



E-BOOK

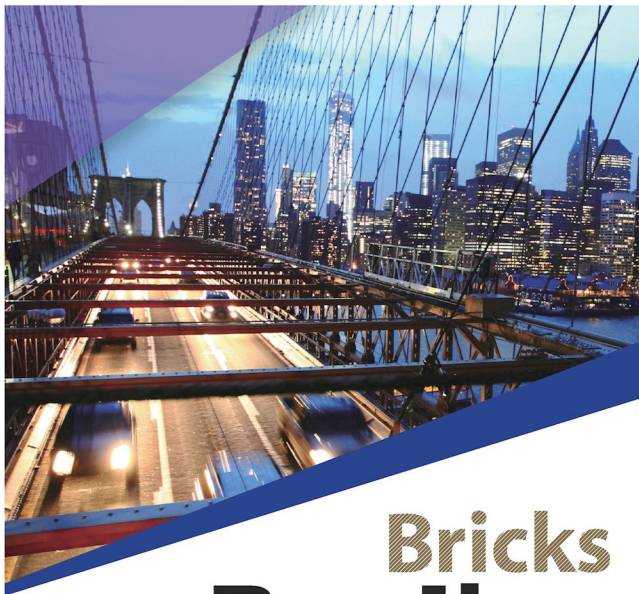


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The Smelly Truth about Skunks



Think Aloud

Read the information below and answer the questions.

How do animals protect themselves?

Migration

Birds fly to warmer places for the winter.

Imitation

Caterpillars make themselves look like snakes.

Hiding

Snowshoe hares make themselves blend into their surroundings.

Winter sleep

Groundhogs take long naps when there is not enough food to eat.

1. What are some other animals that need to sleep in the winter?
2. Why do caterpillars make themselves look like snakes?

The Smelly Truth about Skunks

What is black, white, and smelly all over? If you guessed “skunk,” then you are correct! However, not all skunks are black and white. Also, although skunks may be famous for their horrible-smelling spray, they are quite gentle creatures. They only use their smelly spray when they have to.

Skunks are **mammals** that grow to be about 15 to 37 inches long, and weigh anywhere from 1 to 18 pounds. All skunks have stripes, but some skunks are brown or gray, and others are even cream-colored! There are approximately ten **species** of skunks in the world. Skunks are generally located in North and South America and some parts of Southeast Asia. They live in **burrows** or hollow logs, but can sometimes be found in abandoned buildings, too.



mammal *n.* an animal that gives birth to live babies, not by hatching eggs

species *n.* a group of plants or animals whose members have similar traits

burrow *n.* a hole or tunnel in the ground dug by small animals

defense *n.* action of protecting someone or something against attack

Skunks are best known for their **defense mechanism** — a terrible-smelling spray. The **odor** of this chemical has been compared to a mix of rotten eggs, garlic, and burnt rubber. It can be smelled a mile away, and even scare away predators such as bears, wolves, and foxes! In general, skunks try not to use their spray often, but when they do, they can spray up to 16 feet.

There are people who say that various household **ingredients** can help remove skunk odor. Some suggestions include tomato juice, vinegar, and soap. Unfortunately, most of these products do not work. Some **chemicals**, commonly found in bleach, can help remove some of the odor. However, the best way to avoid getting the smell on you is to walk the other way if you see a skunk!



The skunk is chosen as the worst-smelling animal in the world, and the **sea gull** is the second worst.



mechanism *n.* a process that causes a living thing to react to something

odor *n.* a smell that is unique, often not pleasant

ingredient *n.* something necessary to make a certain thing

chemical *n.* a type of substance produced in the body

Vocabulary Check Up

A Meaning Match each word with the correct meaning.

- | | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| 1. mammal | • | a. a process that causes a living thing to react to something |
| 2. mechanism | • | b. an animal that gives birth to live babies, not by hatching eggs |
| 3. burrow | • | c. something necessary to make a certain thing |
| 4. ingredient | • | d. a hole or tunnel in the ground dug by small animals |

B Confusing Words Choose the most appropriate words.

1. The vaccine helps the body develop a (defense/threat) against the flu.
2. This spray is good for removing body (odor/odds).
3. There are many different (spices/species) in the animal kingdom.
4. Some terrorists have used (chemical/chemistry) weapons in the past.

Comprehension Check Up

A Main Idea Choose the main idea of the passage.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| a. Skunks are gentle animals. | b. Skunk odor is hard to remove. |
| c. Skunks have various appearances. | d. Skunks are famous for their bad smell. |

B Check T(True) or F(False).

1. Skunks can scare away bears with their smelly spray.
2. All skunks have stripes on their bodies.
3. Not all skunks are black and white.
4. Skunks use their sprays to attack other animals.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C Choose the correct answers.

1. Which is **NOT** mentioned about skunks?

a. They prefer to live in buildings.	b. Some of them are cream-colored.
c. They can grow to be 37 inches long.	d. There are about ten species in the world.

2. Some of the suggestions on how to remove skunk odor do **NOT** include _____.
- a. the use of tomato juice
 - b. the use of salt
 - c. the use of home ingredients
 - d. the use of soap or vinegar
3. What is **NOT** true about skunk spray?
- a. It can spray up to 16 feet.
 - b. It can scare away bears or wolves.
 - c. Its odor is easily removed by using household ingredients.
 - d. Its smell is similar to a mix of rotten eggs and burnt rubber.
4. **Inference** What can be inferred from the passage?
- a. Wolves or bears catch skunks easily.
 - b. Skunks are often found in the city.
 - c. Skunks can also use a good-smelling spray.
 - d. Skunks are likely to spray when in danger.

Skill Build Up | Main Idea

- Write the main idea of each paragraph.

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3

Paragraph 4

- The best way is to remove skunk odor is to avoid skunks altogether.
- Skunks are famous for their bad-smelling spray, but they use it when in danger.
- The odor can be smelled a mile away, and can even scare away predators.
- There are about ten kinds of skunks, and they live in burrows or hollow logs.

Summary Make Up

- Fill in the blanks. Then choose (A) or (B) for the correct conclusion.


compared mammals mechanism ingredients burrows

Skunks are famous for being one of the worst-smelling _____ in the world. They usually live in _____, but sometimes live in abandoned buildings. Their spray is their defense _____ because it can even scare away bears or wolves. The smell is often _____ to a mix of rotten eggs and burnt rubber. Many household _____ or chemicals are suggested in helping to remove the smell. However, the best way is (A) to apply some chemicals / (B) to avoid skunks altogether.


Practical Reading | Instructions

- Look at the instructions below and write the answers.


How to Remove Skunk Odor


1 liter bleach

+


1/4 cup baking soda

+


1 tsp dish cleanser

- Put all the ingredients into a large plastic bucket and mix them together.
- Make sure to wash your pet with the mix while it is still foamy.

* Don't store the mix. Discard after using.
* Double the amount for a large pet.

- If your dog is large, how much mix will you need? _____
- When should you wash your dog with the mix? _____
- How many ingredients are needed to remove skunk odor? _____

One Is Never Enough



Think Aloud

Read the information below and answer the questions.

Plants and Their Defenses



Star Thistle
thorns



Lamb's Ear
hairs



Skunk Cabbage
smell



Coconut Tree
thick, hard skin

1. How do plants avoid being eaten by animals?
2. Can you name any plants that use more than one defensive strategy?