Opossums are the only marsupials that live in North America and Canada. They also live in Australia. They prefer to live in woodlands near streams, marshes or rivers. Baby opossums are born and crawl up to their mother’s pouch. They are about the size of a bee at first. They stay in the pouch for three months and then ride on their mother’s back. They have claws on their rear feet that act like thumbs and help them climb. Opossums are nocturnal and eat at night. They are omnivores and eat about anything: insects, earthworms, and slugs, as well as snakes, lizards, mice, and small birds. They also eat carrion or dead animals.

If something threatens the mother opossum, she will hiss or show her sharp teeth. She might also play dead or “play possum” until a predator leaves.

1. What helps opossums climb? ____________________ ____________________ ____________________

2. Name 3 things opossums eat. ____________________ ____________________

3. What is a pouch used for? ____________________ ____________________ ____________________

4. If threatened, an opossum can ____________________ ____________________ ____________________

** Color the black and white picture.
** Highlight the “star” words in the writing.