

# kind News™

## Parents Guide

JUNIOR EDITION • OCT/NOV 2016

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

### KIND TIME

**MOST FADS**—dance crazes, slang expressions, the latest fashions—tend to be harmless. As this issue of *Kind News* illustrates, however, purchasing a “pet of the moment” can have disastrous results for the animal and for the environment. With the release of Disney/Pixar’s film, *Finding Dory*, animal protection and conservation groups are urging consumers not to buy fish like Dory, a royal blue tang, or other wild-caught fishes as pets. They have complex needs that cannot be replicated in home aquariums, resulting in high mortality rates. And while many freshwater fishes can be bred in captivity, most saltwater species offered for sale for home aquariums are captured in the wild, often using cyanide that kills corals and other animals. We hope this issue convinces children not to put blue tangs on their holiday wish list.

**TRY A NATURE SCAVENGER** hunt with a twist this fall—play nature walk bingo with your children. Create a bingo grid on a sheet of paper five squares down and five across. Paste pictures, draw or write in names of items you’re likely to see on your nature walk (leaves, insects, flowers, pinecones, acorns, birds, sticks, etc.) in the grid. See how long it takes for your children to get a “bingo” across, diagonally or down. You might even establish a prize for getting a bingo—and a bonus prize for filling the whole page!

### BOOK NOOK



After your children have guessed this month’s mystery critter, they can learn more about New York City’s famous red-tailed

hawk in *The Tale of Pale Male* by Jeanette Winter. After Pale Male (named for his paler-than-normal feathers) and his mate build a nest on a high-rise apartment building, controversy arises. Some building residents want the nest removed claiming that the birds make too much of a mess; others come to admire the urban hawks. Removal of the nest results in a massive public outcry to restore it. A delightful read for wildlife-watchers and animal-lovers of all ages—even if you already know this tale’s happy ending.



...And more at [humanesociety.org/kindnews](http://humanesociety.org/kindnews)

- ▶ Find more information about living peacefully with wildlife
- ▶ Learn more about the problems caused by capturing fishes from the wild for home aquariums
- ▶ Download an activity page for your children

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**Our mystery critter is a red-tailed hawk.** Red-tails are birds of prey known for their spectacular soaring and hunting skills. In courtship, males soar high in the sky where they perform amazing dives and acrobatics to impress females—even catching prey and delivering it to their intended mates in mid-air. 🦅 When someone says that a person has “eyes like a hawk,” they mean that the person has excellent eyesight. Hawks perch up high to watch the ground below for unsuspecting prey such as mice, rabbits, squirrels and snakes. Then they swoop down, grabbing the prey in their sharp talons. 🦅 Red-tailed hawks make a high-pitched, scream-like sound. The birds build large nests out of sticks, leaves and bark. 🦅 Pale Male is a famous red-tailed hawk who has nested on a tall apartment building in New York City for many years. Removal of his nest by building management in 2004 resulted in major protests from animal lovers, and Pale Male and his family were eventually allowed to return.

## Online Activity Sheet SOMETHING'S FISHY

- 1 parrotfish (When closed, a parrotfish’s mouth looks like a parrot’s beak. Parrotfish use their “beaks” to scrape algae from coral, which helps keep the coral healthy.)
- 2 porcupinefish (When frightened, porcupinefish swallow water, causing their bodies to puff up and their spines to stick out.)
- 3 surgeonfish (On either side of their tailfins, these fish have razor-sharp, bony keels that can cut as effectively as a surgeon’s knife.)
- 4 catfish (After locating food with their whiskers, catfish scoop it up in their wide mouths.)
- 5 angelfish (Among the most colorful species of fish, angelfish blend in well with their coral reef habitat.)
- 6 flashlight fish (Bacteria that collect in pouches under their eyes give off a greenish glow that helps flashlight fish fend off predators, attract mates and see in dark water.)

## Kind Quiz FROM PAGE 8

- 1 Squirrels bury acorns and other nuts to store them for the winter.
- 2 Adult blue tangs can reach a foot long and require a fish tank three times larger than the average home tank—about the size of a couch.
- 3 Childrens’ answers will vary.
- 4 Putting trash out at night invites nocturnal animals, such as raccoons, to tip them over to feed on trash.
- 5 When they sense danger, woodchucks make a high-pitched whistle to warn others in their colony.

## Picture perfect Halloween FROM PAGE 7

cat; cats; devils; today, well-known aren’t, great; be, keep; indoors; not; cars, anyone, thinking can; doors; to, find, nice, your; safe

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.



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