

The background features a light cream color with scattered autumn-themed illustrations. At the top, there are various leaves in shades of orange, red, and blue-grey. On the left, a large grey raccoon stands upright, looking towards the center. On the right, another large grey raccoon is partially visible, also looking towards the center. In the bottom center, a dark grey raccoon with a striped tail is shown from the side. To its right, a smaller brown raccoon is jumping or running towards the right. The text is centered over these illustrations.

# Raccoon Rampage: Natural Selection in Action

# Forest Raccoon

**Thick, Dark Fur:** Helps with camouflage in dense forest environments.

- **Long, Flexible Tail:** Used for balance when climbing trees and navigating dense canopies.
- **Sharp Claws:** Useful for climbing trees to escape predators and access food.
- **Large Eyes:** Adapted for seeing in low light, as they are primarily nocturnal.
- **Habitat:** Dense, tropical rainforests with abundant tree cover.
- **Adaptation Benefits:** Well adapted for an arboreal lifestyle, they excel at avoiding predators by climbing trees and using their nocturnal abilities to forage for fruits, insects, and small animals.





# Urban Raccoon



**Shorter, Grayer Fur:** Camouflages well in urban settings where they can blend into concrete, shadows, and debris.

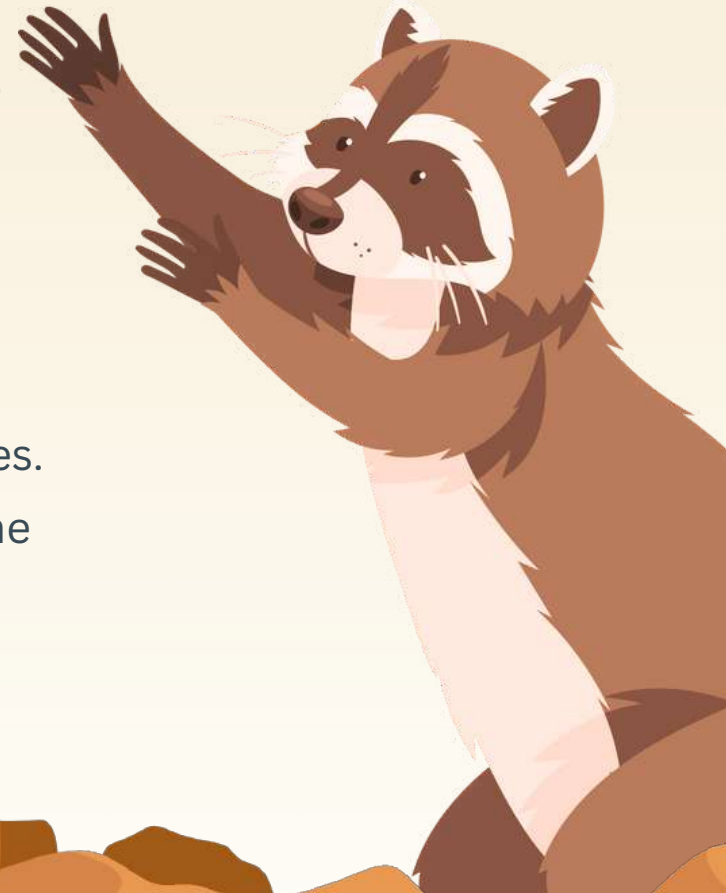
- **Small Ears:** Adapted to reduce heat loss in cities, where it's often warmer due to human activity.
- **Large, Dexterous Paws:** Highly skilled in opening trash cans, breaking into containers, and manipulating objects.
- **Exposed Nose:** Slightly larger and more sensitive to smells, helping them locate food scraps.

**Habitat:** Cities, suburbs, and human-occupied areas.

**Adaptation Benefits:** Highly adaptable to urban environments, they thrive by scavenging human waste, using structures for shelter, and navigating in the dark.

# Desert Raccoon

- **Light-colored Fur:** Reflects heat and helps with temperature regulation during the day.
  - **Thinner Fur Coat:** Reduces heat retention and allows them to withstand extreme temperatures.
  - **Large Ears:** Help dissipate heat, as they have a large surface area for heat exchange.
  - **Elongated Limbs:** Allows them to move efficiently in the hot, open terrain and increase their surface area for cooling.
  - **Sandy-colored Paws:** Help them blend into the desert sand and provide better traction.
- **Habitat:** Hot, dry deserts with scarce water and food sources.
- **Adaptation Benefits:** These raccoons are well adapted to the desert's extreme heat and can survive with little water, foraging at night and resting during the heat of the day.





