

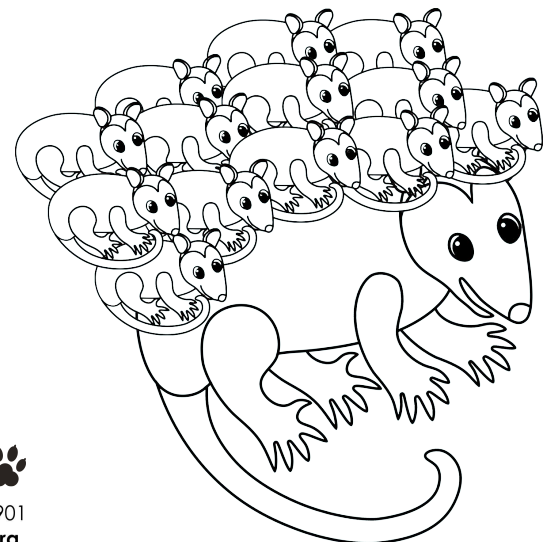
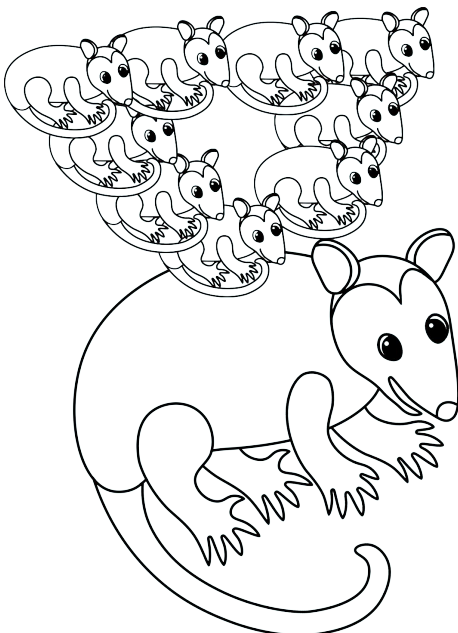
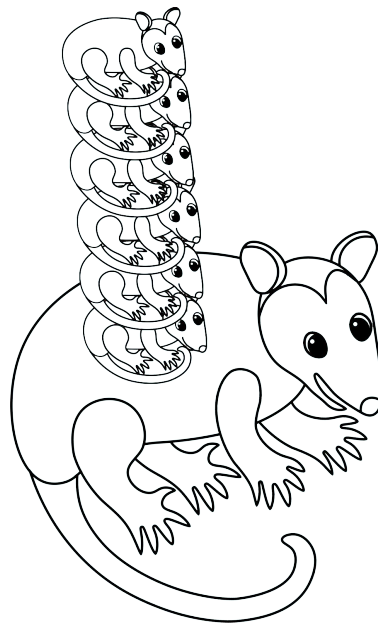
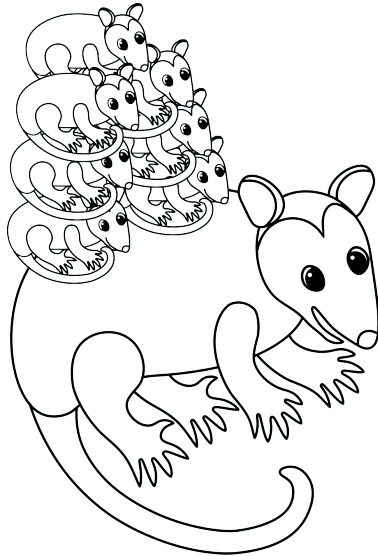
# Virginia Opossum Mother and Joeys

The Virginia opossum is North America's only marsupial (like kangaroos, koalas, and wombats) which means the mother keeps her newborn babies in her pouch where they grow and drink milk. Baby Virginia opossums are called **joeys**. The joeys are the size of a jelly bean when they are born, and the pouch can hold up to 13 of these tiny joeys! The joeys soon outgrow their mother's pouch, and will then ride on their mother's back, gripping tightly. When they are around four months old, the joeys start to fall off their mother's back and begin their own life in the wild.

Can you imagine carrying around 13 wiggling babies on your back?

