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Creativity in Nature: The Raccoon



Raccoons are known as North America's furry bandit. Even Christopher Columbus referred to them in his journal in 1492 and took several back to Europe. They were hunted and prized for their fur in the early days of America's history. They live across America over a wide range of habitats, but usually near water.

Curious creatures, raccoons will find creative ways to explore and reach what they want.

Their front paws look more like hands with delicate fingers, which equips them to unlatch hooks, turn doorknobs, and unscrew lids. Most trashcans are unsafe around raccoons and they can open almost any lock.

They are creative in finding their food along streamside, running their delicate "fingers" across the rocks to catch crayfish that reach out to pinch their fingers. Their "fingers" are also able to slip into a clamshell to reach the meat inside. Since raccoons are very adaptable in their eating habits and creative in reaching food, they thrive in almost any environment.

