



The World of Red Foxes

Part 1

Teacher Reads As we read about red foxes, the most common type of fox, let's see what we learn about this fascinating animal. One thing we know is that foxes are quite smart: they use their intelligence to help them survive.

Red foxes are slim with long, thin legs. They have
10 bright red coats that can have gray spots. They can
20 have spots of black on their feet and **ears**. The long,
31 thick tails foxes have help them stand and run. Red
41 foxes can run at high speeds—up to 30 **mph**—but not
53 for very long.

56 Red foxes are skilled at swimming as well. When do
66 they swim? They may swim to hunt ducks and fish.

Part 2

Teacher Reads Red foxes are able to live in different habitats (environments), such as forests, mountains, and even towns and cities. Read on to find out how their eating habits help them adjust to life in different places.

76 Red foxes eat lots of things, which helps them do
86 well in lots of habitats. When they can, red foxes eat
97 meat. They will chase after a rabbit and feast on it.
108 But if they cannot have meat, they take what they can
119 get! They may eat insects, snails, eggs, and plants. Red
129 foxes living by people may eat what is left in trash cans.
141 Red foxes eat until they are full. Then they save the
152 rest and stash it in a safe spot, such as beneath a rock.
165 What a **smart** thing to do!



Part 3

Teacher Reads Red foxes spend most of their time alone, without other foxes, except when they are bringing up their babies. Female foxes have babies, which are called pups, kits, or cubs. Keep reading to learn more about fox pups.

171 In the spring, the **female** fox has her pups in a den.
183 She may keep the same den for **years**. When the pups
194 are very little, they can't see a thing. All they do is eat
207 and sleep. Then at 4 to 5 weeks, they begin to leave the
220 den with the female. As the weeks pass, the pups keep
231 growing. They run, jump, and play-fight in the same
241 way that dog pups do.

246 The male and female take the pups on hunting
255 trips. At 16 weeks, the pups can hunt and chase after
266 things. In the fall, the pups leave the den. The pups
277 have grown up to be strong, fast, smart foxes that will
288 do well in the next habitat. [Learn More](#)

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