

# Fossa Day: *Fossa Crossword Puzzle*



Fossas are mysterious animals from the unique island of Madagascar. Discover fun facts about the fossa and complete the crossword puzzle!

**Age:** 9 years or older

## Gather your Gear

- Crossword Puzzle Sheet
- Pen/pencil
- Computer with internet access

## Get Ready

*You can help your child make connections by thinking about concepts before the activity.*



- Observe the picture. What kind of animal do you think it is? What other animal species does it resemble?
- Research the fossa. Fun fossa facts can be found here:
  - <https://zooatlanta.org/animal/fossa/>
  - <https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/fossa>

## Complete the Crossword Puzzle

Research the fossa using the links above to complete the crossword puzzle. All answers can be found from the provided websites. A word bank has been provided to assist younger participants. The answer key can be found on the last page.

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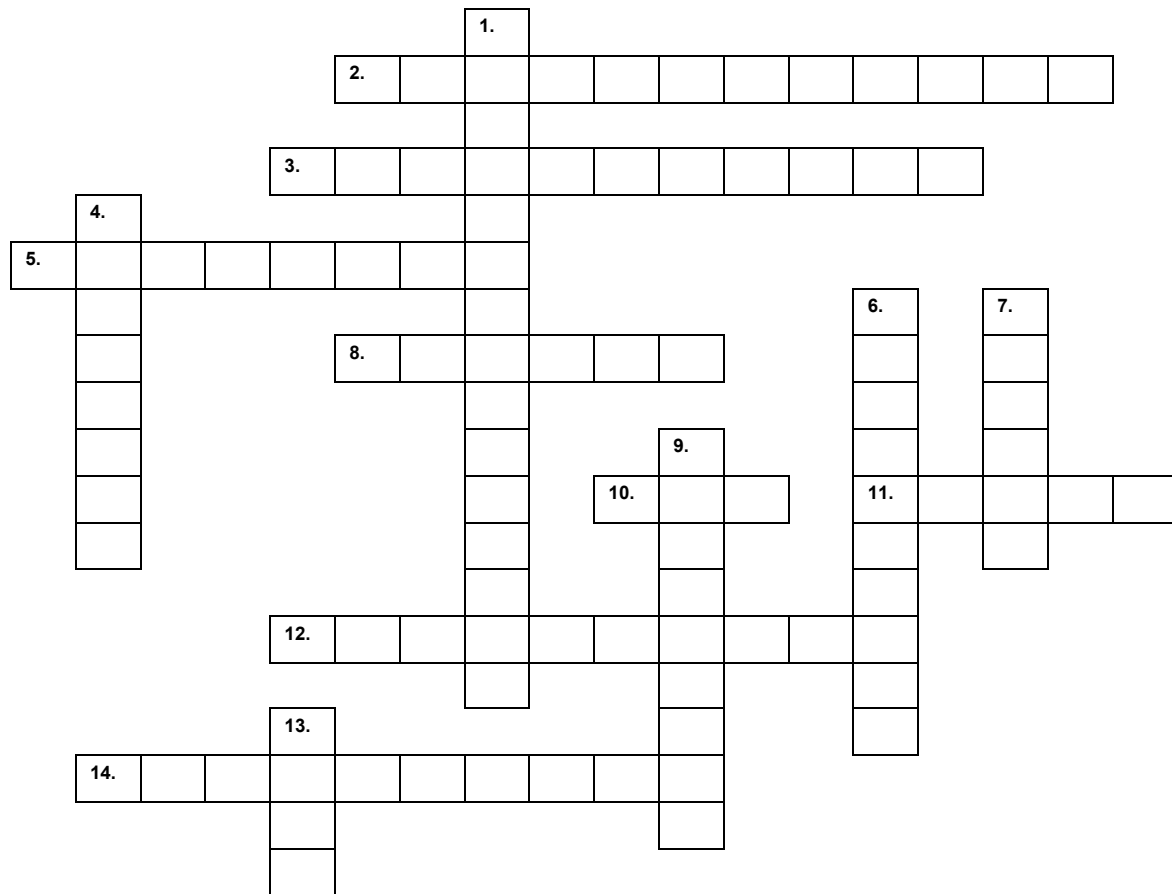


## Across

2. What form of communication does the fossa use?
3. What is a main threat to the fossa?
5. Name a living animal that the fossa is most related to.
8. What is the conservation status in the wild of the fossa?
10. Even though they are not related, what domestic animal does the fossa resemble?
11. What is the fossa's scientific species name?
12. To what scientific family does the fossa belong?
14. What island does the fossa live on?

## Down

1. Claws help the fossa move and hunt in the trees. What type of claws do they have?
4. Fossas prefer to live alone. They are \_\_\_\_\_ animals.
6. The fossa lives in what type of habitat?
7. What is the fossa's primary food source?
9. The fossa is the largest \_\_\_\_\_ in Madagascar. This word means they only eat meat.
13. What body part makes up half the length of a fossa? This also helps the fossa stay balanced when climbing trees.



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## Word Bank

Madagascar

ferox

rainforest

carnivore

semi-retractable

scent marking

lemurs

cat

mongoose

at risk

*Eupleridae*

habitat loss

tail

solitary

**Recap** *Have a conversation about what you saw/did and questions your child may have.*

- What fun facts did you learn about the fossa?
- What traits does the fossa have?
- What else would you like to discover about the fossa?

**Relate** *Create connections to the idea through activities.*

Using the new information, you discovered, draw a fossa in its natural habitat doing different natural behaviors.

## It takes a team.... join ours

Help us save species by joining the "Zoo Conservation Corps" and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If your family members are on social media, post to show what you have learned, and use the hashtag #OnlyZooATL so that we can see all your great work!

## Want to know more....

Learn more about conservation efforts in the fossa's native habitat:

<https://www.madagascarfaunaflora.org>

