

Quiz: Animal Babies – How They Survive

Short Answer Section:

- 1) Why is spring and early summer a very busy time for many animals?
- 2) What are two things that help a fawn to avoid danger when it is very young?
- 3) How do young opossums stay safe after they are born?

Creative Answer Section:

- 4) What would life be like as a fox pup?
- 5) What are some advantages and disadvantages of being born underground compared to being born and growing up aboveground? Which would you prefer, and why?

Answers:

- 1) The spring and summer is a busy time for animal parents because they must constantly provide food for their young.
- 2) The light spots on the fawn's back help it to blend in with the shadows on the forest floor. Also, fawns emit no scent during their first couple of weeks of life. This camouflage protects the fawns from wolves and other predators.
- 3) Newborn opossums stay safe by crawling into their mother's pouch, where they remain until they become large enough to cling to her back.
- 4) Encourage research and details about fox pups. Describe their burrows, their diet, how many siblings they have, and what they look like as they grow.
- 5) Some predators, like weasels, can descend into burrows to catch their prey. So burrows provide protection from larger predators but not from all predators. Animals that are born and grow up mostly above-ground are vulnerable to many types of predators. However, they may have protection from the adults around them. Adult bison, for instance, will surround their young to keep away wolves and other dangers.