



Imagine walking into your backyard at night and suddenly seeing a small, furry creature with distinct black and white stripes. You've just met a striped skunk! These animals are quite small, about the same size as a house cat, and they have a fluffy tail, short legs, and a small head. The two bold stripes running down their back, which merge into a single stripe on their tail, make them easy to identify.

Now that you know what a striped skunk looks like, let's figure out where they live. Striped skunks can be found throughout North America, from Canada all the way down to Mexico. They make their homes in a variety of habitats, including forests, grasslands, and even in urban areas. These creatures are nocturnal, which means they're most active at night, and they like to sleep in burrows during the day.

Having learnt where striped skunks hang out, let's delve into their eating habits. They are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and small animals. Their diet includes insects, small rodents, berries, nuts, and even garbage when they live near people. To find their food, skunks have sharp claws to dig in the soil and a keen sense of smell and hearing.



So, we know what they look like, where they live, and what they eat, but how do striped skunks interact with other animals and humans? Well, skunks generally avoid other animals, but they can defend themselves with a unique and smelly spray if they feel threatened. This spray is so strong that it can deter predators like bears and wolves! As for humans, skunks are usually harmless unless they feel scared or cornered, so it's best to admire these interesting creatures from a distance.





**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) Where do the two bold stripes on a striped skunk merge?
  - A. On their back
  - B. On their tail
  - C. On their legs
  - D. On their belly
- 2) Who are the natural predators of striped skunks?
  - A. Bears and wolves
  - B. Birds of prey
  - C. Cats and dogs
  - D. None, they have no natural predators
- 3) What are three habitats where you can find striped skunks?
  - A. Deserts, mountains, and swamps
  - B. Tundra, rainforests, and prairies
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- 4) What does the skunk do when it feels threatened?
  - A. It runs away as fast as it can
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  - C. It plays dead
  - D. It hides in its burrow
- 5) What do striped skunks eat?
  - A. Only small animals
  - B. Plants and small animals
  - C. Only garbage
  - D. Only plants
- 6) How many stripes do striped skunks typically have on their back?
  - A. One
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  - C. Two
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- 7) When are striped skunks most active?
  - A. In the morning
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- 8) What is the size of a striped skunk?
  - A. About the same size as a house cat
  - B. About the size of a large dog
  - C. About the size of a mouse
  - D. About the size of a lion
- 9) What type of dwelling do striped skunks sleep in during the day?
  - A. In burrows
  - B. In caves
  - C. In nests made of leaves
  - D. In trees
- 10) Where can you find striped skunks?
  - A. Only in Canada
  - B. From Canada to Mexico
  - C. Only in the United States
  - D. Only in Mexico

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

- 11) "We skunks usually avoid humans but if we feel scared or cornered, we might spray. So, it's best to admire us from a distance."



- 12) "We are active mostly at night and like to sleep in burrows during the day. That's because we are nocturnal creatures."
- 13) "We striped skunks are omnivores. We eat plants and small animals like insects, small rodents, berries, nuts and sometimes garbage!"
- 14) "We skunks don't have stripes. Instead, we have spots all over our body."
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- 16) "Actually, our sense of sight is the keenest. We usually find our food by seeing it rather than digging it or smelling it out."
- 17) "If we feel threatened, we can spray a smelly defensive spray that can deter even big predators!"
- 18) "I only dine on the finest leaves and grass. I don't touch insects, yuck!"
- 19) "We striped skunks are expert climbers and we spend most of our time in trees."
- 20) "Even though we can live anywhere, we don't really like grasslands."

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

- 21) Striped skunks will dig in the soil to find their food.
- 22) I believe striped skunks' black and white fur is prettier than any other animal's fur.
- 23) Striped skunks consume both plants and small animals.
- 24) The sound that skunks make when they are angry is really scary.
- 25) Striped skunks can be found in Canada, the United States, and Mexico.
- 26) The best thing about striped skunks is their ability to adapt to different environments.
- 27) Striped skunks can spray a strong, smelly liquid to defend themselves when they feel threatened.
- 28) Striped skunks are most active at night and sleep in burrows during the day.
- 29) Skunks have the worst smell among all animals.
- 30) It is quite interesting that skunks are active at night and sleep during the day.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 31) Skunks eat both plants and small animals.
- 32) Striped skunks have a single stripe that runs from its head to its tail.
- 33) Skunks may live in forests and grasslands.
- 34) Skunks are herbivores.
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**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 41) Striped skunks are nocturnal creatures, meaning they are active at night.
- 42) Do striped skunks make good pets?
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|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 28. _____ |
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- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>        | 26. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 2. <u>          <b>A</b>          </u>        | 27. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>          |
| 3. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>        | 28. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>          |
| 4. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>        | 29. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 5. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>        | 30. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 6. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 31. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 7. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 32. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 8. <u>          <b>A</b>          </u>        | 33. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 9. <u>          <b>A</b>          </u>        | 34. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 10. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>       | 35. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 11. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 36. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 12. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 37. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
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| 14. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 39. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 15. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 40. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 16. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 41. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 17. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 42. <u>          <b>interrogative</b>          </u> |
| 18. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 43. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 19. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 44. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 20. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 45. <u>          <b>interrogative</b>          </u> |
| 21. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>    | 46. <u>          <b>interrogative</b>          </u> |
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A. On their back  
B. On their tail  
C.  
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- 2) Who are the natural predators of striped skunks? (paragraph 4)  
A. Bears and wolves  
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