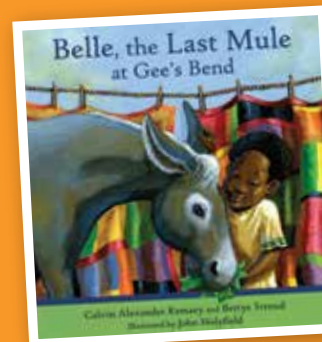
There are more than 60 species of deer worldwide, living on all continents except Antarctica. Deer live in many different kinds of habitats, including mountains, deciduous forests, and rainforests. They are part of the Cervidae family, which includes elk, moose, and reindeer. Deer are herbivores and subsist on a diet of plants, such as grass, bark, trees, and berries.

Deer often come into conflict with humans. Much of this conflict occurs because their natural habitat has been reduced due to human actions. People are concerned that deer eat their gardens, pose a risk to drivers, and are responsible for the spread of Lyme disease. Communities often feel that killing deer is the answer to reducing populations and solving these problems, but there is no correlation between the mass killing of deer and the reduction of deer-human conflict. Other options, such as immunocontraception, or administering birth control to deer, are being studied and tested as more humane ways to control deer population.

What can you do to help deer? Consider using humane ways to keep them out of your garden, such as planting plants that are unappealing to them, or putting up deer fences or netting. Be careful when driving, especially during dawn or dusk, when deer are most active. Help others in your community understand why deer are in our neighborhoods in the first place, and why mass killing of deer doesn't work. For more information, visit humanesociety.org/deer.



BOOK NOOK



RedRover Readers maintains a list of recommended humane-themed books at RedRover.org/books. Many books are based on real animals who have made an impact on the lives of people. In honor of Black History Month, consider reading this book about a very special mule.

Belle, the Last Mule at Gee's Bend

Written by Bettie Stroud and Calvin Ramsey,
Illustrated by John Holyfield

When Alex spies a mule chomping on greens in a nearby garden, he can't help but ask about it. "O! Belle?" says Miz Pettway. "She can have all the collards she wants. She's earned it." And so begins the tale of an ordinary mule in Gee's Bend, Alabama, that played a singular part in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. When African-Americans in a poor community—inspired by a visit from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.—defied local authorities who were trying to stop them from registering to vote, many got around a long, imposed detour on mule-drawn wagons. As Alex looks into the eyes of gentle Belle, he begins to understand a significant time in history in a very personal way.

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