

Name: _____ Date: _____

Unusual Animals: The Fossa



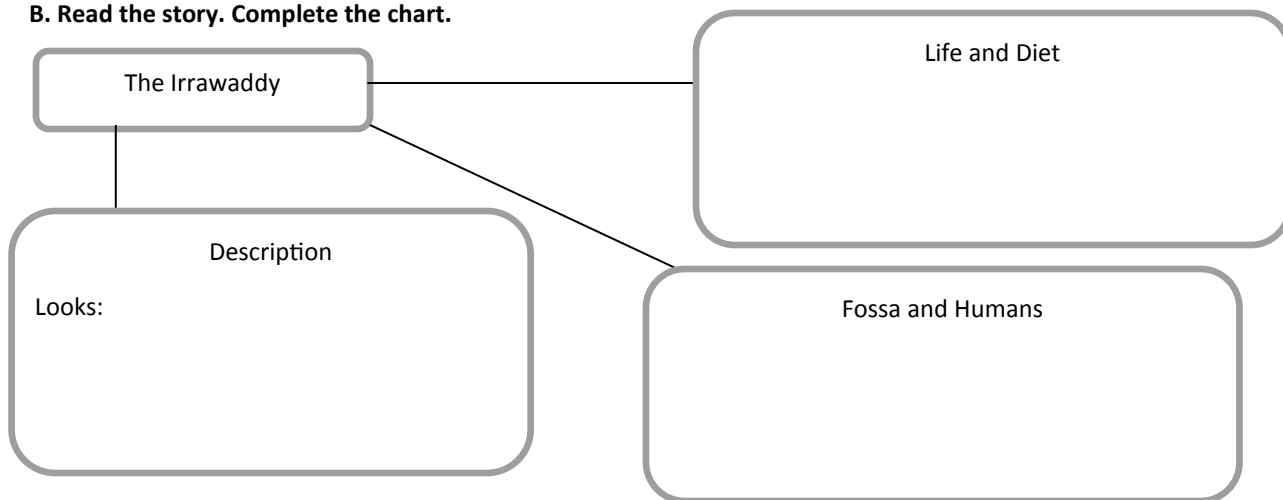
The island of Madagascar is an interesting place. There are many animals there that can only be found on the island. One of those animals is the fossa. The fossa looks like a large cat. But the fossa would not make a good pet.

The fossa has a small body with strong legs. The fossa is a predator that hunts animals. It eats other animals for food. This makes the fossa a carnivore. It will eat lemurs, a kind of small monkey, lizards and birds. It will even hunt rodents like rats and rabbits for food. Predators can be dangerous to humans as well. The fossa does not usually hunt for people. Some predatory animals only hunt at night. The fossa hunts during the day and the night. It can also climb up trees and dig underground to look for food.

Like many animals that are only found in one place, the fossa is endangered. One of the big dangers to a fossa is humans who live in Madagascar. People cut down the rainforests to build farms and cities. This destroys the area where the fossa lives. As more forest is cut down, the danger to the fossa increases. Even a dangerous predator like the fossa cannot protect itself from the threat of losing its home.

A. Where does the fossa live? _____

B. Read the story. Complete the chart.



C. The story says the fossa would not make a good pet. Why? Write your ideas below. Then discuss your answer with a partner.