PREDATORS AND PREY POSTER ANIMALS

AGOUTI

HABITAT: Central America, West Indies and northern South America. Rain forests, mostly in areas with lots of undergrowth, often near water.
DIET: Agoutis are herbivores; they feed on fruits, nuts, and flowers. They bury nuts to eat later when other food is not available.
BEHAVIOR: Diurnal (active in daytime).
PREDATORS: Humans, ocelots, pumas, and jaguars.

PUMA (MOUNTAIN LION)

HABITAT: Canada, USA, Central America and northern South America. They live in many different habitats, both dry and wet forests, mountains and lowlands.
DIET: They are carnivores and feed on deer, peccaries, capybaras, raccoons, armadillos, and squirrels.
BEHAVIOR: They are active at various times of the day and night.
PREDATORS: Humans.

OCELOT

HABITAT: Southern Texas through Central America to northern Argentina in South America. They prefer areas with thick vegetation in forests, but also live in dry habitats.
DIET: They are carnivores that eat rats, agoutis, sloths, coatimundis, iguanas and other lizards, baby peccaries, deer, rabbits, and fish.
BEHAVIOR: Nocturnal (active at night), but may also hunt in the daytime.
PREDATORS: Humans.

PECCARY

HABITAT: They live in southern Texas through South America.
DIET: Omnivore. They have a varied diet that includes fruits, roots, grasses, small reptiles, and insects.
BEHAVIOR: They live in groups called a herd.
PREDATORS: Pumas, jaguars, bobcats, coyotes, ocelots, and humans.
BROCKET DEER

HABITAT: They are found throughout forests in Central and South America.
DIET: They are herbivores and eat leaves, fruits, flowers, and shoots.
BEHAVIOR: They are small in size so can slip easily through dense undergrowth.
PREDATORS: Humans, jaguars and pumas.

PACA

HABITAT: They live near water in lowland forests from east-central Mexico to northern Argentina.
DIET: Eat leaves, stems, roots, seeds, and fruits, especially avocados and mangos.
BEHAVIOR: Mostly nocturnal and territorial.
PREDATORS: Humans, pumas and jaguars.

JAGUARUNDI

HABITAT: Southern Texas in the United States through Argentina, South America.
DIET: They are carnivores that like fish, reptiles, birds, and small mammals such as squirrels, agoutis, armadillos, and rabbits.
BEHAVIOR: Active in the daytime. Often hunt in pairs.
PREDATORS: Humans.

MARGAY

HABITAT: Found in forests in Central and South America.
DIET: Carnivores that eat small mammals like squirrels and monkeys, birds, eggs, lizards, and tree frogs.
BEHAVIOR: Solitary and nocturnal. Skillful climbers, Margays hunt in trees.
PREDATORS: Because of the small size, they can be prey of jaguars. Humans are their most dangerous predators. They are hunted for their beautiful fur.
TAYRA

HABITAT: Rainforests and cloud forests of Central and South America.
DIET: Omnivores that eat fruit, small mammals (like guinea pigs, squirrels, and agoutis), insects, and birds.
BEHAVIOR: They are expert climbers, and leap from treetop to treetop. Also, they can run fast and swim well.
PREDATORS: Ocelots and other wild cats.

TAPIR

HABITAT: They live in forests of Central and South America.
DIET: They are herbivores that forage for leaves and fallen fruits.
BEHAVIOR: Tapirs may be active at all hours, but they are primarily nocturnal. They are big mammals weighing between 525 and 880 lbs. They like to be close to water and enjoy swimming and may sleep in water.
PREDATORS: Deforestation and hunting make human their worst predators.

PYGMY OPOSSUM

HABITAT: Forests of Central and South America.
DIET: They like to eat insects, bird’s eggs, tiny lizards, and fruits.
BEHAVIOR: They live in trees and are active at night.
PREDATORS: Owls, ocelots, margays.

TAMANDUA (VESTED ANTEATER)

HABITAT: They live from Mexico through Central and South America
DIET: Carnivores that eat tiny prey: ants and termites.
BEHAVIOR: Tamanduas have strong, sharp claws to slash their prey’s nests. Their prehensile tail helps them hold on in the treetops. The long and sticky tongue helps them catch their prey. They have no teeth and cannot open their mouth wide.
PREDATORS: Jaguars, pumas, ocelots, margay, and birds of prey.

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