

# Fossa Day: *Fossa Fables*



Fossas are the subject of bedtime stories in families local to their native Madagascar. Do some research using the sites provided, and use what you learn to write your own fossa bedtime tale.

**Age:** 9-12 years old

## Gather your Gear

- Paper
- Pencil
- Crayons/markers/colored pencils

## Get Ready

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

Think about your favorite bedtime story (or stories). What are they about? How do they make you feel? Do any of them teach you things like being kind to others, or how to be safe?

Fossas are mysterious animals that have slowly become better understood over many years. In their native Madagascar, they are running into heavy competition for resources, which occasionally creates human-wildlife conflict as the fossas have been known to threaten livestock, particularly chickens. Their elusive nature and incredible, efficient hunting skills have made them the subject of bedtime stories and local myths.

## Research and Write

*Research the fossa for inspiration for your bedtime story, then write your story.*

1. Using the websites provided in the "Want to know more..." section, learn everything you can about the fossa.
2. Once you have done your research, pick a trait that you would like to highlight in your story. An example of a trait that is currently part of fossa lore is their scent, which is said to be able to kill chickens.
3. Write a bedtime story about a fossa which embodies that trait. It can be an adventure tale, a cautionary tale designed to encourage good behavior, a spooky tale, or a feel-good tale. You pick! You can write it using a narrative, short-story format, or format it as a comic book/graphic novel.
4. Illustrate and share your story with your family!

## Recap

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

What trait did you highlight in your story? Why did you pick that trait? What do you hope children learn or feel when reading your fossa tale?

## Relate

*Create connections to the idea through activities.*

Many popular fairy tales have roots in stories that were told to teach children to behave well. Think about your favorite fairy tale or bedtime story. How is it told today? With your parents, see if you can find an

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older version of the story. How are the two versions the same? How has the story changed over time? How do you think fossa stories might change as the world learns more about them?

## **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>
- Learn more about Logan, the fossa at Zoo Atlanta: <https://zooatlanta.org/animal/fossa/>
- Learn more about fossas in general: <https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/fossa>