

OPOSSUM

Misunderstood Animals: #8

Animal Type:

- ☐ Amphibian
- ☐ Bird
- ☐ Fish
- ☐ Invertebrate
- ☒ Mammal
- ☐ Reptile

Diet:

- ☐ Carnivore
- ☐ Herbivore
- ☒ Omnivore

Habitat:

- ☒ Rainforest
- ☒ Urban
- ☒ Forest
- ☒ Shrubland
- ☒ Mountains
- ☒ Swamp

Basic stats:

Number of species: 126

Largest: Virginia opossum

Smallest: Chacoan pygmy opossum

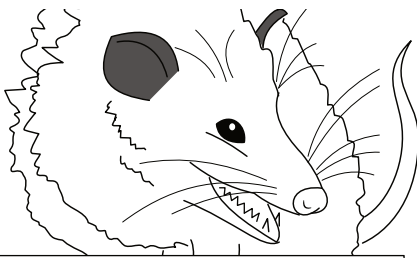
Species in North America: 1

Oldest fossil: _____

Distribution: North, Central and South America

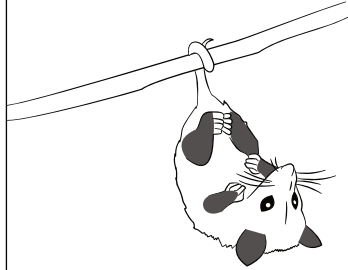
FACT OR FICTION?

Opossums have more teeth than any other North American land mammal (50)



Fact

Opossums like to "hang out" while hanging by their tails

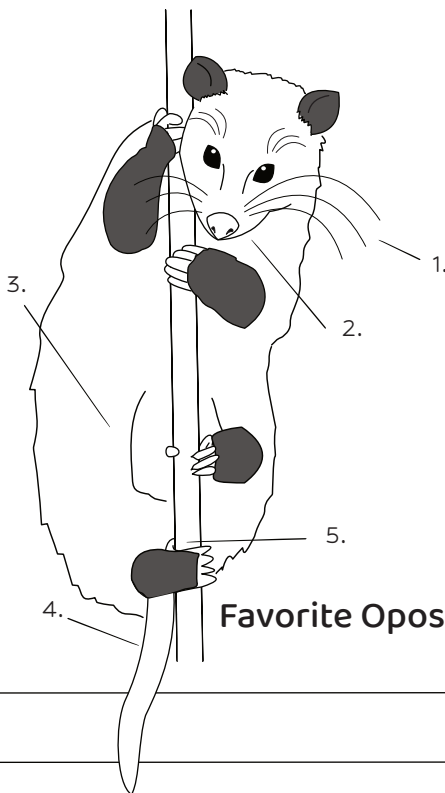


Fiction

Opossums have opposable thumbs only on their back feet



Fact



1 Vibrissae

2 Nose

3 Marsupium

4 Prehensile tail

5 Hallux

Opossums heavily rely on this feature to find food, avoid danger, and navigate their environment

These opposable digits give opossums excellent climbing abilities and grip strength

Used primarily for climbing and balancing, this appendage acts as a fifth limb or extra hand

Sensory organs that help opossums navigate, especially in the dark

Provides a safe, nurturing environment for the young to grow and develop until they are ready for independence

Favorite Opossum Fact: