

Ranger Hamza's Eco Quest
Discussion Guide
Grades PreK-2

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Look at the cover and flip through a few of the pages in the book. Read the title and ask your students, “What do you think an eco quest is? Have you ever gone on an eco quest?”
- Ranger Hamza is a real-life park ranger. You can find photos of him online and explore his other works for children.
- Frontload vocabulary: environment, quest, discover, and nature.

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- Who is Ranger Hamza? What is his job?
- How is rainwater important in nature?
- Why are dandelions more than just weeds?
- What are some ways you can help birds and other wildlife?
- How is dead wood important for living things?
- How do earthworms help the environment?
- What is seaweed? Use details to describe the different types of seaweed.
- What are some ways that humans can be eco heroes?

After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- Take your own eco quest around your local park or neighborhood. Make it a sound walk by listening and noticing the sounds in your local environment. How would you describe the sounds you hear? What do you think is making those sounds? When you return to the classroom, transform this into a lesson about onomatopoeia (sound words) by challenging students to create phonemic representations of the sounds they heard during your eco quest.
- Additionally, you can collect natural items on your eco quest such as sticks, leaves, and rocks or shells. Be sure to only pick up nonliving items. When you return to the classroom, have your students create artwork using the natural items. Check out the artwork of Andy Goldsworthy for inspiration.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more books about nature such as [How to Bird](#) and [We're Going on a Nature Hunt](#).