

Critter Connections

Adapting to the Times

Article by ELANOR DEAN

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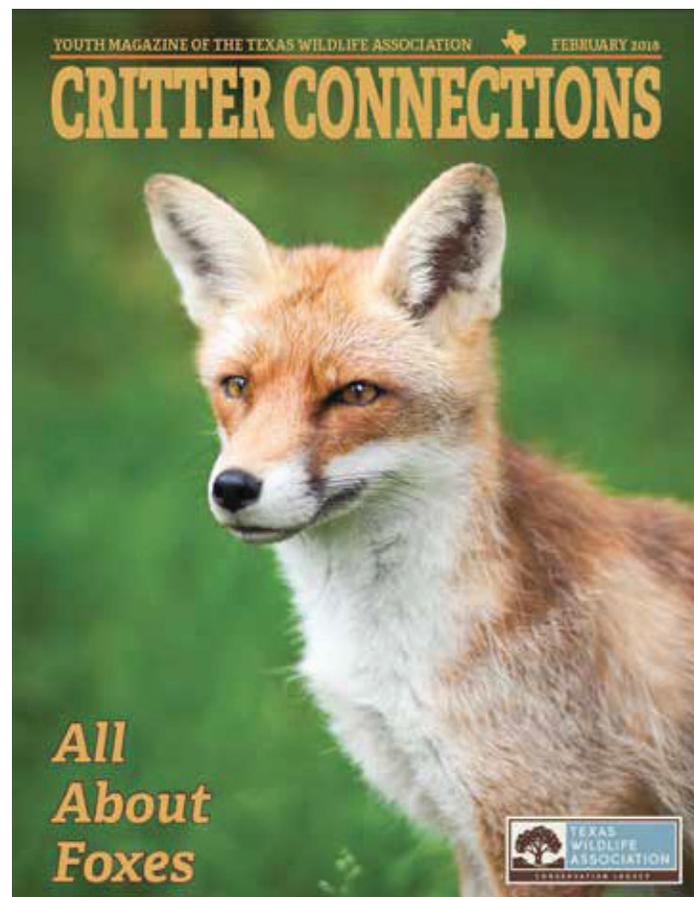
Critter Connections, the youth magazine of the Texas Wildlife Association, was established in 2007. The very first issue, that March, was all about turkeys and included a call out to Texas youths to design a mascot for the magazine. Entries poured in and Nancy Nine-band, the armadillo, was declared the winner.

Since then, the Texas Wildlife Association has released four issues of *Critter Connections* every year, including two in Spanish. In 2018, after 10 years of magazines, a redesign was



in order. *Critter Connections* was redesigned to mirror *Texas Wildlife*, the membership magazine of the Texas Wildlife Association. Now, each issue has a vibrant cover featuring a native species and still includes the same great content.

So, what can you expect when you open an issue of *Critter Connections*? Each issue has a plant article and a lead article



about the highlighted animal. There are also crafts, activities, fun facts, stewardship actions and tips to observe wildlife from Nancy Nine-band. *Critter Connections* are geared for youths ages 13 and younger, but even adults may learn something.

Issues are released to align with the school year in February, April, September and November. Members of the Texas Wildlife Association automatically receive a copy with their membership magazine, but free annual subscriptions are available to educators and Texas youths.





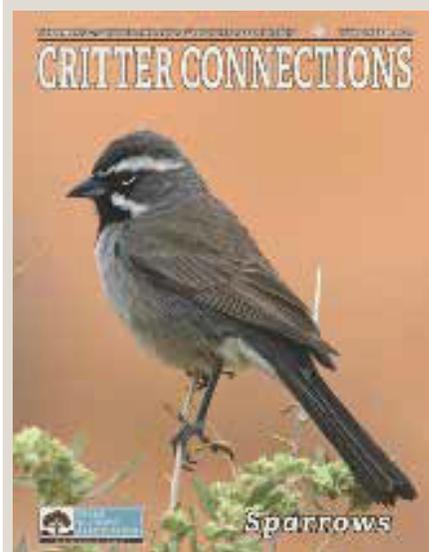
CRITTER CONNECTIONS
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Foxes in Texas
By Elissa Davis

From the mountain peaks to the coastal plains, foxes are found in many different types of habitats across the state. Some foxes have adapted to live in urban environments like coyotes and raccoons. There are three types of foxes that live in Texas. The wolf is a fox which lives in the north eastern part of the state. The red fox which lives in the western and central part of the state, and the gray fox which is found across the state.

