

WILDLIFE X-POSURE

WILD KIDZ VIDZ ACTIVITY SHEET



POSSUMS

Lead photo: The airborne marsupial, the Squirrel Glider Possum

Xavier and Luca were very busy building and painting nesting boxes for the new enclosure, the “Possum Palace” at their zoo.

* What other animals use nesting boxes in trees if they are available?

* What could be used as a nesting box if you can't build one? (What did Xavier use?)

* Why do the wildlife animals use these nesting boxes?

* Do you remember how long it takes for a hollow to form naturally in a tree?

* Xavier and Luca used re-cycled (old, used before) timber to build the boxes Why?

* Why did they put a piece of hollow log on the entrance of the possum box?

* What other types of possums did Xavier mention?

* Did you see how many species of possums there are in Australia?

* What is UNIQUE about possums like the Squirrel Glider Possums?

* How are they ADAPTED to be able to do this?

* Xavier told us they are INSECTIVOROUS and NECTIVOROUS which means they eat

* How do they help the environment?

* What other type of possum does Xavier have at his zoo?

* What ADAPTATION do they have to help them in their ARBOREAL (tree) habitat?

* They certainly make a lot of noise for little guys. Sounds a bit like a chain saw.
How does that help them?

* It's sad to know that around 300 of our native animal species are now listed as
ENDANGERED.

*What were the 2 main threats to possums that Xavier mentioned?

* Can you think of some things you could do to help possums and other wildlife in your neighbourhood?

POSSUM FACT FILE:

Possums are **MAMMALS**.

They are VERTIBRATES with backbones like us, their babies drink milk, like us, and they have hair, like us.

Possums are **MARSUPIALS**.

Their babies are born very early and develop fully in a pouch, not like us, but like our other very famous marsupials, kangaroos, wallabies, wombats and koalas.

Possums are **NOCTURNAL**.

They sleep in the day, and are out and about at night.

Possums are **CUTE!**

HOW CUTE do you think they are compared to our other native marsupials?

*Can you put your favourites on the CUTE-O-METER below.

Maybe draw them in order, from your “least cute” to your “most cute”.

Of course they are ALL cute, butI’m “THE CUTEST”.



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