

NATURE ADVENTURE

ACTIVITY CARDS

AGES 2-6

Children
& Nature
Network

*Use these cards as
inspiration to get out into
nature and have some fun
with family and friends!*

*You will find four cards, each with
different activities relating to
urban animals of the night!*

1 LEAP IN!

*A simple adventure you can go on
in almost any outdoor location –
from the park, to your own yard or
balcony.*

2 PLAY ON!

Bring out the creative side in you!

3 SPEAK UP!

*You and your family (and friends!)
can play with words, tell about
adventures, or even make up a song!*

4 GREEN UP!

*Stewardship is the theme here,
and in this activity, you will help
animals or local areas thrive
because of what you do!*

HAVE FUN!



URBAN ANIMALS OF THE NIGHT

1

LEAP IN!
AGES 2-6

TAKE A FLASHLIGHT SAFARI

Gather up a few flashlights and go on a nighttime walk with your friends or family members. You can explore a park, your neighborhood streets, or even your backyard or front walk.

Wherever you go, pay attention to the sights and sounds of nighttime creatures. Listen for the chirps of nocturnal insects. Flash your light into the trees and look for raccoons and possums.

Ask everyone to shut his or her flashlights off for a minute and sit in silence.

What can you see and hear now?

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URBAN ANIMALS
OF THE NIGHT

THINK LIKE A RACCOON

Raccoons are one of the most common urban animals of the night. They come out at night to look for food, sometimes from backyard bird feeders and garbage cans! Raccoons have extremely sensitive hand-like paws, which they use to obtain, hold, and identify food and other objects. Can you be a good raccoon? Play this game to find out:

step 1

Choose a person to be the first raccoon. Send the raccoon off someplace where they can't see what you're doing.

step 2

Gather objects from nature, like pinecones, nuts, sticks, and rocks. Use good judgment—nothing too unpleasant or dangerous to handle. Try to include a few tricky items. Then either put them in a bag or hide them out of sight.

step 3

Once you've gathered your objects, bring back the raccoon and have them sit down with closed eyes.

No peeking! Hand the raccoon the objects to hold, one at a time. As the raccoon feels each item, they should try to guess what it is.

**3****SING OUT!**
AGES 2-6

URBAN ANIMALS OF THE NIGHT

WATCH, THINK & WRITE

Animals eat and sleep. But what else do they do? For this activity you will use your eyes and imagination to make a nocturnal animal, or any animal, come to life by writing a story or drawing a picture.

step 1

Think of an animal in your neighborhood that you can observe - like a squirrel, bird or bug. Spend some time quietly watching them from a safe distance.

step 2

Think about what their day is like. What do they do for fun? How do they find food? Clean their bodies? Do they have friends? What kinds of things do they think about?

step 3

Grab a piece of paper and a pencil and answer one, or some of these questions by drawing a picture or writing a story. Be sure to use describing words and images!



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URBAN ANIMALS OF THE NIGHT

GREEN UP!
AGES 2-6

PLANT A BAT GARDEN

Bats are a wonderful urban animal of the night and they eat night flying insects! If you would like to attract bats to your garden, plant flowers that are late day blooming or night-scented. These plants will attract nighttime pollinators, like moths, which bats like to eat.

- EVENING PRIMROSE
- PHLOX
- NIGHT-FLOWERING CATCHFLY
- FLEABANE
- GOLDENROD