

Foxes – Skimming and Scanning Task

Foxes are a distinctive relative of the wolf which belongs to the dog family. They can live for up to 14 years in captive and around two years in the wild. In addition foxes are quite small with most of them weighing around 6 to 8 pounds. Foxes are generally solitary animals; unlike wolves, they hunt on their own rather than in packs.

Foxes have long, bushy tails and narrow faces. Additionally, they have small stomachs so they eat small meals every day and will eat just about anything. Moreover, they have incredible hearing due to their large triangular ears which help them to listen out for all the rodents. This enables them to be fantastic hunters. Foxes can reportedly hear a watch ticking 40 yards away!

These mammals like to hunt at night and are nocturnal. This can change, though, depending on where the fox pack lives. If they live in a place where they feel safe, a fox pack may hunt during the daytime. They are great night-time predators because their eyes are specially adapted to night vision. Foxes are omnivores and their diet can consist of small animals, such as lizards, voles, rats, mice, rabbits and hares. Sometimes foxes catch mice just to play with them, rather than eating them. When they become bored, they let the mouse go! Occasionally, they snatch chickens from the chicken coop!

Foxes usually live in forested areas but can be found in mountains, grasslands and deserts. They make their homes by digging burrows in the ground. These burrows, also called dens, provide a cool area to sleep, a good location to store food and a safe place to have their pups. The burrows have several exits so that they can flee if a predator enters.

There are many different types of foxes, one being the red fox. This is the most common type; it is usually the fox that we refer to when we discuss foxes. Another type of fox is the arctic fox. These foxes live in cold climates in the far north and have deep, thick fur to keep them warm. The Fennec fox lives in the North African desert and is the smallest of all the different types, weighing just 2 to 3 pounds. Their feet are hairy, which helps protect them from extremely hot sand and helps them to dig underground dens.

Female foxes are called vixens whilst a male fox is called a dog. Baby foxes are called pups, kits or cubs and a group of foxes is called a skulk or a leash. There is usually one female fox who is the boss and 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 15 times. Underline them all in red.
2. The word 'them' appears 8 times. Underline them all in blue.
3. The word 'the' appears 23 times. Underline them all in green.
4. The word 'they' appears 13 times. Underline them all in purple.
5. Circle the word 'fox' in red. How many are there? _____
6. Circle the word 'pups' in blue. How many are there? _____
7. Circle the word 'which' in green. How many are there? _____
8. Circle the word 'eat' in purple. How many are there? _____

Circle the correct answer to complete each sentence. Use skimming and scanning techniques to find the evidence in the text.

9. Foxes have long, bushy tails and narrow...

cheeks.	faces.	legs.	eyes.
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10. Foxes' feet are hairy, which helps protect them from extremely hot...

food.	mud.	sand.	soil.
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11. Baby foxes are called...

kittens.	pups.	chicks.	Foxes.
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12. There is usually one female fox who is the...

youngest.	prettiest.	best.	boss.
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13. Foxes like to hunt at...

night.	day.	morning.	afternoon.
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14. Foxes eat a variety of food. They are...

hungry.	herbivores.	omnivores.	carnivores.
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15. Foxes are really good night time predators due to their...

smell.	body.	eyes.	feet.
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Foxes have long, bushy tails and narrow faces. Additionally, **they** have small stomachs so **they** **eat** small meals every day and will **eat** just about anything. Moreover, **they** have incredible hearing due to their large triangular ears **which** help **them** to listen out for all **the** rodents. This enables **them** to be fantastic hunters. **Foxes** can reportedly hear a watch ticking 40 yards away!

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