

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## What Role Does a Raccoon Play in the Ecosystem?

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Raccoons' eating habits, like controlling pests and spreading seeds, help plants grow and protect other animals from pests.
2. If raccoons disappeared, pest populations could increase, and seed dispersal might decrease, affecting ecosystems.
3. People can balance living near raccoons by securing trash and protecting natural habitats while appreciating raccoons' role in the ecosystem.
4. Scavenging is important because it helps clean the environment and recycles nutrients into the ecosystem.

