

Name _____



What Does a Raccoon Eat?

Raccoons are fascinating animals with a very diverse diet. They are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals. This ability to eat a variety of foods helps raccoons survive in many different environments, from forests to cities.

In the wild, raccoons enjoy eating fruits, nuts, and berries. These foods provide them with the energy they need to stay active at night. Raccoons also eat insects, small animals like frogs, fish, and even bird eggs. With their sharp claws and excellent sense of touch, raccoons are skilled at hunting and catching food. For example, they might use their paws to grab a fish swimming in a shallow stream or to dig for insects in the soil.

Raccoons are also well known for their love of water. They often search for food near rivers, lakes, and ponds. In addition to fish, raccoons might find crayfish or clams to eat. Scientists have observed raccoons dipping their food in water before eating it. While it is not clear exactly why they do this, it might help them clean their food or feel its texture better.

When raccoons live near people, their diet changes. In urban areas, raccoons often eat leftovers found in garbage cans or food scraps left in gardens and parks. They are very resourceful and can open containers or find ways to reach food in hard-to-access places. This ability to adapt their diet makes raccoons one of the most successful animals at living close to humans.

No matter where they live, raccoons are opportunistic eaters. This means they eat whatever food is available to them. Their flexible diet allows them to thrive in a wide range of habitats. From the forest to the city, raccoons use their intelligence and curiosity to find food and survive.