# Swamp Raccoon

**Webbed Feet:** Allows efficient swimming and movement in swampy, wet environments.

- **Prehensile Tail:** Used for balance in marshy, waterlogged areas and to help maneuver through dense vegetation.
- **Shorter Fur:** Keeps them from getting waterlogged, while their coat still offers some insulation in colder water.
- **Flat Snout:** Adapted to foraging in mud and shallow water for small aquatic animals and plants.
- **Large Claws:** Help dig through soft soil and muddy banks for food.

**Habitat:** Wetlands, swamps, and marshes with dense vegetation and abundant water.

- **Adaptation Benefits:** Swamp raccoons are excellent swimmers, foraging for aquatic plants, fish, and small animals in wetlands. Their adaptations help them thrive in environments where other raccoons might struggle.



# Raccoon Nursery





# Food Abundance

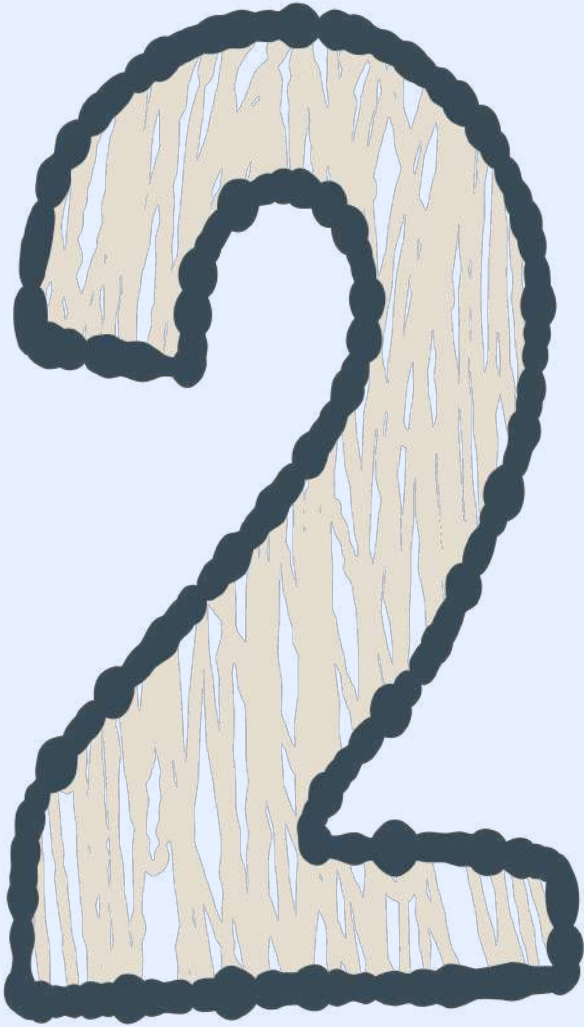
**Description:** The environment is rich in food sources, including fruits, small animals, and plant life.

**Outcome:** Populations with good access to food sources will grow.

- **Forest Raccoon:** (+1 member) Thrives with abundant fruits and small prey in the forest canopy.
- **Urban Raccoon:** (+1 member) Thrives on abundant human food waste.
- **Desert Raccoon:** (+1 member) Survives on cacti, desert fruits, and small animals.
- **Swamp Raccoon:** (+1 member) Thrives in the swamp with abundant aquatic food sources.



# Urban Expansion



**Description:** Human cities and suburban areas expand, creating new food sources and shelter.

**Outcome:** Urban-adapted species benefit the most.

- **Urban Raccoon:** (+1 member) Benefits from human food waste and new urban areas for shelter.
- **Forest Raccoon:** (+1 member) Adapts by exploring the edges of urban areas for food.
- **Desert Raccoon:** (+0 members) May find food in undeveloped parts of the city, but not a significant increase.
- **Swamp Raccoon:** (+1 member) May adapt to suburban wetland areas.



# Climatte Warming

**Description:** Human cities and suburban areas expand, creating new food sources and shelter.

**Outcome:** Urban-adapted species benefit the most.

- **Urban Raccoon:** (+1 member) Benefits from human food waste and new urban areas for shelter.
- **Forest Raccoon:** (+1 member) Adapts by exploring the edges of urban areas for food.
- **Desert Raccoon:** (+0 members) May find food in undeveloped parts of the city, but not a significant increase.
- **Swamp Raccoon:** (+1 member) May adapt to suburban wetland areas.



# Shelter Availability



**Description:** More shelters (e.g., tree cavities, burrows, urban structures) become available, providing safety from predators and weather.

