

Where can you see a coyote?

1 Many people know coyotes as wild dogs that howl and chase road runners in the desert. You can see and hear them in movies and cartoons. The truth, though, is that coyotes do not only live in the desert.

2 Once, coyotes were only found in the northwestern United States. Over the past 200 years, their range has grown. Now they live in every state but Hawaii. Recently one was caught in Central Park in the middle of New York City! Another kind of wild dog, the wolf, has mostly been wiped out, but coyotes are in more and more places all the time.

3 So, since coyotes might be right down the street, why haven't you seen any? And why have they been able to survive when wolves have not? There are a number of things about coyotes that have allowed them to flourish. Coyotes are very adaptable. That is, they learn how to survive in a wide variety of situations. They can eat anything from small animals to fruit to garbage. They do not often eat road runners, but they can.

4 Coyotes are afraid of humans. This is another reason that they have survived in the human world. They can avoid people because they are very smart and have strong senses of sight, smell, and hearing. Though some people do not like coyotes, it is hard to shoot an animal that they cannot find. So, though you can see a coyote anywhere from the deep woods to the middle of a city, you probably will not.





Circle the correct answer for questions 1–5.

Write your answer to question 6 on a separate piece of paper.

1. One reason that coyotes have survived is that _____.
 - A they only live in places where there are no people
 - B there are lots of road runners for them to eat
 - C everyone likes them
 - D they are very smart
2. Which word in paragraph 3 means “do well”?
 - A adaptable
 - B flourish
 - C survive
 - D learn
3. Which paragraph tells where coyotes live?
 - A 1
 - B 2
 - C 3
 - D 4
4. You can infer from the article that _____.
 - A coyotes love people
 - B coyotes do not live in deserts
 - C wolves are not as adaptable as coyotes
 - D watching cartoons is a good way to learn about coyotes
5. *Range* can have the following meanings. Mark the meaning used in paragraph 2.
 - A cooking stove
 - B things in a line
 - C place to practice shooting
 - D region where animals live

6. Based on what you read about the coyote, write a set of instructions for how you might go about catching one.