What do you think is the most stable way to carry all those joeys? Do they climb on top of each other and form a tower? Or do they pile up and make a pyramid?

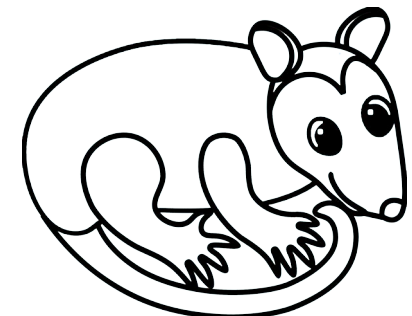
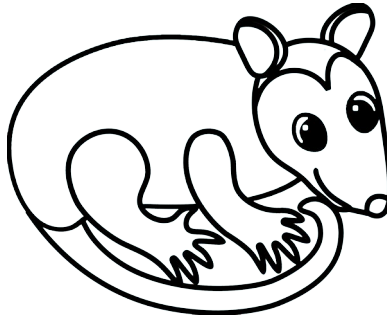
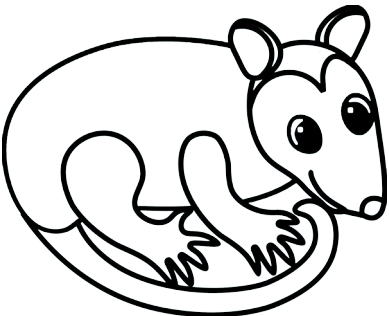
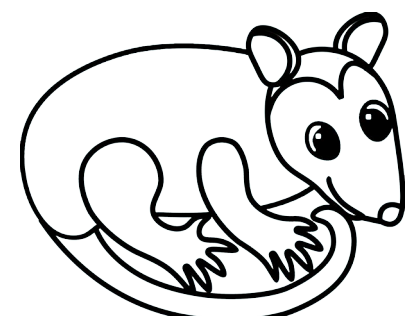
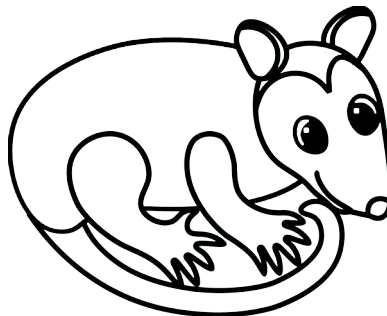
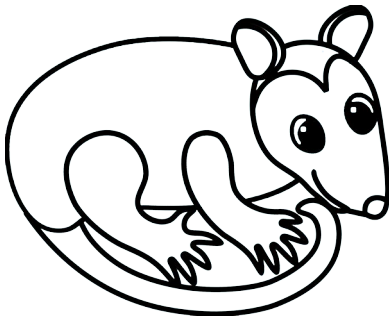
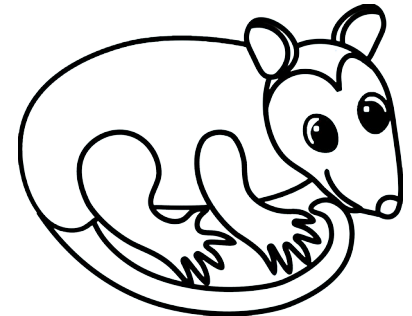
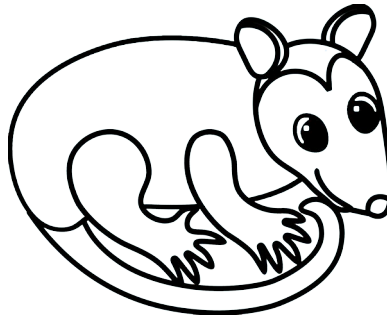
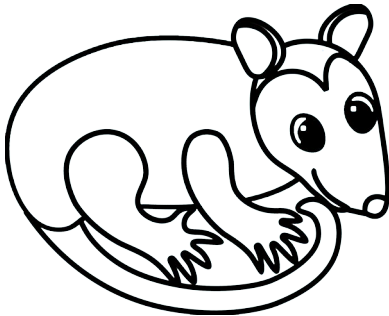
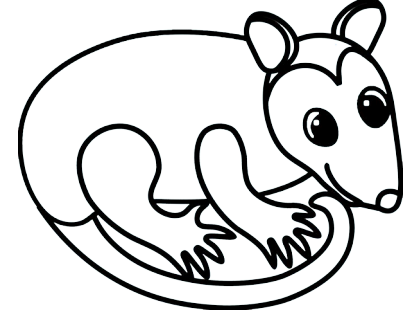
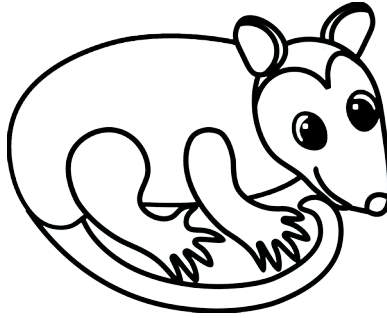
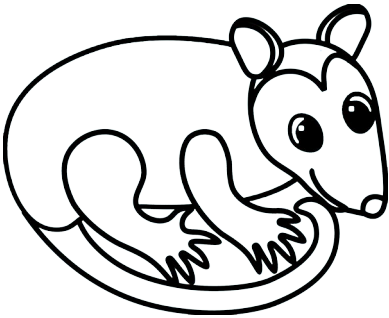
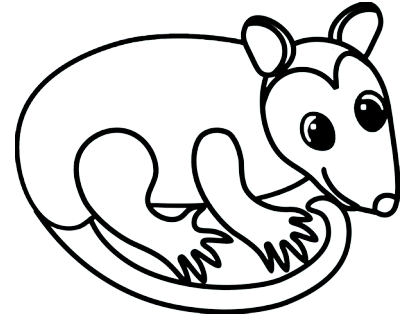
**Can you find a way to fit all 13 joeys on the mother opossum's back?  
Follow the instructions on the next page to piece together a mother  
Virginia opossum and her joeys!**

