

kind NEWS™

Parents Guide

PRIMARY EDITION • DEC/JAN 2014-15

Teaching kindness to animals and respect for natural habitats while helping to instill good reading habits in children

KIND TIME

THIS IS A TIME OF YEAR when people get together to share the joys of the season. We are, in fact, social animals. We play and work together in groups. Many other animals exhibit social behavior. They often live together in groups, such as colonies or herds, and help each other in many ways. As we turn to a new year, it's a good time to reflect on how we can make life more pleasant for all animals—including humans.

DO REINDEER FLY? Remind children that though no one has ever seen it happen, it is rumored that Santa's reindeer fly! Normal reindeer do not, of course—but can your children name animals, real and imagined, who do fly? Which ones crawl? Swim? Hop? Slither? Walk? Swing?

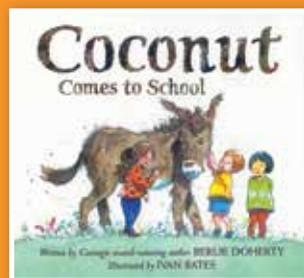
BAKING SOMETHING TOGETHER as a family is a great activity to share with your children—especially on bitter cold afternoons. The activity is even better when you are creating something to share with others. The recipe for dog treats in this issue is an easy, fun activity you can do with your children. Consider making a couple of extra batches of the treats; you and your kids can deliver them to your local animal shelter.



...And more at humanesociety.org/kindnews

- ▶ Find more information about the Platero Project.
- ▶ Nominate a teacher to receive the 2015 National Humane Teacher of the Year award.
- ▶ Download a worksheet for your child to create bookmarks as gifts.

BOOK NOOK



Coconut Comes to School by Berlie Doherty, illustrated by Ivan Bates. The schoolchildren have come to know the sound of Coconut's bray and the familiar rhythm of her canter. Every morning, they anxiously await the brown-eyed donkey's appearance in their classroom window. Cranky Mr. Clapper, on the other hand, is not as fond of Coconut's forays into the schoolyard, so he hatches a simple scheme to keep her out. When the teacher's plan fails and his life hangs on the brink, guess who comes trotting to the rescue? Readers will cheer for the story's happy ending and the hee-hawing hero.

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CRITTER CLUES

Can your child guess the mystery critter?

- 1 I'm the official small mammal of Texas.
- 2 Beetles, ants, termites—yummm!
- 3 I use my sharp claws to dig burrows. My long sticky tongue helps me find insects.
- 4 Streams or rivers don't stop me. I just walk along the bottom to get to the other side.
- 5 My name means "little armored one."

Our mystery critter is an armadillo.

Of the 20 species of armadillo, only the nine-banded armadillo is found in the United States, mainly in the south-central and southeastern parts of the country.  The official small mammal of Texas, the nine-banded armadillo gives birth to four identical young—all male or all female. During hot weather, armadillos tend to be nocturnal, but will forage by day when the weather turns cooler. They use their strong legs and sharp claws to dig burrows and search for insects. Their long sticky tongues are useful in pulling ants and termites from their tunnels.  Armadillos have poor eyesight, but their keen sense of smell helps them locate food. Collisions with vehicles are one of the armadillo's biggest threats.



ANSWERS

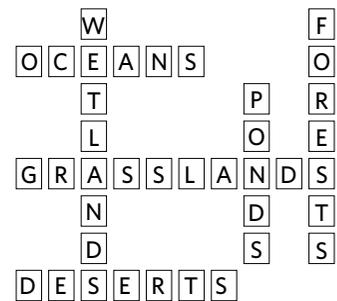
Bet You Can Do It!

FROM PAGE 2

- 1 wet
- 2 wet
- 3 vet
- 4 get
- 5 met
- 6 pet
- 7 let

Totally Turtles!

FROM PAGE 7



Help us select the best candidate for the 2015 NATIONAL HUMANE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD!

The award recognizes a pre-K-12 teacher who effectively incorporates humane education (animal welfare, environmental and prosocial education) into his or her curriculum. Visit humanesociety.org/humaneteacher to nominate someone.

You are now receiving the **Primary** edition of *Kind News*. If you prefer a more challenging reading level, you may switch to the **Junior** edition. Please allow 6-8 weeks for your new edition to arrive.



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