

**GROSS-OUT
DEFENSES**

Prickly PORCUPINES

by
Catherine Nichols

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by Catherine Nichols

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Armed and Dangerous

A hungry porcupine climbs a tree looking for a snack.

Out of nowhere a mountain lion appears.

Scared, the porcupine raises its sharp **quills**.

It swings its spiky tail and hits the lion.

Ouch! A bunch of quills stick in the lion's face.

Yelping in pain, the lion runs away.



A porcupine's coat is made up of long hairs and soft thick fur. It also contains about 30,000 prickly quills.



quills

mountain lion

Back Off!

Before striking, a porcupine tries to scare an enemy away by using different tricks.

First, the porcupine turns its back to the enemy and raises its needle-sharp quills.


The longest, stiffest quills are on the prickly animal's back.

If that warning doesn't work, the porcupine clicks its top and bottom teeth together.

The scary sound tells the enemy to leave before it gets hurt.



teeth

A close-up photograph of a porcupine in a field of tall, dry grass. The porcupine's body is covered in dark, dense fur, and its tail is a large, rounded mass of long, light-colored quills. Its head is turned to the right, showing its small eyes and snout. A bright yellow, cloud-like callout bubble is positioned in the upper right corner of the image, containing text about the porcupine's defense mechanism.

Sometimes a porcupine makes a stinky smell when it's in danger. The horrible odor is so strong it can make an enemy's eyes and nose water. Phew!

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Learn More Online

To learn more about porcupines, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/GrossOutDefenses

About the Author

Catherine Nichols has written many books for children, including several on animals. She lives in upstate New York with her dog and two cats.

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Prickly PORCUPINES

Ouch! Don't get too close to a porcupine. This prickly creature can stab its enemy with some of its 30,000 sharp quills. To make things even worse, a porcupine can also give off a stinky smell when in danger. The horrible odor is so strong that it makes its enemy's eyes and nose water. Look inside to find many more fascinating facts about these prickly creatures!

Bloody Horned Lizards
Deadly Poison Dart Frogs

Disgusting Hagfish
Prickly Porcupines

Smelly Skunks
Tricky Opossums

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