

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## How Does a Raccoon Move?

Raccoons are agile and adaptable animals known for their ability to move in various ways. Although they cannot fly, raccoons are excellent climbers, swimmers, and runners. These skills help them survive in the wild by escaping predators, finding food, and navigating their environment.

One of a raccoon's most impressive abilities is climbing. Raccoons have sharp claws and strong back legs that allow them to scale trees, fences, and even buildings with ease. They often climb trees to escape predators or to find a safe place to rest during the day. Their tails also help them balance while climbing, making them even more efficient in the trees.

Raccoons are also great swimmers. They use their strong limbs to paddle through water with ease. Swimming helps raccoons catch food like fish, frogs, and crayfish. It also allows them to cross rivers or ponds to explore new areas. Raccoons can swim for long distances if necessary, showing their endurance in the water.

On land, raccoons are quick and nimble runners. Although they are not the fastest animals, they can run at speeds of up to 15 miles per hour for short distances. This speed helps them escape predators like coyotes and dogs. Raccoons also use their intelligence to avoid danger, often zigzagging while running to confuse their pursuers.

One unique feature of raccoons is their dexterous front paws. These paws work like hands and allow raccoons to grip objects, climb, and even open containers. This ability gives them an edge when moving through challenging environments, such as urban areas with trash cans and fences.

Whether they are climbing trees, swimming across rivers, or darting through fields, raccoons are well-equipped to move efficiently in their habitats. Their combination of strength, agility, and intelligence makes them one of the most adaptable animals in nature.