



# UNTAMED Watch-along Worksheet

## Episode Five: Opossums

*While you watch, listen carefully and use what you learn to fill in the blanks. Answers appear during the video in the same order as these questions, so be sure to read ahead!*

1. A virtual living fossil, opossums have walked the earth for nearly \_\_\_\_\_ million years.
2. They may resemble rodents, but opossums are actually \_\_\_\_\_, a family of mammals that give birth to underdeveloped young and carry them in a pouch.
3. Opossums have a very short life expectancy, usually only \_\_\_\_\_ years.
4. Despite their short life, an opossum may give birth to a large number of babies as frequently as \_\_\_\_\_ times per year.
  - A) One
  - B) One to three
  - C) Five
  - D) None of the above
5. A baby opossum is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. As omnivores, opossums eat plants, insects, eggs, and other animals, but they will not consume carrion (dead animals).

True -or- False
7. In the wild, opossums stay with their mothers until they're about \_\_\_\_\_ months old.
8. Prehensile \_\_\_\_\_ give opossums an extra appendage for gripping while climbing.
9. A single opossum may eat thousands of harmful insects in a season, including \_\_\_\_\_, the carriers of Lyme disease.
10. Write one thing you can do to help opossums in the wild:

## Answer Key

1. A virtual living fossil, opossums have walked the earth for nearly **60** million years.
2. They may resemble rodents, but opossums are actually **marsupials**, a family of mammals that give birth to underdeveloped young and carry them in a pouch.
3. Opossums have a very short life expectancy, usually only **2-3** years.
4. Despite their short life, an opossum may give birth to a large number of babies as frequently as \_\_\_\_\_ times per year.
  - A) One
  - B) One to three**
  - C) Five
  - D) None of the above
5. A baby opossum is called a **joey**.
6. As omnivores, opossums eat plants, insects, eggs, and other animals, but they will not consume carrion (dead animals).

True -or- **False**
7. In the wild, opossums stay with their mothers until they're about **4** months old.
8. Prehensile **tails** give opossums an extra appendage for gripping while climbing.
9. A single opossum may eat thousands of harmful insects in a season, including **ticks**, the carriers of Lyme disease.

Write one thing you can do to help opossums in the wild: Any variation of not littering near roads, driving carefully at night, or learning about and appreciating opossums.