

## CPI2 New Zealand's Possum War



Pennsylvania Game Commission/Jacob Dingel

### **Warmer**

Look at the photo. Discuss the questions below with a partner.

What is it?

Where does it come from originally?

Where can it be found today?

Describe it.

What is its habitat?

What peculiar behaviour does it have?

Do you know any famous examples of this animal?

How do you imagine these animals are received by native New Zealanders? Why?

### **Reading**

Read the article "New Zealand's possum war".

Student A: note all the arguments in favour of the North Island school's annual possum hunt

Student B: note all the arguments against school possum hunts

Complete one half of the table on the next page.

ANNUAL SCHOOL POSSUM HUNT	
ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR	ARGUMENTS AGAINST

Students A and B exchange arguments. Complete the other half of your table. Which arguments do you agree with, and why?

### Vocabulary

Match the definitions below to the **bold** words in the article.

1. Insects or small animals that damage plants or supplies of food
2. Promised seriously and publicly
3. To kill animals deliberately, especially in order to stop the population from becoming too large
4. An attempt at doing something new
5. Large quantities of something sold in a short period of time
6. To spread to other areas
7. Capable of feelings through physical senses
8. An angry expression of protest or shock by a lot of people
9. Young kangaroo, wallaby or possum
10. Not showing careful thought or good judgment

### General questions for discussion

Discuss the following questions in small groups.

- a) Is hunting animals ever justified? Explain your answer.
- b) Do you or would you hunt? If so, what motivates/would motivate you to do so?
- c) Is it appropriate to kill animals in schools?
- d) Do you think this practice could take place in schools in your country? Why/why not?
- e) Would you be tempted to try possum pie?