**Outcome:** Populations with shelter-seeking traits benefit.

- **Urban Raccoon:** (+1 member) Thrives with easy access to human-built structures for shelter.
- **Swamp Raccoon:** (+1 member) Can shelter in trees or swampy environments.
- **Forest Raccoon:** (+1 member) Benefits from abundant tree shelters in the jungle.
- **Desert Raccoon:** (+1 member) Finds shelter in rocks and burrows, avoiding the sun's heat.

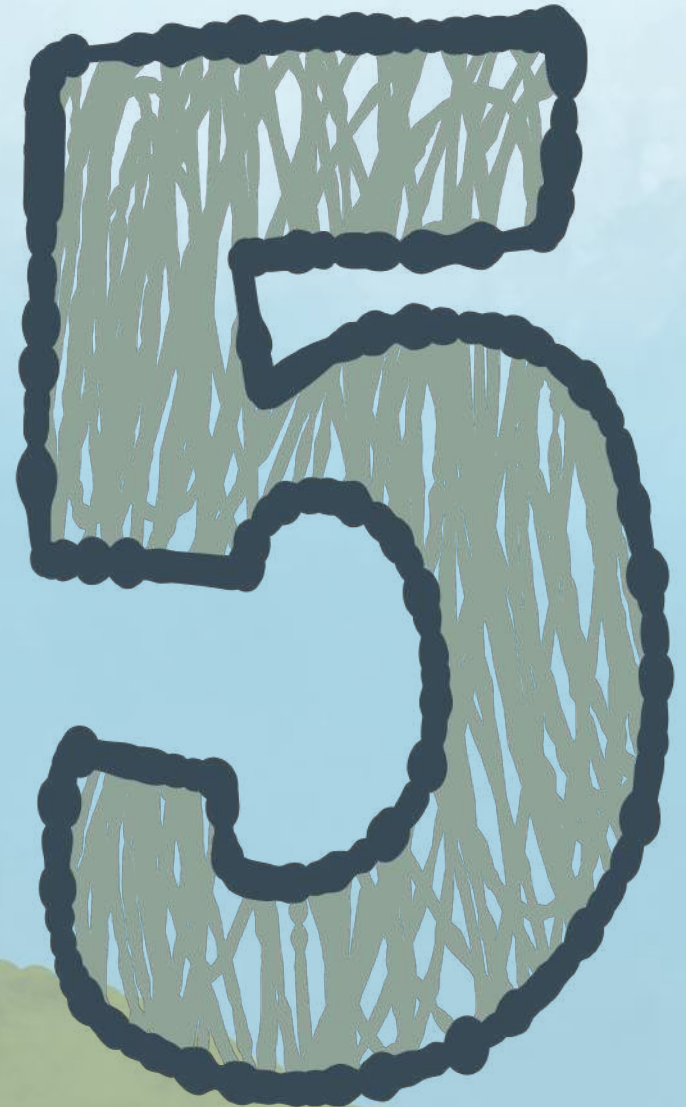


# Decreased Predator Activity

**Description:** Fewer predators are present, allowing populations to increase.

**Outcome:** Populations that are vulnerable to predators benefit.

- **Forest Raccoon:** (+1 member) More freedom to forage and reproduce.
- **Urban Raccoon:** (+1 member) Benefits from fewer predators in urban areas.
- **Desert Raccoon:** (+1 member) Thrives in the absence of predators.
- **Swamp Raccoon:** (+1 member) Can reproduce without the threat of large predators in swamps.



# Food Security Program



**Description:** A community or organization sets up a food program, providing food for all animals.

**Outcome:** All populations benefit equally from easy food access.

- **Forest Raccoon:** (+1 member) Gains easy access to food.
- **Urban Raccoon:** (+1 member) Benefits from organized food distribution.
- **Desert Raccoon:** (+1 member) Benefits from supplemental food sources.
- **Swamp Raccoon:** (+1 member) Gains easy food access.



# Intense Drought

**Description:** A severe drought dries up water sources and reduces plant life.

**Outcome:** Populations with limited water adaptations struggle.

- **Forest Raccoon:** (-1 member) Struggles with limited food and water.
- **Urban Raccoon:** (-1 member) Faces water shortages and reduced food supply.
- **Desert Raccoon:** (+0 members) Survives, but under stress due to scarce resources.
- **Swamp Raccoon:** (-1 member) Suffers from the drying of wetlands.

