

Name: _____

Skunk Alert

by Lydia Lukidis

Last night Tommy saw a skunk. It was behind his house. It was looking through the garbage cans.

Tommy was scared. He asked his mom if the skunk would spray him.

His mom explained that skunks are known for spraying foul odors. Foul means yucky. She also said that there is no need to worry because skunks rarely use their spray. In fact, a skunk may never



sp only
sp
sc
big



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skunk, it will turn around and shoot its spray. The spray can go very far. It can go up to 10 feet away! The spray is very smelly. It can also sting the animal or person's eyes.

The skunk does not mean to hurt people or animals. The spray is just its way of protecting itself. When Tommy learned all of these facts about skunks, he was relieved.

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1. What is the main reason a skunk will use its spray?
 - a. He wants to keep bugs away.
 - b. He wants to attract a female skunk.
 - c. He will only spray when he feels hungry.
 - d. He will only spray when he feels threatened.

2. According to the article, what does a skunk's spray do besides make a smelly odor? (Use a complete sentence.)



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3. Put a check mark () next to the warning signs a skunk gives before it uses its spray.

makes a barking noise

stomps its feet

lifts its tail and arches its back

shows its teeth

makes itself look bigger

crouches to the ground

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Fill in the missing letters to create words from the story.

Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. r _ _ r _ _ l y

clue: not occurring very often

1. _____

2.



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3.

clue: very strong or unpleasant smells

4. r e l _ _ e _ _ e d

clue: no longer fearful of something

4. _____

5. a _ _ _ h

clue: to make something curved, such as one's back

5. _____

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In the article, "Skunk Alert," you learned many fascinating facts about skunks.

On the lines below, describe how you would react if you saw a skunk nearby, like Tommy did in the article. How do you think reading this article about skunks may cause you to react differently if you saw one?





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ANSWER KEY

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1. What is the main reason a skunk will use its spray? **d.**
- a. He wants to keep bugs away.
 - b. He wants to attract a female skunk.



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ANSWER KEY

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Fill in the missing letters to create words from the story.

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such as one's back