

THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY

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Canada

BRITISH COLUMBIA

WelcomeBC



The new mammal is cute!

PHOTO — MARK GURNEY / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The world's newest mammal – the olinguito 📖

Researchers found a new mammal in South America. The new mammal is called an olinguito.

Olinguitos are small. Their fur is reddish-brown.

Olinguitos are cute! They have faces like teddy bears.

They jump through the trees and travel at night.

Olinguitos live in Ecuador and Columbia. They are hard to see because they are small and travel at night.

The olinguito is related to the raccoon. It is the smallest member of the raccoon family.

The olinguito is the first new mammal since 1978.



The little olinguito lives in the trees.

PHOTO — CAMILO MARMOL -GUJJARRO/ CC, FLICKR

Facts about the olinguito

- It is the smallest member of the raccoon family.
- It is about 35 centimetres or 14 inches long

(Continued on page 2...)

(...Continued from page 1)

- Its tail is about of the same length as its body.
- The adult olinguito weighs about 900 grams or 2 pounds.
- Males and females are about the same size.
- They eat mainly fruit. They also eat insects and nectar.
- They live alone and spend their time in trees.
- They travel at night.
- Female olinguitos have only one baby at a time.
- They are found in the mountain forests of northern Andes in Ecuador and Colombia

Vocabulary

The word 'Olinguito' sounds like 'oh-lihn-GEE-toe'.

A mammal is an animal with warm blood, mammary glands and hair or fur.

Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun* and *The Smithsonian*

Links

Go to *The Westcoast Reader* website for links to more information and videos.

www.thewestcoastreader.com

Answer key (for exercise on page 3)

1. F 2. F 3. T 4. F 5. F

6. T 7. T 8. F 9. T 10. T

(Continued on page 3...)

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Read the following sentences. Decide if the statement is true or false. Fill in the blank with an 'F' or 'T'.

The answer key is on page 2.

Example

 T The olinguito is a mammal.

- 1. Olinguitos live in North America.
- 2. Olinguitos live under trees.
- 3. Olinguitos eat fruit.
- 4. Olinguitos are about 35 decimetres long.
- 5. Olinguitos live in groups.
- 6. Female olinguitos have one baby at a time.
- 7. Olinguitos are in the raccoon family.
- 8. Olinguitos travel during the day.
- 9. Olinguitos are hard to see.
- 10. Olinguitos are cute.