Raccoons

Elizabeth Russell-Arnot



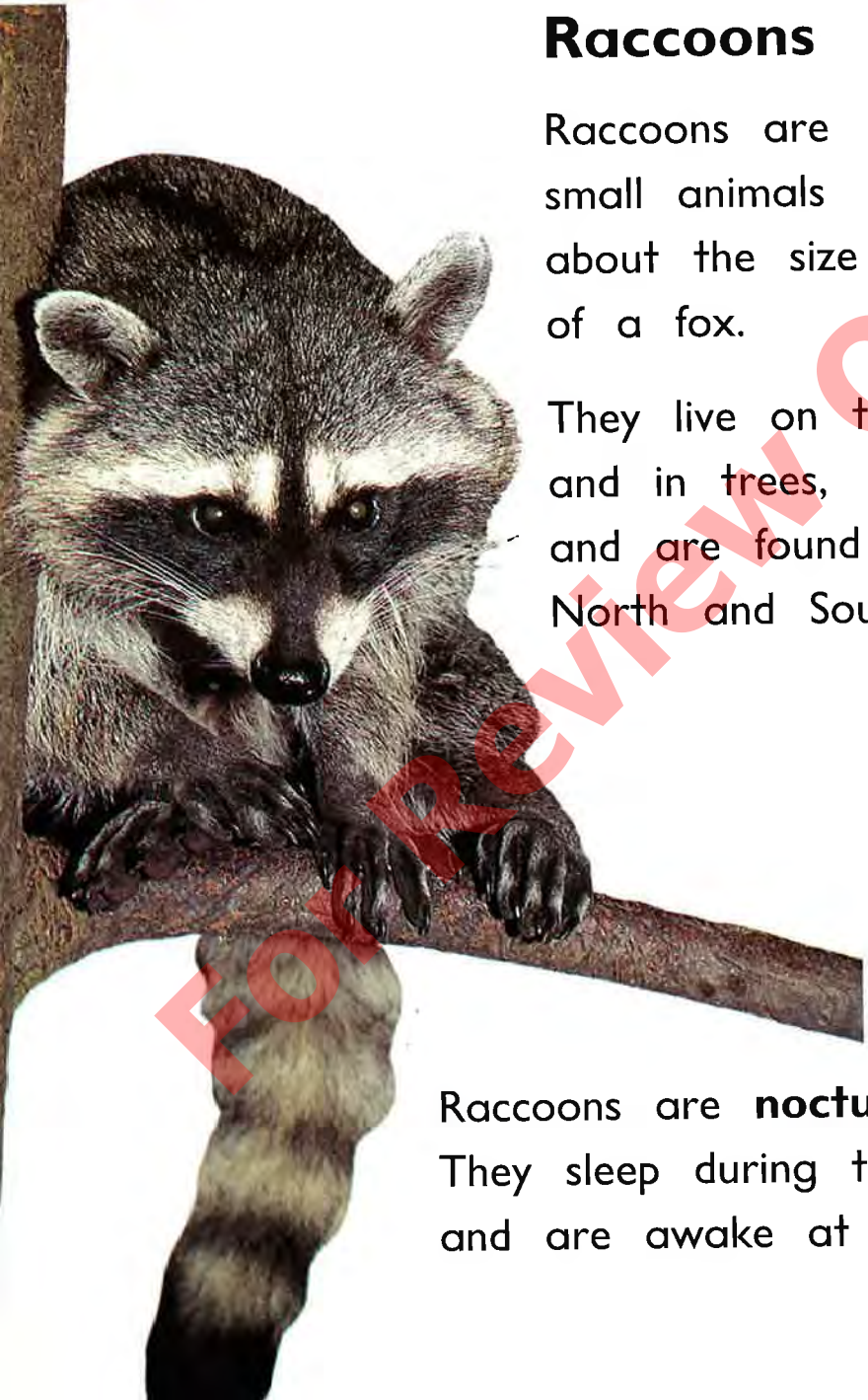
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Raccoons

Raccoons are small animals about the size of a fox.

They live on the ground and in trees, and are found in North and South America.

Raccoons are **nocturnal** animals. They sleep during the day and are awake at night.

