

# Naked Mole-rats

Could this be your worst nightmare coming true? Don't worry, although they may look a little scary, these hairless **rodents** are herbivores and mostly eat roots and tubers. In fact, there's a good chance you'll never encounter a *naked mole-rat* because they live underground. They use their long front teeth to dig miles of tunnels in search of food.

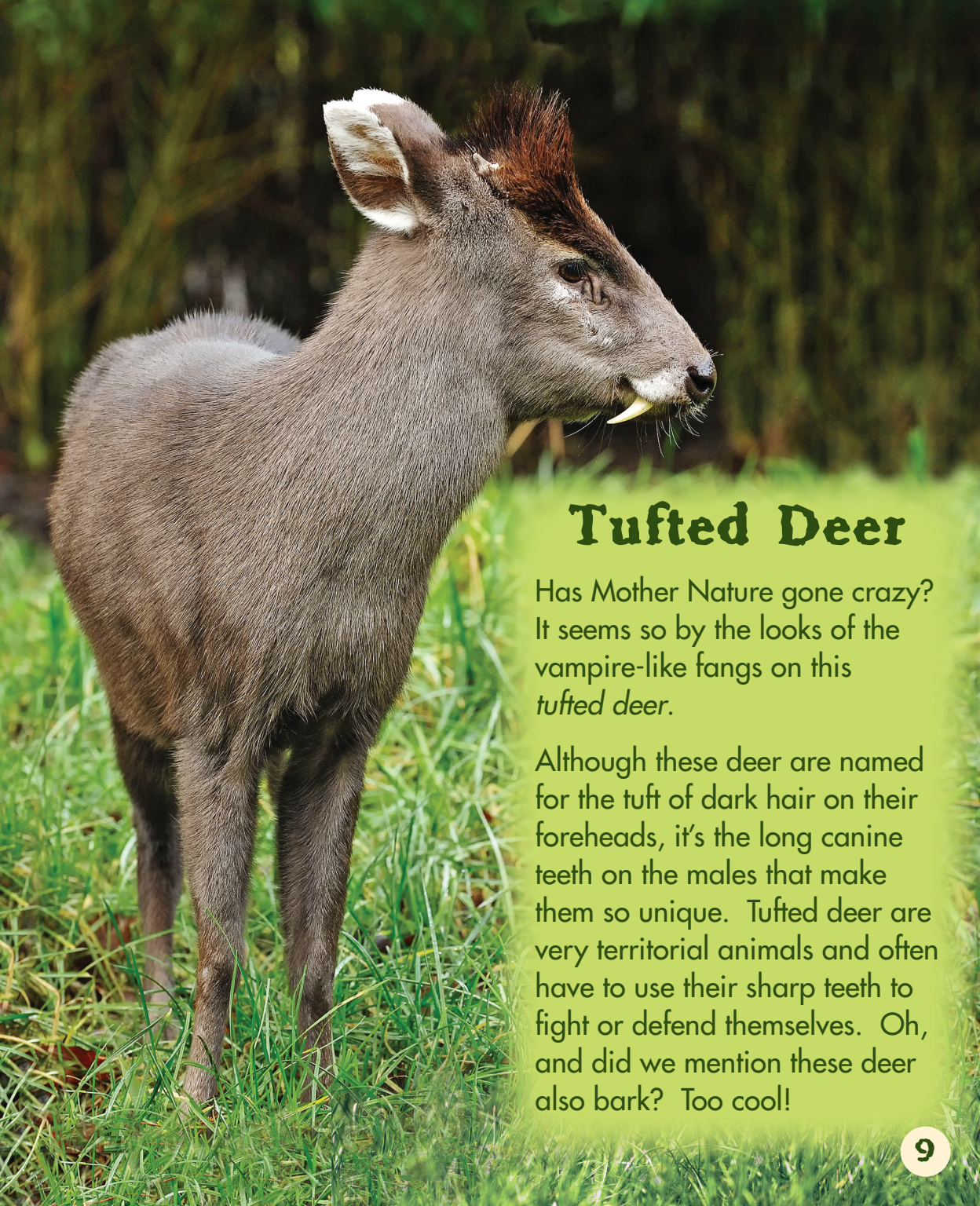
Although they are mammals, naked mole-rats behave more like bees and termites. They live in colonies where a single queen gives birth to all the young. Up to 200 workers dig tunnels and guard the colony.



Two pink, hairless naked mole-rats are shown in a dark, earthy tunnel. One mole-rat is in the foreground, facing left, with its mouth slightly open, revealing its long, sharp front teeth. The second mole-rat is behind it, also facing left. The tunnel walls are made of dark brown soil.

CREEPY OR  
AMAZING?





## Tufted Deer

Has Mother Nature gone crazy? It seems so by the looks of the vampire-like fangs on this *tufted deer*.

Although these deer are named for the tuft of dark hair on their foreheads, it's the long canine teeth on the males that make them so unique. Tufted deer are very territorial animals and often have to use their sharp teeth to fight or defend themselves. Oh, and did we mention these deer also bark? Too cool!

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# Let's Get Ready to Read!

Dear Parents and Educators,

*This guide will help your reader explore, examine, and engage with the nonfiction book Stranger Than Fiction! The included activities will strengthen their reading comprehension skills and provide them with opportunities to write and talk about the text. Your reader will delve into the text and analyze it in a more structured and detailed way. Help your reader on their reading journey by working alongside them as they read the book. Ask and answer questions, and offer guidance and support, as needed. Be sure to read through pages 4–5 for helpful instructional ideas.*

*On this page, you will find information about Blue Star Education's partnership with Ranger Rick and the National Wildlife Federation as well as some fun activities to help foster your reader's love of reading!*

## Just 4 Fun!

- Work with other parents or teachers to arrange a book club meeting so your reader can discuss the book with peers. Provide a comfy, cool setting and some yummy treats!
- Set up a book nook! Find a quiet corner. Add a few blankets and pillows. Maybe grab a beanbag chair or poof! Be sure there is a lamp or overhead light and—*voila!*—you have a nifty nook any reader would love.
- Challenge your reader to conduct further research on the topic mentioned in the book. Ask them to display what they have learned from their research in a creative way, such as an infographic, collage, or theatrical skit.

## The Partnership

Blue Star Education's proud partnership with the National Wildlife Federation and Ranger Rick has made possible the creation of products that combine reading, writing, and science in an exciting and unique way meant to help enrich knowledge and appreciation of the natural world.

## The National Wildlife Federation & Ranger Rick

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) strives to unite all Americans to ensure that wildlife thrives in a rapidly changing world. It believes that healthy water, clean air, and public lands are a birthright of all Americans. From the tiniest of insects to the largest of mammals, the NWF wants to ensure the legacy of America's wildlife for future generations.

In January 1967, a new conservationist came on the scene. Knowledgeable, small, and furry, this little leader was ready to foster a healthy and life-long appreciation of nature in children. His name: Ranger Rick! More than 50 years later, Ranger Rick continues to entertain and educate children about the natural world through various media, including the highly successful magazine series.





Name: 

ACTIVITY 3

## Weird & Wanted

**Directions:** Create a WANTED poster for one of the animals in the book. You want to find the animal so you can take a picture of it. Draw a picture of the animal and describe it in detail so that others can help you locate it.

# WANTED