

M1 OPOSSUM

TRAITS: Heavy set body, long pointed snout. Also long scaly tails. Females have fur-lined pouch to carry young.

HABITATS: Prefer wet areas along streams and rivers, also in forests.

FOODS: Carrion, insects, earthworms, amphibians, reptiles, and blackberries.

THREATS: Opossums are often killed by cars while looking for dead animals (carrion) on roads.

“GEE WHIZ”: Opossum is a marsupial, and females are only pregnant 12 to 13 days before their young are born. They then move to the mother's pouch to continue growing.



M2 RACCOON

TRAITS: Gray brown or gray orange brown with black facemask, rimmed in white. Between 2-3 feet. Bushy tail with rings.

HABITATS: Live in trees, along creeks or ponds. Dens in tree-holes or under tree roots.

FOODS: Fruit, insects, small rodents, bird eggs, turtle eggs, wasp nests, and acorns.

THREATS: They have few natural predators, but they are sometimes taken by fox and coyotes.

“GEE WHIZ”: Excellent climbers, these animals spend the majority of their time looking for food or sleeping. Raccoons are nocturnal (mostly active at night).



M3 RED FOX

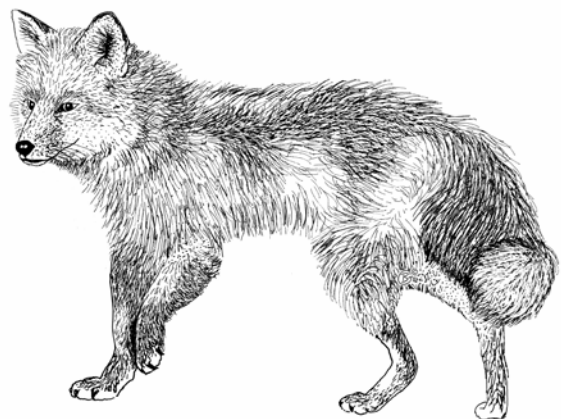
TRAITS: Thick bushy tail with white tip, black feet, with color that ranges from black, silver, red seasonally.

HABITATS: Wet prairies, forests.

FOODS: Rabbits, mice, small birds, worms, berries, wasp nests, voles, grasshoppers and carrion.

THREATS: Coyotes, automobiles.

“GEE WHIZ”: Red Foxes raise young in abandoned burrows of other animals and are active mostly at night.



M4 WESTERN GRAY SQUIRREL

TRAITS: Medium sized treetop squirrels. Grey backs with white tipped hairs. Reddish brown on ears and bushy tails.

HABITATS: Build “dreys”- round twig and leaf nests with soft inner lining between branches. Can live in hollow trees.

FOODS: Pinecones, acorns and nuts, fungi, berries, insects. Hide nuts in caches to eat later.

THREATS: Foxes, large hawks and owls.

“GEE WHIZ”: This animal does not hibernate, but instead puts on a winter coat of fat and thicker fur.



M5 NUTRIA

TRAITS: A large rodent, large as a beaver, with a long, scaly, rat-like tail, webbed hind feet, and orange front teeth.

HABITATS: Near wet prairie, emergent wetlands, lakes, and streams.

FOODS: Mostly aquatic vegetation: stems, leaves, roots, bark.

THREATS: The nutria has no natural predators.

“GEE WHIZ”: This rodent might use logs or other objects floating in its feeding area as feeding platforms. It is a pest species that burrows and often undermines stream banks resulting in erosion and sloughing.



M6 BLACK-TAILED DEER

TRAITS: Small, stocky, with antlers and a reddish brown coat in summer turning brownish gray in winter.

HABITATS: Forests, mountains, hills, in suburban human areas.

FOODS: Summer time vegetation green leaves. Winter evergreen forbs, woody browse.

THREATS: Humans, automobiles, and coyotes will eat the young.

“GEE WHIZ”: Young are born without scent and with camouflaging spots. Fawns walk within a few hours.

