

Imagine a small animal with fluffy fur and a beautiful black and white pattern, and you've got a picture of the hooded skunk! These skunks have a particular characteristic: a 'hood' of fur over their heads, which gives them their name. With a body about the size of a house cat, they also have a long, bushy tail that they can puff up when they feel threatened. They're not just adorable, but they're also fascinating creatures with unique habits and behaviors.

Now that you know what hooded skunks look like, let's explore their home and lifestyle. These skunks prefer to live in warm, dry areas, and they can be found in places from the southern United States all the way to Central America. They are nocturnal, which means they are most active at night, and they spend their days sleeping in dens they dig in the ground or borrow from other animals. As for their diet, they are



omnivores, which means they eat both plants and small animals, like insects, lizards, and rodents.

Having learned about their habits and diet, let's understand how hooded skunks interact with others. While they don't have the best reputation with humans because of their smelly spray, they actually play an important role in controlling pest populations by eating insects and small rodents. Other animals, like coyotes and bobcats, might see the hooded skunk as a tasty meal, but they usually steer clear because of the skunk's powerful defensive spray. Even with this defense, hooded skunks still have to watch out for birds of prey, like owls, who don't have a great sense of smell.



Finally, let's delve into what makes hooded skunks distinct from other skunks. While all skunks have the ability to spray a smelly liquid when they feel threatened, the hooded skunk can actually choose not to spray if it decides the threat isn't big enough. Another difference is their \'hood\' of fur, which sets them apart from other skunk species that don't have this unique feature. Hooded skunks are truly one-of-a-kind creatures with their distinctive looks, unique behaviors and important role in the ecosystem.

Name:

Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

1) What part of their body can hooded skunks puff up when they feel threatened?

A. Their small head B. Their long, bushy tail

D. Their fluffy fur C. Their round body

2) When are hooded skunks most active?

A. During the day B. In the afternoon

C. At dawn D. At night

3) Why are hooded skunks important?

A. They provide fur for clothing B. They help in the decomposition of

dead matter

C. They pollinate flowers D. They control pest populations by

eating insects and small rodents

4) Where do hooded skunks live?

A. In cold, snowy areas B. Near beaches and oceans

C. In tropical rainforests D. In warm, dry areas

5) What makes the hooded skunk unique?

A. A long, bushy tail B. Sharp claws for digging

C. A 'hood' of fur over their heads D. A white stripe down their back

6) Where do hooded skunks sleep during the day?

A. In caves they find on mountains B. In dens in the ground

C. In burrows they excavate underwater D. In nests they build on trees

7) Which bird preys on hooded skunks?

A. Owls B. Buzzards

C. Eagles D. Sparrows

8) What type of diet do hooded skunks follow?

A. Insectivorous, eating only insects. B. Herbivorous, eating only plants.

C. Omnivorous, eating both plants and D. Carnivorous, eating only meat.

small animals.

9) Why are hooded skunks not liked by humans?

A. Because they can spray a smelly B. Because they are noisy

liquid

C. Because they carry diseases D. Because they eat crops

10) How big can a hooded skunk's body be?

A. About the size of a squirrel B. About the size of a dog

C. About the size of a house cat. D. About the size of a raccoon

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).



