



Guess what, the common gray fox is not just any ordinary fox! Its fur is a lovely mix of white, red, gray, and black, with a bushy tail that usually has a black stripe running along its top. This little fox is about the size of a small dog, but don't let its size fool you! Its sharp claws and agile body make it a very skillful and interesting creature.



Speaking of skillful, did you know that gray foxes are excellent climbers? They live in various habitats including forests, grasslands, and even suburban areas, making trees their homes or dens under the ground. These foxes are found all over North and Central America. So, if you happen to see a fox up in a tree, it's probably a gray fox!

Just like us humans, gray foxes enjoy a varied diet. Their menu includes small mammals like rabbits and mice, as well as birds, insects, and even plants and fruits. In fact, gray foxes are the only canines in the world that can climb trees, often doing so to hunt or to escape predators. They are also mostly nocturnal, which means they hunt for food at night.



You might be wondering, how do these foxes interact with humans and other animals? Well, gray foxes are usually shy and avoid people, but they are known to occasionally make themselves at home in our yards and gardens. They also play a vital role in the ecosystem by controlling the population of small rodents and insects. So, next time you think of a fox, remember our friend the common gray fox, a unique and fascinating member of the canine family.



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) How big is a gray fox?
  - A. The size of a cat
  - B. The size of a mouse
  - C. The size of a bear
  - D. About the size of a small dog
- 2) Can gray foxes climb trees?
  - A. No, they are too heavy
  - B. No, they cannot climb trees
  - C. Yes, they are the only canines in the world that can climb trees
  - D. No, they can only jump to catch birds
- 3) When do gray foxes hunt for food?
  - A. At night
  - B. In the afternoon
  - C. All day
  - D. In the morning
- 4) Do gray foxes live in Africa?
  - A. No, they live in North and Central America
  - B. No, they live only in South America
  - C. Yes, they are commonly found in different parts of Africa
  - D. No, they inhabit the forests of Europe
- 5) Where might you find gray foxes living?
  - A. In bushes or shrubs
  - B. On river banks
  - C. In dens underground
  - D. Out in the open
- 6) What kind of diet do gray foxes have?
  - A. Insectivore
  - B. Carnivore
  - C. Omnivore
  - D. Herbivore
- 7) How do gray foxes interact with humans?
  - A. They are curious and follow people
  - B. They are friendly and approach people
  - C. They are aggressive and attack people
  - D. They are usually shy and avoid people
- 8) What family does the gray fox belong to?
  - A. The bird family
  - B. The feline family
  - C. The canine family
  - D. The rodent family
- 9) What colors can you find in gray fox fur?
  - A. Brown, gray, black and white
  - B. Brown, yellow, black and white
  - C. White, red, gray and black
  - D. Yellow, green, red and black
- 10) What role do gray foxes play in the ecosystem?
  - A. They destroy crops
  - B. They create imbalance in the ecosystem
  - C. They spread diseases
  - D. They control the population of small rodents and insects



**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).**

- 11) "You might find us in forests, grasslands or even in residential areas."
- 12) "Night hunting is certainly not my thing, you'll find me active during the day."
- 13) "I only eat meat, no fruits or veggies for me."
- 14) "While we mostly dine on small mammals like rabbits and mice, we do enjoy birds, insects, and even plants and fruits as part of our diet."
- 15) "When you see us up a tree, you'll know it's no ordinary fox because we're the only kind in the world that can climb trees."
- 16) "My fur is quite dull, just gray all over."
- 17) "You'll find us all over North and Central America."
- 18) "We might look small and cute, but don't underestimate our skills. Our sharp claws and agile body make us excellent hunters."

**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 19) The diet of common gray foxes can include small mammals, birds, insects, plants, and fruits.
- 20) The fact that gray foxes can live in suburban areas and hunt for food there is really impressive.
- 21) Common gray foxes call North and Central America their home.
- 22) It's surprising that gray foxes hunt for food at night.
- 23) Common gray foxes have fur that can be a combination of white, red, grey, and black.
- 24) The mix of white, red, gray, and black colors in a gray fox's fur make it the most beautiful animal.
- 25) Common gray foxes are mostly nocturnal.
- 26) Common gray foxes can be found in various places including forests, grasslands, and suburban areas.
- 27) Gray foxes are a more interesting type of fox than red foxes.
- 28) It's amazing that gray foxes can climb trees.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 29) Gray foxes are nocturnal.
- 30) Gray foxes only hunt during the day.
- 31) Gray foxes are the only canines in the world that can climb trees.
- 32) Gray foxes only can be found in grasslands.
- 33) Gray foxes can be found in North America.
- 34) The only thing gray foxes eat is small rodents and insects.
- 35) Gray foxes live only in North America.
- 36) Gray foxes do not have tails.
- 37) Gray foxes have a mix of white, red, gray, and black fur.



38) Gray foxes can find homes in trees.

**Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.**

39) They've got a varied diet, and they eat both plants and animals.

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| A. they will | B. they have |
| C. they are  | D. they had  |

40) Gray foxes can live near humans, but they'll usually avoid contact.

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| A. they will | B. they can |
| C. they have | D. they are |

41) Gray foxes aren't just gray, they've got reddish and white fur too.

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| A. are able | B. do not  |
| C. will not | D. are not |

42) Gray foxes don't just live in forests, they can live in grasslands and suburbs too.

- |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| A. do not | B. does not |
| C. cannot | D. did not  |

43) Did you know they're great climbers and can even climb trees?

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| A. they do  | B. they will |
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**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

44) Gray foxes are omnivores, meaning they eat both meat and plants.

45) How fast can gray foxes run?

46) Gray foxes have a bushy tail.

47) Gray foxes are native to North and Central America.

48) Can gray foxes climb trees?

49) Do gray foxes have good eyesight?



- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 28. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 29. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 30. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 31. _____ |
| 7. _____  | 32. _____ |
| 8. _____  | 33. _____ |
| 9. _____  | 34. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 35. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 36. _____ |
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| 19. _____ | 44. _____ |
| 20. _____ | 45. _____ |
| 21. _____ | 46. _____ |
| 22. _____ | 47. _____ |
| 23. _____ | 48. _____ |
| 24. _____ | 49. _____ |
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C. will not                                        D. are not

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- A. do not    B. does not  
C. cannot     D. did not

43) Did you know they're great climbers and can even climb trees?

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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>        | 26. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>          |
| 2. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 27. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 3. <u>          <b>A</b>          </u>        | 28. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 4. <u>          <b>A</b>          </u>        | 29. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 5. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 30. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 6. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 31. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 7. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>        | 32. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 8. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 33. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 9. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 34. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 10. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>       | 35. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 11. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 36. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 12. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 37. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 13. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 38. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 14. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 39. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>             |
| 15. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 40. <u>          <b>A</b>          </u>             |
| 16. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 41. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>             |
| 17. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 42. <u>          <b>A</b>          </u>             |
| 18. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 43. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>             |
| 19. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>    | 44. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 20. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u> | 45. <u>          <b>interrogative</b>          </u> |
| 21. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>    | 46. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 22. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u> | 47. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 23. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>    | 48. <u>          <b>interrogative</b>          </u> |
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  - A. The bird family
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  - C. The canine family
  - D.
- 9) What colors can you find in gray fox fur? (paragraph 1)
  - A.
  - B. Brown, yellow, black and white
  - C. White, red, gray and black
  - D.
- 10) What role do gray foxes play in the ecosystem? (paragraph 4)
  - A. They destroy crops
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