

Teacher Guide for ASK

July/August 2013: Wild in the City

This guide was prepared by Betty Lou Askin, a retired educator who lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Objectives:

- To gain an understanding about the creatures who live in the waters and on the land around New York.
- To realize the environmental benefits of gardening on a roof and/or a wall.
- To learn about the interaction and interdependence between wild creatures and people living in a city.

Pre-reading:

- ❖ Let the students suggest what they think might be included in this issue of ASK based on the title and the cover.
- ❖ Ask the students to develop a **KWL Chart**. What I Know, What I Want to Know, What I Learned.
- ❖ View the Contents page and discuss the illustrations and the article titles.

Scoops

What Lovely Teeth You Have

- Explain how the prehistoric fish had different teeth.
- What was the spiral?
- How did the spiral work?
- What was amazing about its teeth?

It's a Penguin Party!

- Where were the penguins found?
- Explain how they were discovered.
- Explain why you think the penguin accepted the scientists.
- What do scientists hope to learn regarding these penguins?

Tight in Shining Armor

- Who are the Swiss Guards?
- What is the problem that they face?
- How is this problem being dealt with today?

Nestor's Dock

- Explain why a "good deed" was not appreciated by the animals.

Going Wild in New York City

Questions to use with this article:

Under Liberty's Torch

- Explain why New York City is such a watery place.
- Make a list of the water creatures that live around the Statue of Liberty.
- What is an estuary?
- Explain why oysters no longer live in New York waters.
- How do oysters feed?

- Describe how scientists and students are trying to revitalize the oyster population.

Meet Me in Central Park

- Explain why New York was an excellent place for early explorers to live.
- What creatures were native to New York?
- Explain how other creatures came to New York.
- Describe what was found when the Turtle Pond was drained.
- Explain why there are so many birds throughout the year in New York.
- Why do monarch butterflies like New York?
- How far do monarchs travel?

Bronx Trails

- Why were beavers popular in the 1800's?
- Who are Jose and Justin?
- What "wild" animals inhabit the Bronx?

Kings of Queens

- Describe a peregrine falcon.
- Explain why nest boxes for peregrines are important.
- Why is Kennedy Airport a good home for jack rabbits?
- Why is Kennedy Airport a good home for upland sandpipers?
- Why do snowy owls like the airport?
- Why does Jamaica Bay make a good home for creatures?
- Make a list of the creatures that live there.

Bird Builders of Brooklyn

- Explain the existence of parrots in New York.
- Tell about Pale Male.

Crabby Staten Island

- Describe what happens in May or June at the beach on Staten Island.
- What other sea creatures can be found in the waters around New York.

A Rat's Tale

Questions to assist with a discussion:

- Explain why the rats welcomed humans.
- Why is the alley important to the rats?
- Why do the rats like the humans?
- Why is plastic wrap important to the rats?
- Make a list of why the rats believe that they are superior.
- How does a mother rat train her young?
- Explain the Second Rat Rule.
- How do rats expand their turf?
- What is the Third Rat Rule?
- Explain these words related to rats: turf, burrowing, pups and gang.

Monkey Trouble

Reading for information:

- What is the usual experience with monkeys throughout the world for people?
- Explain the problem with monkeys in New Delhi.
- Describe the opposing ideas about monkey control.

- Explain why the problem of monkey control has escalated in recent years.
- Tell why monkeys are smart.
- Explain why monkey families are important.
- Explain the **rhesus vs. langur** situation.
- Why are snow monkeys a problem?
- What is the moral of this article?

Country Moose, City Moose

An idea to use with this article:

- Write a paragraph describing the difference between each of the following animals who live in the wild or the city:

Moose
Racoon
Coyote
Alligator

Jungle Up There

Ideas to use with this information:

- What are green roofs?
- Describe the process of preparing a roof and a wall for a garden.
- Tell what type of plants are best suited to roof and wall gardens.
- What grows well on a wall garden?
- Describe the soil that is needed for these gardens.
- Tell what is attracted to a roof garden.
- Make a list telling why roof gardens are good for the environment.
- Creative Work:
 1. Write a newspaper/magazine article explaining the benefits of a roof/wall garden.
 2. Develop an interview with a roof/wall gardener. Work in pairs with one partner doing the interview and the other as the gardener.

Country Rhinoceros City Rhinoceros

- Follow the instructions on Page 31. Share your work with your classmates.

Jimmy the Bug

- Explain how Antarctica qualifies as a desert.
- What did scientists find on Antarctica?
- What did these items tell the scientists about Antarctica?
- Explain tectonic plates.

Marvin and Friends

- Why did Marvin wish to go to live in the city?
- Explain why Marvin decided not to live in the city.

Culminating Activities:

- Complete the **KWL** Chart if it was used during the reading of this magazine. This final section can also be completed after the reading of each article.
- Choose 5 things that you have learned about wild animals that live in the city. Write a short paragraph about each of your topics using information from this magazine.