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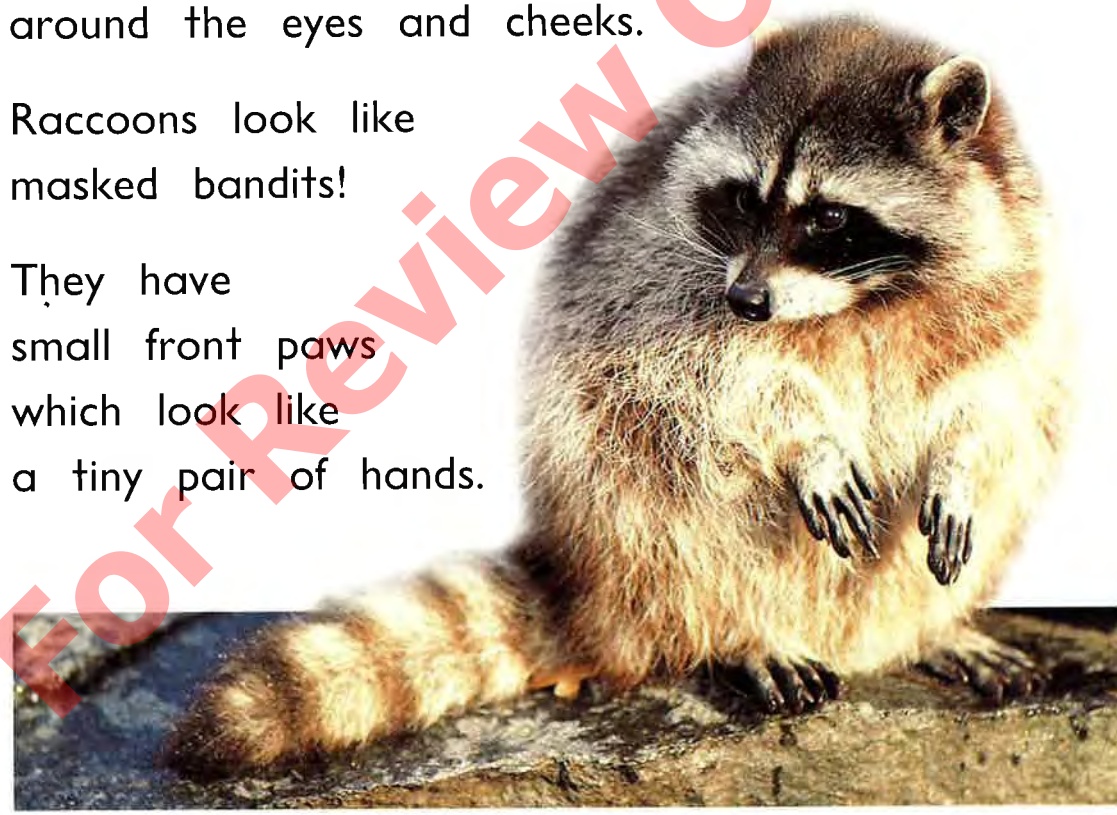
What raccoons look like

Raccoons have thick fur and long bushy tails with black and grey rings around them.

They have black markings,
like masks,
around the eyes and cheeks.

Raccoons look like
masked bandits!

They have
small front paws
which look like
a tiny pair of hands.



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What is a raccoon's tail like?

Raccoon homes

A raccoon's home is called a **den**.



Sometimes the den is in a hollow tree. Sometimes it is a hole among rocks. It may be the old underground home of another animal, such as a skunk.

The den is a safe place for a raccoon to sleep in during the daytime.

A raccoon's tail is long and bushy with black and grey rings.

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On a warm day,
a raccoon may climb into a tree
and lie in the fork of a branch,
or in an empty bird's nest.



A raccoon likes sleeping in the sun.

When does a raccoon sleep in its den?

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Raccoons in autumn

During the autumn,
raccoons eat a lot of food.
They become very fat and move slowly.

When winter comes and food is scarce,
the extra fat helps them to stay alive.

Raccoons also grow a very thick
coat of fur to keep them warm.



A raccoon sleeps in its den
during the daytime.

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Raccoons in winter

Raccoons that live in very cold parts of North America sleep in their dens for long periods during winter, and only come out on warmer days.

Raccoons that live in warmer places are active all year round.



Do all raccoons stay in their dens during winter?

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