

Learn about Virginia Opossums!

Virginia Opossums are the only Marsupial found in the United States and Canada! They get a bad rap for getting into peoples trash and carrying diseases, but they are doing the important job of scavenging, helping to clean up dead animals and plants! Opossums also commonly eat pests such a ticks and other insects. One Opossum can eat more than 5,000 ticks without getting sick! Opossums have a very low body temperature, making them resistant to carrying diseases like rabies and resistant to snake venom!

Opossums do have a prehensile tail, however adult opossums are too heavy to hang by their tail, but baby opossums can!

Built in Pouch

Virginia Opossums are Marsupials, just like Kangaroos and Koalas! Female Opossums have a pouch to carry their babies in. A baby Opossum is born the size of a jelly bean and has to crawl into its moms pouch on its own! Once in the pouch they will drink milk and grow until they are big and strong.



Want to Learn more? Check out these links and activities!

National Geographic: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/group/opossums/>

National Wildlife Foundation: <https://blog.nwf.org/2014/07/opossums-and-gardening-a-few-things-to-know/>

NH PBS Nature Works: <https://nhpbs.org/natureworks/opossum.htm>

Omnivore Opossums

Virginia Opossums are omnivores, they will eat just about anything that they can find!
Can you unscramble some of these common Opossum foods?



CASNRO

Answer: ACORNS



DRBI GSGE

Answer: BIRD EGGS



NRIRCAO

Answer: CARRION



CKTSI

Answer: TICKS



WRMETHAOS

Answer: EARTHWORMS



REBRSIE

Answer: BERRIES