

Name: _____

Skunks

By Cynthia Sherwood

P-U! That might be what you think when you hear the word “skunk.” But there is much more to this little creature than just its stinky smell when it sprays.



Skunks are mammals that live in many places in North America. All



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skunks can be helpful to have around.

You may not feel that way, though, if you ever get sprayed by a skunk. The spray is a thick, yellowish-green liquid that can travel fifteen feet! But skunks do not want to make you stinky. They are usually quite shy and only spray to keep their enemies away.



Skunks also warn you first. If you ever see one hiss, click its teeth, or stamp its front feet, run away fast! The skunk is getting ready to spray. And if it does, you know what that means—P-U!

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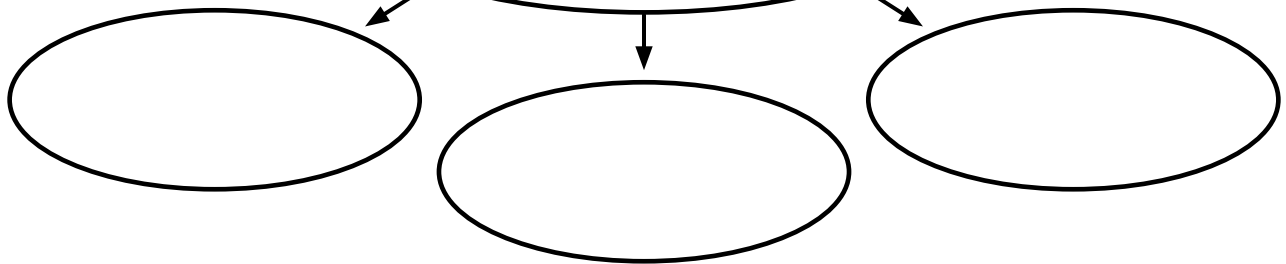


1. List three facts you learned about skunks.



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4. According to the article, how can skunks be helpful to people?

5. What is the genre of this article?

- a. science fiction b. non-fiction
c. fiction d. fantasy

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Use some of the facts in the article to write a creative poem about skunks.

(title)



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