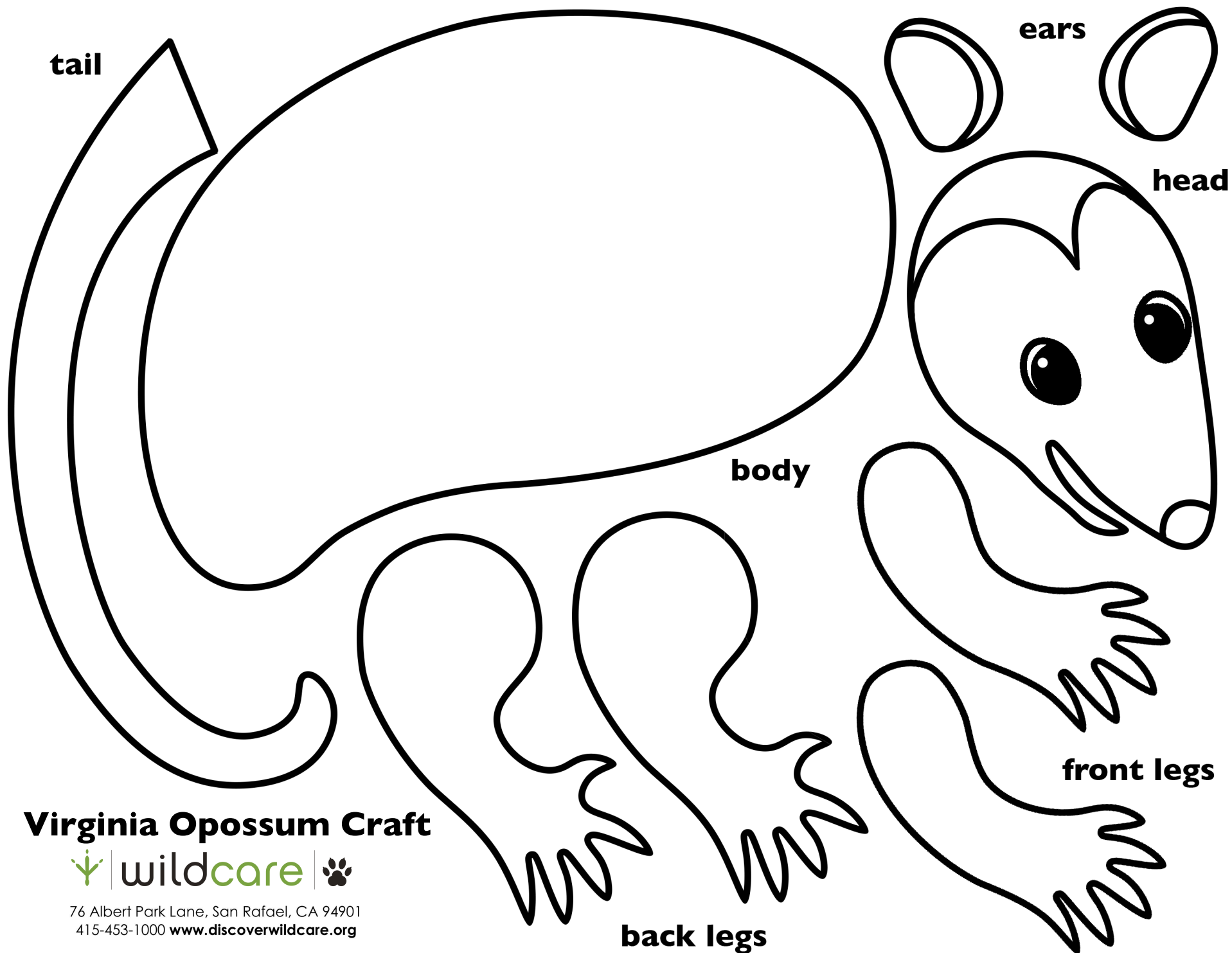


# Virginia Opossum

## Mother and Joeys

1. Color in the mother Virginia opossum pieces on the next page and then cut them out.
2. Glue or tape the pieces to the body to make a complete Virginia opossum.
3. Color in the 13 Virginia opossum joeys (babies) and then cut them out.
4. Glue or tape the joeys to ride on top of their mother's back. How many joeys fit on their mother's back?





## Virginia Opossum Craft



76 Albert Park Lane, San Rafael, CA 94901  
415-453-1000 [www.discoverwildcare.org](http://www.discoverwildcare.org)

# Baby Animal Memory Game

Some baby animals look just like smaller versions of the adult animals, but other babies may look completely different. Learn some fun facts about wildlife and their babies below, and then print and cut out the animal cards to play a game of Memory and Matching!

## How to play:

1. Cut out all 24 photos on the next 2 pages. Cut along the lines so all squares are the same size.
2. Place all photos face down in no particular order.
3. The first person takes a turn picking 2 photos to flip over— if it is a matching baby/adult pair, that person gets to keep those cards, and try again! The turn is over when 2 photos are picked that do not match. Then it is the next person's turn.
