

Foxes – Skimming and Scanning Task

Foxes are part of the dog family. They can live for up to 14 years. Foxes are quite small. Most foxes weigh only 6 to 8 pounds. They are just a little bit bigger than a cat.

Foxes have long, bushy tails and narrow faces. They have small tummies so they eat many small meals every day. They eat just about anything. Their large triangular ears help them to listen out for all the rodents. This means that they are really good at hunting mice, rabbits and squirrels. Foxes sometimes catch mice just to play with them, rather than eating them. When they become bored, they let the mouse go! They also eat birds, bugs and lizards. If they live near people, they might eat dog food or fruits and berries from your garden. Sometimes, they snatch chickens from the chicken coop!

We don't usually see foxes as they are nocturnal animals, which means that they are usually up at night, when we are asleep. Foxes live just about everywhere — in the countryside, cities, forests, mountains, grasslands, dens in the ground and old trees. Arctic foxes live in cold climates far north, and Fennec foxes live in the North African desert.

A female fox is called a vixen and a male fox is called a dog. Baby foxes are called pups, kits or cubs. A group of foxes is called a skulk or a leash. There is usually one female fox and she is the boss. She is the only one in her area that has babies. The other adult foxes help her raise the pups.

Skimming and Scanning Challenge

1. The word 'foxes' appears 12 times. Underline them all in red.
2. The word 'them' appears 3 times. Underline them all in blue.
3. The word 'the' appears 11 times. Underline them all in green.
4. The word 'they' appears 14 times. Underline them all in purple.

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