

Learning Objectives

I can identify features of an animal.

We are going to start a new topic in Science.

Be Brilliant Question: –What type of animal do you think a possum is?

No cheating now - draw a picture of what you think a possum is. Think about and label the features you think a possum might have. For example, how many legs does it have? Does it have wings? What is it covered in? (fur, feathers, scales) Does it have horns?

Now look at the pictures of animals on the next page. How many of these animals can you name? Can you guess which one is a possum?

Identify the possum and research information about it.

Draw and label a picture of a possum, now that they know what one looks like. Compare it to your original drawing - what did you get right / wrong? Did anything surprise you?



What kind of animal is a possum? What do possums look like? Where do they live? What do they eat? This lesson will answer these questions and teach you lots of fun facts about possums!

What Are Possums?

You may have heard that possums like to play dead, and your mom might call it 'playing possum' when you just lay there without moving. Is this really what possums are like? Do possums really like to play dead? Keep reading to learn lots of interesting facts about possums.

A possum is a type of animal called a **marsupial**. A marsupial is an animal that carries its babies in a pouch! Possums are sometimes called opossums. They have long tails and pointy noses. They have fur that can be brown, white, or gray, and they can weigh up to 13 pounds, which is about the size of a cat. There are 60 different kinds of possums. The most well-known possum is the Virginia possum.

Where Do Possums Live?

There are 23 possum species in Australia. The most common species are the common brushtail possum and the common ringtail possum. The largest species of possum is the cuscus. Possums are also native to Papua New Guinea and Sulawesi, and are also found as an introduced species in New Zealand and China. Most possums live in the hollows of tall trees, but the common ringtail possum builds nests known as 'dreys' in bushes or trees.



Some more Possum facts and information can be found here:

<https://www.brisbanekids.com.au/fun-possum-facts-kids/>

What Do Possums Eat?

Possums are nocturnal. They search for food at night when they are awake. They eat berries, bugs, and small animals. Because they eat both plants and animals, possums are omnivores. They use their front paws to hold their food.

Possums are scavengers, which means that they look for food that people or animals have left behind. They like to eat rubbish out of people's bins!



CQ: Odd One Out- Look at these pictures of a penguin, possum and a pig.

What is the same about them? What things are different?

Which animal would you choose to be the 'odd one out'? Give reasons for your choices.

Mrs Williams says each animal could be the odd one out for a different reason - is she right?

