

## Opossums



An adult opossum is about the size of a big cat. When the mother gives birth, she may have seven or more babies. She has a pouch like a kangaroo.

Each baby opossum is the size of a honeybee. At first, they stay inside the mother's pouch. After about two months, the babies leave the mother's pouch. They are still small. The mother can carry the babies on her back. The baby opossums grow quickly. Soon the young animals are on their own.

An adult opossum has long gray fur on its body. Its face is white. It has black ears. The opossum has a pointed snout with a pink nose. Its tail and feet are pink, too. It has a mouth full of fifty sharp teeth. An opossum has a very useful tail. This tail is almost a foot long with very little hair. An opossum can use this tail to grab onto things. Its tail helps it hold onto tree branches. On each hind foot, an opossum has a thumb. These thumbs help it grab onto things, too.

These animals are known for "playing possum." When rattled by a predator, they lie still and don't move at all 'until the threat goes away.

**1. What is the main topic of the passage?**

- A. The main topic is about opossums and cats.
- B. The main topic is about opossums and their babies.
- C. The main topic is about animals and their babies.

**2. What size is an adult opossum?**

- A. about the size of a big cat
- B. about the size of a honeybee
- C. about the size of seven baby opossums

**3. Look at the first picture. What is the mother opossum doing?**

- A. She is carrying a cat.
- B. She is hanging from her tail.
- C. She is carrying her babies.

**4. How long is an opossum's tail?**

- A. as long as a honeybee

B. about a foot

C. as long as a big cat

**5. How long is an opossum's tail?**

A. as long as a honeybee

B. about a foot

C. as long as a big cat

**6. What helps an opossum grab onto things?**

A. its tail and the thumbs on its back feet

B. the babies in its pouch

C. the fifty sharp teeth in its mouth

**7. "The mother carries the babies on her back." Choose the correct meaning of back.**

A. to move away from something

B. the color black

C. the part of the body opposite the front

**8. "The opossum has a pointed snout." Choose the correct meaning of pointed.**

A. showed where something is

B. having a sharp end

C. to point out in the past

**9. "The tail is almost a foot long." Choose the correct meaning of foot.**

A. a length of twelve inches

B. the body part at the end of a leg

C. having twelve toes

**10. "The opossum grabs tree branches with its tail." Choose the correct meaning of tail.**

A. to follow around

B. the body part at the end of an opossum

C. a type of story

**11. "The babies leave the mother's pouch after two months." Choose the correct meaning of leave.**

A. the green parts at the ends of a tree branch

B. to go away

C. to learn something after two months