4. Whoever matches the most pairs wins!

Here are fun facts about a few California wild animals and their babies:



Bobcat babies, called kittens, are born with bright blue eyes that turn green/hazel as they get older.



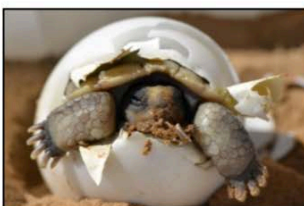
Baby Jackrabbits are called leverets. Unlike baby bunnies, these babies are born with eyes open and fully ready to hop around!



Brown Pelicans keep their eggs warm by standing on them with their webbed feet!



Bullfrogs and other amphibians go through a complete change in appearance, from egg to tadpole to adult bullfrog. This whole process is called metamorphosis.



A baby Desert Tortoise has a softer shell that begins to harden once it hatches from the egg.







Bobcat Kittens



Bobcat



Leveret (Jackrabbit)



Jackrabbit



Brown Pelican Nestling



Brown Pelican



Hatching Desert Tortoise



Desert Tortoise



Bullfrog



Tadpole



Barn Owlets



Barn Owl





Young California Newt



California Newt



Baby Squirrels



Squirrel



Western Gull Chick



Western Gull



Raccoon Cub



Raccoon



Sea Otter Pup



Sea Otter



American Robin Babies



American Robin