


## Raccoons Adaptations

Label the structural adaptations S and behavioural adaptations B or SB for both.



A raccoon's diet is not limited in the forests as they are agile fishers and can carry their meals across rivers and streams with their strong hands.

Being excellent climbers, raccoons avoid predators and when encountering one, they can quickly climb trees and defend themselves.

Raccoons have solid bone structures that can withstand falls up to 40 feet and suffer no injuries.

Raccoons do not hibernate, however, they sleep for extended periods of time in the winter and survive off their stored fat.

Human-like hands that allow a raccoon to search for food in hard to reach places and to climb on anything.

Raccoons can eat just about anything. They eat berries, seeds, insects, frogs, mice and even rubbish.

Raccoons natural habitat is in forests. Raccoons are adaptable when it comes to finding a home and will live anywhere such as tree stump hollows, caves, woodchuck burrows, deserted buildings or attics of occupied buildings.

Raccoons have powerful legs and are incredibly fast runners and strong swimmers.

Raccoons have sharp teeth and claws

Raccoons can hold their own against some predators, fighting off animals almost twice their size with fierce tenacity.

The main defence the animal has in avoiding most predators is its nocturnal lifestyle.

Choose one response for Part A, and one response for Part B, to complete the statements below.

**Part A/ hands - strong bones - powerful legs - claws    Part B/ behavioural - structural**

Raccoons normally live in a forest environment. As a result, they need the ability to climb trees, for protection and to find food. (A) \_\_\_\_\_ are a (B) \_\_\_\_\_ adaptation that helps them

**Part A/ hands - strong bones - powerful legs - claws    Part B/ behavioural - structural**

Because Raccoons often hunt in rivers and streams, they need to be good swimmers. (A) \_\_\_\_\_ are a (B) \_\_\_\_\_ adaptation that enables them to do this.

**Part A/ hands - strong bones - powerful legs - claws    Part B/ behavioural - structural**

When food is scarce in their natural environment, Raccoons will search for food in towns and cities. This is a (B) \_\_\_\_\_ adaptation. (A) \_\_\_\_\_ are a (B) \_\_\_\_\_ adaptation that enables them to search for food in hard to reach places like bins and drains.

**Part A/ hands - strong bones - powerful legs - claws    Part B/ behavioural - structural**

Moving from a forest to an urban environment is a (B) \_\_\_\_\_ adaptation. In urban environments. Raccoons must be able to climb houses, fences and other man-made structures. (A) \_\_\_\_\_ are (B) \_\_\_\_\_ adaptations that enable this.

**Choose your own words from the text to finish the sentences below.**

Raccoons are found in North America which has a \_\_\_\_\_ climate. As a result, winters can be very cold and the weather can be wet and snowy. During this time Raccoons will sleep for long periods which is similar to \_\_\_\_\_. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ adaptation that helps Raccoons to \_\_\_\_\_.