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Teachers Guide

JUNIOR EDITION: RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 3-4

The theme of Kind News is kindness to people and animals and respect for natural habitats. Its emphasis on humane values, such as fairness, compassion and responsibility encourages good character in children and its colorful design, simple vocabulary and engaging subject matter help instill reading habits.

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

SUBSCRIPTION QUESTION?

WE WILL BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU. PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

kindnews@humanesociety.org

TELEPHONE: 877.902.9757 (TOLL FREE) FAX: 818.487.4550



kindnews@humanesociety.org · humanesociety.org/kindnews

KIND NEWS

EDITOR, CATHERINE VINCENTI; ART DIRECTOR, JENNIFER LAUMANN;
DESIGN CONSULTANT, KALICO DESIGN; MARKETING MANAGER, RACHEL FELDMAN;
EDUCATION ADVISORS, HEIDI COLONNA, STEPHANIE ITLE-CLARK, ED.D., KAMA EINHORN

HSUS PUBLICATIONS

CREATIVE DIRECTOR, JENNIFER BEEL; EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, CARRIE ALLAN;
OPERATIONS MANAGER, BETH McNULTY

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kind News™

Teachers Guide

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JUNIOR EDITION
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 3-4

In spring, many wild animals give birth and try to raise their young in a safe environment. But as we develop more and more land, building homes, businesses and the infrastructure to support them, we encroach on their natural habitats. Conflicts with wildlife occur, but it's important for children to know that there are ways to peacefully coexist with our wild neighbors. From sharing a beach with harbor seals to being courteous to wild critters near our homes, this issue encourages kids to respect the wildlife around them.



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FLIP OVER!

Turn the page for
Common Core
activities to use in
your classroom.



COMMON CORE-ALIGNED ACTIVITIES

SL.3-4.2 Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively and orally. Read aloud the following poem by Susan Blackaby: *Strand by strand a spider strings/Her scaffold stalk to stem/And when a passerby drops by/Midflight, she draws him in/Across the gauzy threshold/Into her homespun home/He sticks around 'til dinnertime/(She never eats alone)*. Ask students to explain what is happening in the poem. What does Blackaby mean by the last line? How does the poet use imagery to tell her story? What happens next?

W.3-4.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details and clear event sequences. If harbor seals could understand what some people did to protect them in La Jolla, California, what do you think they would say? Write a letter from a harbor seal mom. Tell what the seal would like to say to people who care about protecting them.

Free Webinars! Humane Society Academy is offering free webinars on humane education topics including: "The Magic of Stories: Encouraging Empathy Through Narrative." Also available is a series on creating and maintaining a humane backyard. For details, visit humanesociety.org/HSAwebinars. Click on "Humane Education."

BOOK NOOK



In *Finding Home* by Sandra Markle, illustrated by Alan Marks, a koala and her baby are forced to flee a devastating forest fire, leaving their familiar habitat and home behind. As their search for food brings them closer and closer to people, the koalas are faced with new and potentially dangerous situations. Just when it looks like they will never find a suitable home, they find it in the most unlikely of places. The evocative text and watercolor paintings offer subtle lessons in the natural history of koalas and their native Australia, while also demonstrating that peaceful coexistence between humans and their wild neighbors is not only possible—it can be positive for all involved.

ANSWER KEY

Critter Clues FROM PAGE 7

Our mystery critter is a dolphin. Dolphins are mammals, not fish. Like all mammals, they are warm-blooded and give birth to live young who feed on their mother's milk. 🐬 Dolphins are social animals who live in large groups (called pods), often remaining in close family groups throughout their lives. They can dive deep in the ocean, but must surface to breathe air through a blowhole on top of the head. If a member of the pod is injured or sick, others will nudge the animal to the surface for air. 🐬 Sadly, keeping dolphins in captivity for entertainment removes them from their families and prevents them from enjoying many of their natural behaviors.

Bonus activity: After students have guessed the mystery critter, ask them to do some research to answer this question: What are two things that dolphins and bats share?

Answer: They are both mammals and both use echolocation to navigate and locate food (dolphins through water, bats through the air). Using echolocation, they bounce sound off objects and then listen for the echoes coming back to them.



Kind Quiz / RI.3-4.1

FROM PAGE 8

- 1 Spaying and neutering operations keep pets from adding to the problem of too many homeless pets.
- 2 Students' answers will vary.
- 3 Like most moms, wild animal moms want to raise their babies in a safe, warm place.
- 4 Marine Mammal Protection Act
- 5 Babies may be left behind and the animals may face danger from predators and be unable to find food.
- 6 Answers will vary.

Online Worksheet

A TALE OF TWO CRITTERS

- 1 A raccoon family has moved into their cabin, disrupting their planned peaceful weekend.
- 2 The raccoon mom found a nice, safe place to raise her babies and the arrival of the humans may cause her to relocate.
- 3 There didn't appear to be anyone living in the cabin, and the chimney was safe from the weather and predators.
- 4 Students' answers will vary.
- 5 Students' captions will vary.

Haiku! How About You? FROM PAGE 7

Students' haiku will vary.

After writing their own haiku, your students might enjoy taking a look at *Dogku* by Andrew Clements. This fun story of a stray dog who shows up on a family's back step is told entirely in haiku!

Take our survey!

We want to know how we can make *Kind News* work for you. Visit humanesociety.org/kindnews and fill out our short survey. As a thank-you, we'll send you a gift to use in your classroom.