Gray Fox
The gray fox is the most common fox in Texas. It is found in the western and central parts of the state. It is a very adaptable animal. It can live in urban areas and in the wild. It is a very intelligent animal. It can climb trees and jump over fences. It is a very elusive animal. It is a very shy animal. It is a very solitary animal. It is a very territorial animal. It is a very aggressive animal. It is a very curious animal. It is a very playful animal. It is a very friendly animal. It is a very loyal animal. It is a very devoted animal. It is a very loving animal. It is a very caring animal. It is a very protective animal. It is a very brave animal. It is a very strong animal. It is a very powerful animal. It is a very resilient animal. It is a very hardy animal. It is a very tough animal. It is a very durable animal. It is a very long-lived animal. It is a very healthy animal. It is a very fit animal. It is a very active animal. It is a very energetic animal. It is a very lively animal. It is a very spirited animal. It is a very cheerful animal. It is a very optimistic animal. It is a very positive animal. It is a very confident animal. It is a very self-assured animal. It is a very self-reliant animal. It is a very self-sufficient animal. It is a very self-starting animal. It is a very self-motivated animal. It is a very self-disciplined animal. It is a very self-controlled animal. It is a very self-responsible animal. It is a very self-accountable animal. It is a very self-respectful animal. It is a very self-regarding animal. It is a very self-esteemed animal. It is a very self-valued animal. It is a very self-respected animal. It is a very self-admired animal. It is a very self-appreciated animal. It is a very self-cherished animal. It is a very self-treasured animal. It is a very self-prized animal. It is a very self-treasured animal. It is a very self-prized animal. It is a very self-treasured animal. It is a very self-prized animal.

Red Fox
The red fox is the largest fox in Texas. It is found in the western and central parts of the state. It is a very adaptable animal. It can live in urban areas and in the wild. It is a very intelligent animal. It can climb trees and jump over fences. It is a very elusive animal. It is a very shy animal. It is a very solitary animal. It is a very territorial animal. It is a very aggressive animal. It is a very curious animal. It is a very playful animal. It is a very friendly animal. It is a very loyal animal. It is a very devoted animal. It is a very loving animal. It is a very caring animal. It is a very protective animal. It is a very brave animal. It is a very strong animal. It is a very powerful animal. It is a very resilient animal. It is a very hardy animal. It is a very tough animal. It is a very durable animal. It is a very long-lived animal. It is a very healthy animal. It is a very fit animal. It is a very active animal. It is a very energetic animal. It is a very lively animal. It is a very spirited animal. It is a very cheerful animal. It is a very optimistic animal. It is a very positive animal. It is a very confident animal. It is a very self-assured animal. It is a very self-reliant animal. It is a very self-sufficient animal. It is a very self-starting animal. It is a very self-motivated animal. It is a very self-disciplined animal. It is a very self-controlled animal. It is a very self-responsible animal. It is a very self-accountable animal. It is a very self-respectful animal. It is a very self-regarding animal. It is a very self-esteemed animal. It is a very self-valued animal. It is a very self-respected animal. It is a very self-admired animal. It is a very self-appreciated animal. It is a very self-cherished animal. It is a very self-treasured animal. It is a very self-prized animal. It is a very self-treasured animal. It is a very self-prized animal. It is a very self-treasured animal. It is a very self-prized animal.

learn virtually, hitting both science and reading objectives.

Critter Connections read-along is available in two formats: videos of previous issues and live broadcasts of current and upcoming issues. With both versions, students do not need to have a copy in front of them, unless desired, because the words will be visible during the broadcast and in the videos. To date, there are four read-along videos of previous issues that can be viewed anytime. The current videos are from the 2018 issues about foxes, Greater Roadrunner, turtles and backyard bugs, with more programs to join the lineup soon!

Starting with the September 2020 issue about dragonflies, a live broadcast was offered where the plant article and main wildlife article are read aloud through the Texas Wildlife Association's YouTube page. November's issue about Sparrows was also broadcasted, and you can join the live read-along in February for the upcoming issue. Each live broadcast was recorded and will be accessible anytime on the Texas Wildlife Association's YouTube page.

If you haven't read *Critter Connections* before, it's definitely worth a read, and don't forget to subscribe if you have any kids at home, or let teachers in your area know about the classroom sets. Subscriptions are completely free while supplies last at bit.ly/subscribecritterconnections. ☺

Educators can sign up for a hardcopy classroom set which comes in pack of 25 or individual subscriptions are available. Beginning in Fall 2020, digital subscriptions were introduced both as a PDF or in a digital magazine format. Included with the digital subscription is a worksheet which students can complete and turn in as part of an assignment.

Also last fall, a new interactive aspect of *Critter Connections* was introduced with read-along videos. This idea was developed because of the digital and at-home learning aspects of the upcoming school semester. If students could not get a hardcopy of *Critter Connections*, they could still

