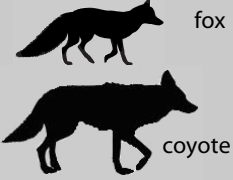









Identifying the Foxes of North America

 fox coyote							
Species:	gray fox	island fox	red fox	kit fox	swift fox	arctic fox	coyote
EARS	Rounded, no black tips	Rounded, no black tips	Pointy with black tips	Relatively large ears	Smaller rounded ears	Small rounded ears	Pointy, leaning outward
MUZZLE	Pointy, but shorter than red fox	Short on a dainty face	Long and pointy	Narrow	Narrow	Relatively short	Long, slender and pointy
FUR (PELAGE)	Cinnamon-rufous with white on the face, throat, belly and hind legs	Cinnamon-rufous with white on the face, throat, belly and hind legs. Can be somewhat darker overall	Reddish brown with white chest and upper lip (color can range from pale to black)	Grizzled to tawny gray with buff highlights on neck, sides and legs	Pale yellowish-red and gray, with wide gray stripe down back	Winter phase - pure white; "blue" phase in spring/summer - dark to dull slate gray	Grayish cinnamon, brown or a combination
TAIL	Black tip	Black tip	White tip (always)	Black tip	Black tip	Entirely one color	Coloration varies
SIZE	7–13 pounds	3–6 pounds	7–18 pounds	4–7 pounds	4–6 pounds	6–15 pounds	25–45 pounds
Identifying Characteristics	Black stripe down tail, generally stocky with short legs	Black stripe down back and tail, diminutive size	Black tips on ears and black feet	Tail is long and bushy; dens underground year-round	Only small fox on no. Great Plains; dens underground year-round	Changes coloring seasonally; only fox found in high arctic tundra	Dog like in appearance and stance
HABITAT	Southern Canada to Central America; absent from northern Rockies and Great Plains	Found in the wild ONLY on six Channel Islands of So. California	Across North America; in every state, but absent from Southwestern deserts	Arid regions of CA and US Southwest, into Mexico and Baja; small range overlap swift fox	Formerly the Great Plains, reduced to western NB, KS, OK, TX to eastern WY, CO & NM	Arctic tundra from Alaska across northern Canada	North America, south of the tundra to Central America



Friends of the Island Fox

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