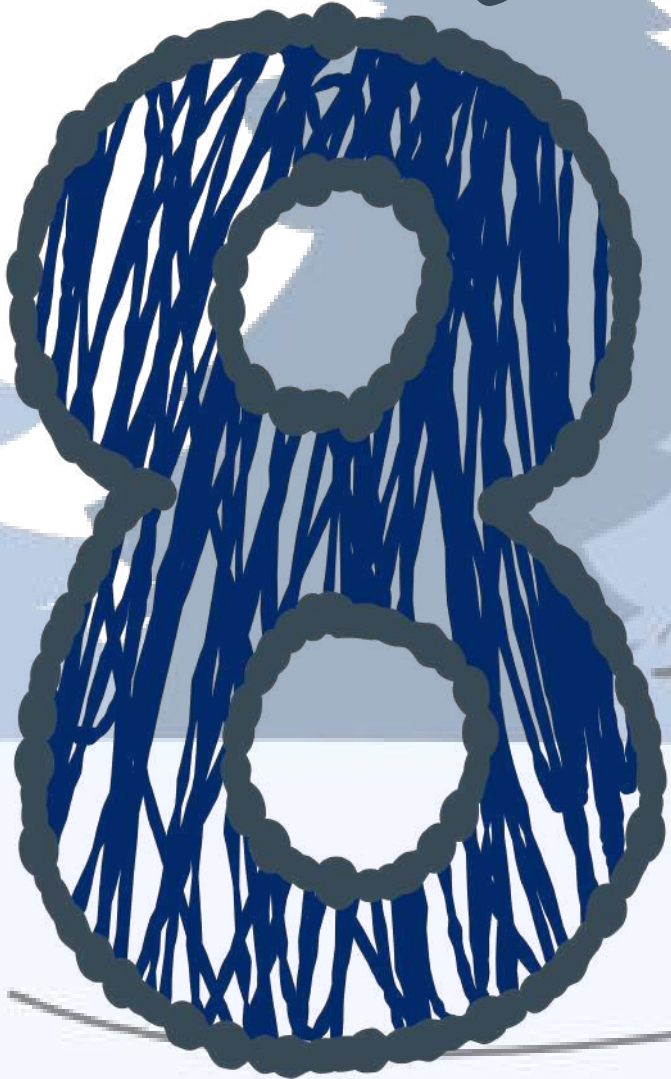


# Extreme Cold

**Description:** A prolonged cold front affects the environment.

**Outcome:** Populations that are not adapted for cold struggle.

- **Forest Raccoon:** (-1 member)  
Struggles in freezing temperatures.
- **Urban Raccoon:** (-1 member) Faces difficulty in unseasonably cold conditions.
- **Desert Raccoon:** (-1 member) Not adapted to cold weather.
- **Swamp Raccoon:** (-1 member)  
Struggles with the cold and frozen wetlands.





# Habitat Destruction

- **Description:** Description: Human activities destroy natural habitats.
- **Outcome:** Populations that depend on specific habitats suffer.
- **Forest Raccoon:** (-1 member)  
Struggles with deforestation.
- **Urban Raccoon:** (+0 members)  
Some urban areas remain, but they face pollution.
- **Desert Raccoon:** (-1 member)  
Suffers from habitat loss.
- **Swamp Raccoon:** (-1 member)  
Suffers from wetland destruction.



# Pollution Surge



**Description:** A sudden increase in pollution contaminates food and water.

**Outcome:** Populations that depend on clean environments suffer.

- **Forest Raccoon:** (-1 member)  
Suffers from polluted forest areas.
- **Urban Raccoon:** (-1 member)  
Suffers from polluted city environments.
- **Desert Raccoon:** (-1 member) Faces pollution affecting desert resources.
- **Swamp Raccoon:** (-1 member)  
Suffers from polluted water sources.



# Competitor Overpopulation

**Description:** An increase in competing species forces populations to compete for resources.

**Outcome:** Populations that cannot outcompete others will suffer.

- **Forest Raccoon:** (-1 member) Faces competition from other omnivores.
- **Urban Raccoon:** (-1 member)  
Competes for food with other urban animals.
- **Desert Raccoon:** (-1 member) Faces increased competition in desert habitats.
- **Swamp Raccoon:** (-1 member)  
Competes for swamp food with other animals.



# Disease Outbreak

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**Description:** An increase in competing species forces populations to compete for resources.

**Outcome:** Populations that cannot outcompete others will suffer.

- **Forest Raccoon:** (-1 member) Faces competition from other omnivores.
- **Urban Raccoon:** (-1 member)  
Competes for food with other urban animals.
- **Desert Raccoon:** (-1 member) Faces increased competition in desert habitats.
- **Swamp Raccoon:** (-1 member)  
Competes for swamp food with other animals.