



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.





**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 round body  
B. Their fluffy fur  
C. Their small head  
D. Their long, bushy tail
- 2) When are hooded skunks most active?  
A. At night  
B. At dawn  
C. In the afternoon  
D. During the day
- 3) Why are hooded skunks important?  
A. They control pest populations by eating insects and small rodents  
B. They pollinate flowers  
C. They help in the decomposition of dead matter  
D. They provide fur for clothing
- 4) Where do hooded skunks live?  
A. In cold, snowy areas  
B. In warm, dry areas  
C. Near beaches and oceans  
D. In tropical rainforests
- 5) What makes the hooded skunk unique?  
A. A white stripe down their back  
B. A 'hood' of fur over their heads  
C. Sharp claws for digging  
D. A long, bushy tail
- 6) Where do hooded skunks sleep during the day?  
A. In nests they build on trees  
B. In burrows they excavate underwater  
C. In caves they find on mountains  
D. In dens in the ground
- 7) Which bird preys on hooded skunks?  
A. Owls  
B. Buzzards  
C. Sparrows  
D. Eagles
- 8) What type of diet do hooded skunks follow?  
A. Herbivorous, eating only plants.  
B. Omnivorous, eating both plants and small animals.  
C. Insectivorous, eating only insects.  
D. Carnivorous, eating only meat.
- 9) Why are hooded skunks not liked by humans?  
A. Because they are noisy  
B. Because they carry diseases  
C. Because they can spray a smelly liquid  
D. Because they eat crops
- 10) How big can a hooded skunk's body be?  
A. About the size of a raccoon  
B. About the size of a squirrel  
C. About the size of a house cat  
D. About the size of a dog

**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or 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.



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?

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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?



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| 1. _____  | 26. _____ |
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| 3. _____  | 28. _____ |
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- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>        | 26. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>          |
| 2. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>        | 27. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u>       |
| 3. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>        | 28. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>          |
| 4. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>        | 29. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>          |
| 5. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>        | 30. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u>       |
| 6. <u>      <b>D</b>      </u>        | 31. <u>      <b>opinion</b>      </u>       |
| 7. <u>      <b>A</b>      </u>        | 32. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>          |
| 8. <u>      <b>B</b>      </u>        | 33. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>         |
| 9. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>        | 34. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>          |
| 10. <u>      <b>C</b>      </u>       | 35. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>         |
| 11. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>   | 36. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>          |
| 12. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 37. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>         |
| 13. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>   | 38. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>         |
| 14. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>   | 39. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>         |
| 15. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 40. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>          |
| 16. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>   | 41. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>          |
| 17. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 42. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
| 18. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 43. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 19. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>   | 44. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
| 20. <u>      <b>false</b>      </u>   | 45. <u>      <b>declarative</b>      </u>   |
| 21. <u>      <b>true</b>      </u>    | 46. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
| 22. <u>      <b>fact</b>      </u>    | 47. <u>      <b>interrogative</b>      </u> |
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- 11) "Humans and I are best friends; they absolutely love it when I spray my scent around."  
(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)