

# Kids' KOrner



The naked mole rat from Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, shown here in a scientist's hand, has researchers excited over its curious insect-like behavior. In the wild, the tiny mammals congregate in large underground colonies that are dominated by queens. Colonies are now being studied at the University of Michigan and Cornell University.

## Strange Insect-Like Mammals Discovered

WASHINGTON — Colonies of the naked mole rat, an extraordinary African mammal that behaves like an insect, have been set up in laboratories at the University of Michigan and Cornell University.

The naked mole rats' appearance is almost as bizarre as their behavior. The almost hairless rodents have bodies resembling little sausages and two protruding front teeth that make them look

like pocket-size walrus. They've been described as "one of God's ugliest creatures," but in the eyes of some beholders, the weird-looking animals are beautiful to watch because of their behavior.

"They're the most insect-like mammals I've ever seen," says Paul W. Sherman, assistant professor of neurobiology and

(Turn to Page B12)

BILLY IS LOST. CAN YOU HELP HIM FIND HIS WAY BACK TO THE CABIN?

START →

By DAVE CARPENTER

# COLOR THIS!

- |           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. BLACK  | 6. PINK       |
| 2. RED    | 7. GREEN      |
| 3. YELLOW | 8. LT BROWN   |
| 4. PEACH  | 9. LT BLUE    |
| 5. BROWN  | 10. LT. GREEN |

WASHINGTON IS LOCATED IN THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF THE U.S. IT IS THE ONLY STATE NAMED IN HONOR OF GEO. WASHINGTON, OUR FIRST PRESIDENT. THE STATE'S NICKNAME, THE "EVERGREEN STATE," COMES FROM ITS GREEN FORESTS. IT IS ALSO CALLED THE SWITZERLAND OF AMERICA BECAUSE OF THE IMPRESSIVE HIGH MOUNTAINS.

STATE FLOWER  
COAST RHODODENDRON

STATE BIRD  
WILLOW GOLDFINCH

\* OLYMPIA

1-12-84

KERN