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by Catherine Nichols

Consultant: Gabrielle Sachs Zoo Educator



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Credits

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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.

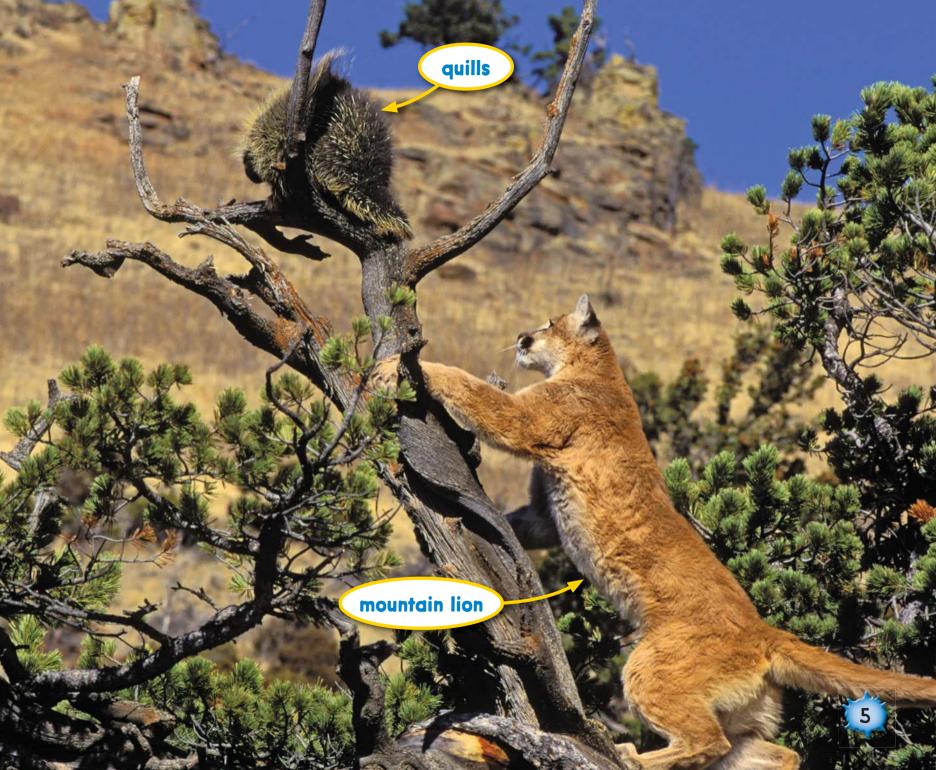
Ouch! A bunch of quills stick in the lion's face.

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.







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.





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! Index

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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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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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