

kind NEWS™

Parents Guide

SENIOR 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.

BOOK NOOK



Looking for something to keep your kids reading over winter break? *Summer of the Wolves* by Polly Carlson-Voiles will keep them

turning the pages to see what happens next for 12-year-old Nika and her 7-year-old brother on a summer visit with their long-lost uncle. At first longing for her California home and friends, Nika slowly begins to appreciate the northern Minnesota wilderness she finds herself in and becomes enthralled with the wolves her wildlife biologist uncle studies. Though she bonds with one orphaned wolf cub, she soon realizes that caring for wild animals means allowing them to live their natural lives in the wild.

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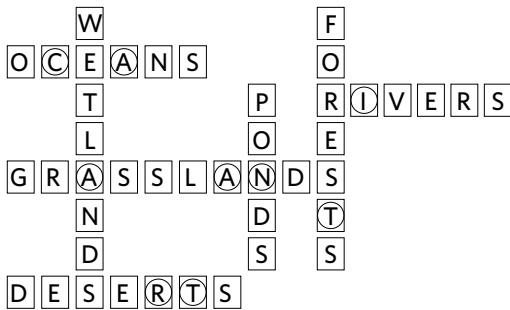
ANSWER KEY



Critter Clues FROM PAGE 7

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 a keen sense of smell that helps them locate food. Collisions with vehicles are one of the armadillo's biggest threats.

Totally Turtles FROM PAGE 7



Turtles are found on every continent except Antarctica.

Kind Quiz FROM PAGE 8

- 1 Antarctica
- 2 burro; little armored one (armadillo)
- 3 burrowed in mud until warm weather returns
- 4 b) in the desert
- 5 The Bureau of Land Management; some people thought that the wild burros were competing with grazing land for sheep and cattle.
- 6 Frightened donkeys may slip and fall or be injured in other ways by inexperienced riders.

Online Worksheet Children's essays will vary.

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 **Senior edition** of *Kind News*. If you prefer a less 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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