



Nature's Nursery Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation Education at Blue Creek Conservation Area  
PO Box 2395  
Whitehouse, OH 43571

Printed on recycled paper  
[www.natures-nursery.org](http://www.natures-nursery.org)

## Did you know...

...that red foxes are related to wolves? Yup. They're both in the family canidae, which is pretty much just a fancy way of saying "dog." So they're related to dogs, too. They live everywhere except Antarctica and in some desert areas. They live anywhere they can find shelter—in fields, rocks, mountains, forests, and even in the cities and the suburbs. And where there are no red foxes, there is another kind of fox living there!

Even though they're called "red foxes," that doesn't mean that they are always the color red. The word "red" in red fox refers to the species and not necessarily the color. In fact, red foxes can be white or silver or black or even spotted, although the red foxes we see in the wild are usually a reddish-brown with black legs and feet.

Red foxes eat anything. That includes vegetables, plants, birds, bugs, small animals, carrion (animals that are already dead), fungi, and garbage.

Likewise, red foxes do all sorts of things when it comes to family life. While all red foxes breed sometime in the late winter and give birth in the spring, some red foxes are solitary, some live in pairs, and some live in small family groups where (usually) several related females "share" one male and may help each other to raise their litters. Usually red foxes hunt alone, because the prey they can catch really isn't big enough to feed more than one fox, but red foxes have been seen hunting together. It all depends on where the red foxes live and what kind of food is available.



## Opossum and Squirrel visit the library

by Lima Newshounds Malika Martin, 8; Ethan Blake, 7; Laren Blake, 7; and Monica Melton, 9

From 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on July 22, two animals from Nature's Nursery came to visit the Lima Public Library. Nature's Nursery takes care of injured animals. Nature's Nursery is in Whitehouse, Ohio.

Steve Coburn-Griffis brought a Virginia opossum and a fox squirrel from Nature's Nursery. The opossum's name is Pearl. The fox squirrel's name is Albert. Albert has one eye and is fat. He fell out of a tree when he was a baby. His eye was bulging out and they took him to a doctor. The doctor said there was an infection so they removed his eye.

Pearl was laying in someone's yard. The people who found her looked online for what to feed her. They only fed her fruit. She could not walk because she didn't have any energy.

Opossums are not related to rats, except for that they are mammals like us. Opossums are like kangaroos because they have a pouch. They do not hang from trees. Opossums can have 10 to 15 babies.

"Fox squirrels can bite through welding gloves," said Steve Coburn-Griffis. "They can live on the ground and in trees."

*The Lima Newshounds writing workshop was a summer 2009 partnership between the Lima Public Library and The Lima News Newspaper-in-Education (NIE) literacy program.*



Lima Newshound Ethan Blake meets Albert the fox squirrel.



## Summer News Criss Cross

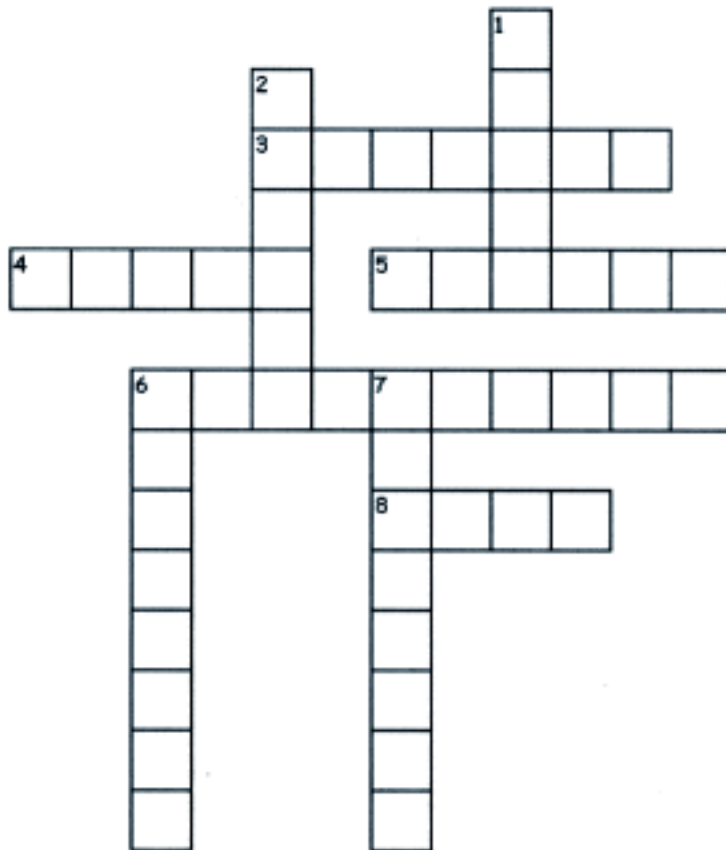
Find the answers to the following clues in this issue of Nature's Nursery Kids' News.

### Across

3. Place visited by Pearl and Albert
4. How red foxes usually hunt
5. Red foxes are related to...
6. Continent with no red foxes
8. Another red fox relative

### Down

1. Virginia opossum's name
2. Fox squirrel's name
6. What red foxes eat
7. Are white, silver, black or spotted



## Animal Acrostic

An **acrostic** poem is a poem that uses the letters of a word to begin each line vertically.

After you have colored the picture to the right, use your imagination to write an acrostic poem about red fox, squirrel, opossum...or for all three.

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