

What Are Raccoons?

Raccoons are small, furry animals with fluffy striped tails and black “masks” around their eyes. They live in forests, near rivers and lakes—and sometimes even close to people in towns and cities. Raccoons are very clever, curious, and quick with their paws.



One of the raccoon's most famous habits is "washing" its food. But raccoons aren't really cleaning their meals. They just love to roll and rub things between their paws, especially near water. Scientists believe this helps them understand what they're holding.

Raccoons eat almost anything: berries, fruits, nuts, insects, fish, and even bird eggs. They're nocturnal, which means they go out at night to look for food and sleep during the day in cozy tree hollows.



Raccoons are very social. Young raccoons love to play—tumbling in the grass, hiding behind trees, and exploring everything around them. And sometimes, if they feel safe, raccoons might even come closer to where people are—especially if there's a snack nearby!

Even though they can be a little mischievous, raccoons play an important role in nature. They help spread seeds and keep insect populations in check.

So next time you see a raccoon, remember: it's not just a fluffy animal—it's a real forest explorer!