# Skunks

Elizabeth Russell-Arnot



# Skunks

Elizabeth Russell-Arnot

## Contents


| | |
|---|---|
| What are skunks? | 2 |
| All sorts of skunks | 4 |
| The honey thief | 6 |
| Skunk kittens | 8 |
| First time out | 10 |
| Skunk dancing | 11 |
| A smelly enemy | 12 |
| Who would dare to eat a skunk? | 15 |
| Where skunks live | 16 |
| Index | 17 |


For Review Only

# What are skunks?

Skunks are small black and white animals about the size of a cat.
They have big bushy tails.
Skunks live in North America.



For Review Only

Skunks are **nocturnal**. This means that they sleep during the day. They leave their burrows at night to come out and hunt for food.



Skunks hunt around the forest area where they live. They hunt for insects, berries and mice.



While they are hunting, skunks will stand on their back legs to look out for danger.

Are skunks nocturnal animals?

For Review Only



# All sorts of skunks

There are four common types of skunks.

The **striped skunk** has two large white stripes. These stripes run from the top of its head to the tip of its tail.



The **spotted skunk** is smaller than the striped skunk. It has white spots and stripes on black fur. It can stand on its front legs, lift its back legs, and wave its tail about to warn its enemies.

For Review Only

Yes. Skunks are nocturnal animals.

The **hooded skunk** is like the striped skunk, but a little smaller. Its tail is longer than its head and body.





The **hog-nosed skunk** has a nose that looks like a pig's nose.

How many common types of skunks are there?

For Review Only

# The honey thief

Honey is a favourite food of skunks. Skunks sometimes raid the nests of wild bees.

When a skunk scratches against the outside of a beehive with its claws, the bees get angry and rush out.

The skunk then kills some of the bees that are flying around its head, by hitting them with its paws.

The bees often sting skunks on the lips, mouth and throat. But the bee stings don't hurt. Skunks are immune to bee stings.

For Review Only

There are four common types of skunks.



For Review Only

Do bee stings hurt skunks?