

Believe it or not, skunks are a part of the natural world in New York City. You might see one in your own neighborhood!

**Did you know?**

- Skunks are omnivores and eat both plants and animals. Their diet can include berries, grasses, insects, worms, and small mice.
- Skunks protect themselves with a smelly oil. They spray it from a gland underneath their tail.
- Skunks show they feel scared by stamping their feet and shuffling backwards.
- They do not hibernate, but will stay inside their den for long periods during very cold weather.
- If you see a skunk, don't get too close. The animals will try to protect themselves and may spray, scratch, or bite.



**WORD SCRAMBLE**

Did you know skunks use their smelly oil spray to protect themselves? You can keep yourself skunk-spray-free if you keep your distance and do not sneak up on one.

**Circle the behaviors below that will help keep you from scaring a skunk. Then unscramble the green letters under the behaviors you circled to fill in the blank.**

Skunks dig in the ground to find and eat \_\_\_\_\_ s.



Hike on marked trails

**O**



Get close and feed wildlife

**T**



Walk outside with pets leashed

**R**



Bring garbage home to throw away

**M**



Hike out on your own trail

**C**



Use binoculars to view wildlife

**W**



Walk outside with pets unleashed

**I**



Throw garbage in a can that's too full

**T**

## CONNECT THE DOTS

Skunks have poor eyesight.

Connect the dots to help the skunk see what predator is hunting them in the forest at night.



## WORD SEARCH

Find the hidden words.

B X A L I S N N D L H L O S W Z Z R R Q  
 T H L J E F O F I S I F K Y I H C J Z T  
 U U H S J R C L E A N F G Z T P M U N G  
 J O I F X P T E C Q S W Y J X P U U L V  
 S W N D Z T U S M K O Z I R C S J N I K  
 R E V G U R R W W U Q M P N U P W K Y R  
 K R C X K E N H E S D P M N I L O L K I  
 Q D F F K O A I T T U Z I G S I R E M O  
 P X N H X S L T T R B R E L Y T R D C W  
 A A A G S Q Z E C I V U J J T V U Q M J  
 L I H N X X N H S P W F K C A L B A S Q  
 O Q R Q F T V E Q E X E O S I T E D L W  
 A U E I M P L G U K K F Y D L R Z Z A L  
 F U Z D L G H S I V U L X T O X X F M S  
 M S A E I G I U H Q L Y G V D L Z J M V  
 W B J P Q A Q S I E A W I I G T Y D A Y  
 K A L M S U P Y M E Z N M G L D I M M A  
 E R P I W V I S R V M I P P H X U T C I  
 S L Z H S U A M P O T L D Q R X X F V C  
 S E I T A N J P S Y X O Z Y J H A D W Z

### WORD BANK

Mammal  
 Stripe  
 Omnivore  
 Burrow  
 Smelly  
 Fur  
 Black  
 White  
 Tail  
 Nocturnal  
 Timid