

Valley Wilds

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Coyote vs. Road Runner By Ranger Dan Thomas

Many of us grew up watching Looney Tunes Cartoons. They had wonderful animal characters that interacted with one another and made us laugh. At some point you start to wonder, are these animal characteristics real and would they interact with each other in real life?

Enter Wile E. Coyote and Road Runner. Wile E. Coyote is depicted in the cartoons as being sneaky

and clever. Wile E. Coyote's only objective in the show is to catch and presumably eat the Road Runner. The Coyote is constantly scheming up new ways to get the Road Runner. The Coyote will use anything he can, from rocks, to rockets, and even dynamite to catch him. Although Wile E. Coyote is using different weapons and objects to get Road Runner, he is attempting to catch Road Runner by ambush. On other occasions he attempts to catch up to the Road Runner on foot or with assistance from higher speed objects but never quite able to catch up to him. Wile E. Coyote's coloring in the show is almost all brown and appears to have a scraggly coat. How much of a real coyote's appearance, characteristics and personality influenced the

cartoonists? Do coyote even hunt roadrunners?

The Road Runner is depicted in the show as being about the same height as the coyote. He is tall and slender, has a mohawk, long tail and coloring of various blues and purple. The Road Runner is extremely fast and constantly outruns Wile E. Coyote. He will even outrun Wile E. who is flying on an ACME rocket. The only sound you hear from the Road Runner is the famous "meep meep". Road Runner is almost always running on a paved road in a hot, desert-like climate. Sometimes he will sneak up behind Wile E. Coyote and scare him. Can the Road Runner outrun Coyote? Does it make that famous sound and is it really that tall?

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