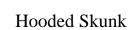
- 11) "Humans and I are best friends; they absolutely love it when I spray my scent around."
- 12) "While my spray keeps most predators away, I still have to be careful around birds like owls who have a weak sense of smell."
- 13) "I adore cold and moist environments."
- 14) "I don't stand out much, my fur is a pure black."
- 15) "I live in warm, dry areas, from the southern United States all the way down to Central America."
- 16) "I love the daytime. You'll see me running around in the sun, catching my lunch!"
- 17) "We have a special 'hood' of fur over our heads, which is what makes us different from other skunks."
- 18) "I have a pretty black and white pattern and a 'hood' of fur on my head that makes me look awesome!"
- 19) "I have a strict diet of only berries and fruits, I would never eat any small insects."
- 20) "Nobody dares to eat me because of my powerful and stinky spray."
- 21) "At night, while you sleep, we wake up to find our breakfast."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 22) Unlike other skunk species, hooded skunks can choose not to spray if they believe the threat is not severe.
- 23) Hooded skunks, with their big fluffy tails and white "hoods", are the cutest skunks.
- **24)** Birds of prey, such as owls, can be a threat to hooded skunks.
- 25) It's amazing that hooded skunks can live in both deserts and forests.
- **26**) Hooded skunks are usually active at night.
- 27) The fact that hooded skunks eat both plants and small animals is surprising.
- **28)** Hooded skunks can be distinguished by their fur that forms a 'hood' and sets them apart from other skunk species.
- **29)** A diet of hooded skunks includes both plants and animals.
- **30**) It's amazing how hooded skunks can choose not to spray when they feel threatened.
- **31)** The 'hood' of fur on the hooded skunk's head makes it look funny.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- **32)** The hooded skunk can choose not to spray when it feels threatened.
- **33**) The hooded skunk is most active during the day.
- **34)** Coyotes and bobcats tend to avoid hooded skunks.
- 35) Hooded skunks are found only in South America.
- **36)** Hooded skunks will eat plants, insects, and small animals.
- **37**) Hooded skunks only eat plants.
- **38)** Hooded skunks can not spray a liquid to defend themselves.
- **39)** Hooded skunks spend their days sleeping in tree branches.
- **40)** Hooded skunks live in underground dens.



Name:



41) Hooded skunks prefer warm areas.

Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- **42)** Hooded skunks are solitary animals and prefer to live alone.
- **43**) Are hooded skunks friendly towards humans?
- 44) Hooded skunks are nocturnal creatures and are most active at night.
- 45) Hooded skunks have a unique defense mechanism that includes spraying a smelly liquid.
- **46**) Do hooded skunks have any predators?
- **47**) What colors are hooded skunks?



Hooded Skunk

Name:

1.	26.	

25.



Imagine a small animal with fluffy fur and a beautiful black and white pattern, and you've got a picture of the hooded skunk! These skunks have a particular characteristic: a 'hood' of fur over their heads, which gives them their name. With a body about the size of a house cat, they also have a long, bushy tail that they can puff up when they feel threatened. They're not just adorable, but they're also fascinating creatures with unique habits and behaviors.

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Hooded Skunk Name: Answer Key

Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

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A. Their small head B. Their long, bushy tail

C. Their round body D. Their fluffy fur

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Name: Answer Key

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1.	В	26.	fact
2.	D	. 27.	opinion
3.	D	28.	fact
4.	D	29.	fact
5.	C	30.	opinion
6.	В	31.	opinion
7.	<u>A</u>	. 32.	true
8.	<u>C</u>	33.	false
9.	<u>A</u>	. 34.	true
10.	C	. 35.	false
11.	false	36.	true
12.	true	. 37.	false
13.	false	. 38.	false
14.	false	. 39.	false
15.	true	40.	true
16.	false	. 41.	true
17.	true	. 42.	declarative
18.	true	. 43.	interrogative
19.	false	. 44.	declarative
20.	false	. 45.	declarative
21.	true	. 46.	interrogative
22.	fact	. 47.	interrogative
23.	opinion		
24.	fact	-	

opinion

Hooded Skunk

Name:

Solve each problem.

J	se	the	artic	ele t	0	answer	the	question.
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1) What part of their body can hooded skunks puff up when they feel threatened? (pa	aragraph 1))
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B. Their long, bushy tail

A. Their small head

C. D.

2) When are hooded skunks most active? (paragraph 2)

A. During the day B. In the afternoon

C. D. At night

3) Why are hooded skunks important? (paragraph 3)

A. They provide fur for clothing

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A. Because they can spray a smelly B.

liquid

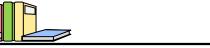
C. D.

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A. About the size of a squirrel B. About the size of a dog

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Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).



Hooded Skunk

Name:

- "Humans and I are best friends; they absolutely love it when I spray my scent around." **11**) (paragraph 3)
- 12) "While my spray keeps most predators away, I still have to be careful around birds like owls who have a weak sense of smell." (paragraph 3)

