

RIPARIAN CORRIDOR

Note: A riparian corridor is a “stream-side” area where water flows throughout much of the year. Riparian corridors are characterized by broad-leaved trees and cool temperatures, and are home to abundant wildlife. Begin your visit above ground. **Before** you reach visible water, stop next to the tall trees.

Tell the children: *Pretend you are walking through the desert. Just ahead of you is a cool, shady canyon. Close your eyes and listen. What sounds do you hear?*

Possible answers:

- Among the many museum sounds they will hear flowing water. Explain that this is a riparian area, a place where water is flowing in a stream. Many animals and plants live along streams that flow through the desert.

Ask: *What are the trees like here?*

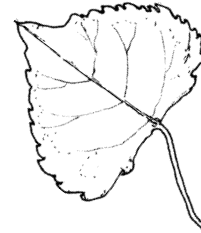
Possible answers:

- lots of them
- they have big leaves
- tall

Ask: *Why do you think the trees look this way here?*

Possible answers:

- there is enough water for many trees with big leaves to grow
- trees that need lots of water live here



COATIS

The Coati Exhibit has viewing areas just right for children to watch the coatis climbing, digging, and playing. Take a few moments to observe their behavior:

Ask: *What do coatis use their long noses, claws, and good climbing ability for?*

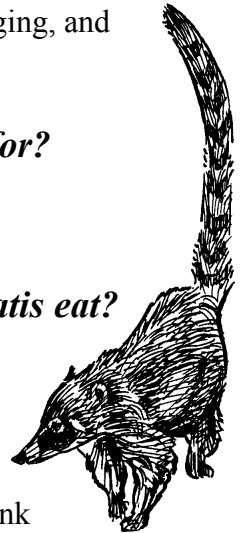
Possible answers:

- to find food in the trees
- to dig for food under leaves, rocks, and soil

Ask: *Coatis eat both plants and meat. What kinds of things do you think coatis eat?*

Possible answers:

- fruits
- seeds
- insects
- birds' eggs
- lizards
- snakes



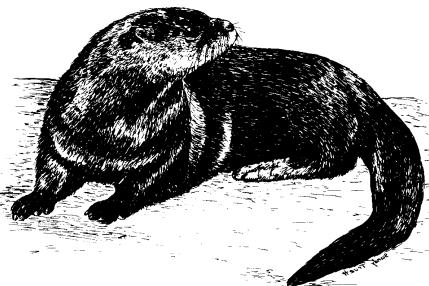
AQUATIC ARTHROPODS

As you head to the underwater viewing area, the children can look for water insects in the tank near the stairs. Try to find the ones on the sign. Watch for bees!



RIVER OTTERS (OVERLOOK AND UNDERWATER VIEWING)

Watch the otters swim.



Ask: *What adaptations (body features or parts) do the otters have for swimming?*

Possible answers:

- long, slender body
- long, strong tail
- webbed feet
- waterproof fur
- small ears and head to make them streamlined