



THE SMELLY STRIPED SKUNK

by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

The Jones family was hiking along a trail in the woods when 5-year-old Billy scampered forward and squealed, "Look at the cute kitty!"

His dad looked ahead and immediately ordered, "Billy, you must stop now! That is not a cat but a skunk! Now walk back to us very slowly and quietly."

Billy obeyed his father, and they all retreated down the trail until they were a safe distance from the skunk.

"What did I do wrong, Dad?" Billy questioned.

"You didn't do anything wrong, Son. I know you have never seen a live skunk and didn't know what it would do if you got too close. It had raised its tail and was stamping its front paws on the ground, warning you that if you came any closer, you were about to get sprayed!"

"What do you mean 'get sprayed'?"

"At the back end of a skunk are two glands that make a yellow, oily liquid that the skunk can shoot out or spray at its enemy - up to twelve feet away. This spray, called musk, has a powerful, stinky, and very unpleasant smell. I stopped you because I didn't want you to get sprayed like I did when I was a kid."¹

"You've been sprayed, Dad?" daughter Mary

asked.

"Yes, Mary, I have. When I was 11 years old, a Division of Wildlife Officer came to our school to talk about some animals in the area. He showed us pictures of deer, elk, and antelope, telling us where they lived, what they ate, and how they behaved. Then he held up living animals and told all about them.

There was a chipmunk, a cottontail rabbit, a magpie, and a garter snake. You should have heard the screams when

he held up the snake! Then he put a cage on a table and opened its door. A skunk climbed out, and there was a lot more screaming! After we quieted down, he explained that this was a striped skunk (like the one we just saw) and was very tame and docile. When someone asked if he was afraid of getting sprayed, he said no, because this one had been a pet, and the owners had the scent glands surgically removed when it was a kit (baby).

"A few weeks later, my friend Jerry and I were walking to my house, which was a little way out in the country, and what do you think we saw but a mother skunk with her five kits going into a culvert under the road. Remembering the skunk at school, we began scheming how to get our own pet skunk. We found a long stick thinking we could drag a couple of kits out of the culvert. We crouched at the opening, Jerry operating the stick and me looking over his shoulder. Suddenly I felt a heavy mist hit me in the face, and I inhaled the most horrible stink I have ever smelled. Worst of all, my eyes began to burn like fire. The momma skunk decided she wouldn't put up with our



nonsense and blasted us in the face with her musk. Jerry got the worst of it, but enough hit me that I never wanted to experience that again. We both gagged and vomited as our burning eyes poured tears all the way to my house. Your grandmother was not very happy with us. She lathered us with soap and tomato juice and hosed us down several times but couldn't get

rid of the smell. She burned our clothes and even made us sleep outside. It was several days before she finally let me back in the house. To this day, I still get queasy when I smell skunk spray! In fact, Billy, even though your skunk didn't spray, and even though we are far away from your skunk, I can smell its stink very clearly." ***

"Why did God make it so stinky?" asked Billy.

"Do you remember when we talked about Romans 5:12 and how it says there was no death in the world until Adam sinned?

Before sin and death entered the world (the Fall), the skunk would have had no enemies trying to eat it. So instead, it might have used its scent glands simply to mark its territory or communicate with other skunks. Because God knows everything, however, He might have programmed the skunk with its unpleasant scent, knowing it would need to protect itself from other animals after the Fall. I can testify personally that the musk God gave the skunk is a very powerful defense design! Even in a cursed world because of sin, God cares and provides for His creation."²

*** The account of the momma skunk encounter really happened to me (LJ).
Skunk Picture - Wallace Keck, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

References

1 <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/skunk>
 2 <https://answersingenesis.org/mammals/skunks-a-design-that-makes-scents/>
For more information about skunks, I suggest reading:
<https://answersingenesis.org/mammals/skunks-a-design-that-makes-scents/>
<https://answersingenesis.org/kids/mammals/striped-skunks/>
<https://answersingenesis.org/mammals/lasting-impressions/>

BASEBALL	IN	TEXAS	HIS	TIMMY
PIG	PENGUIN	HAND	JANE	IS
THE	TEDDY	TENNIS	LIFE	COW
SALLY	OF	EAGLE	EVERY	SOCCER
JIMMY	HORSE	LIVING	OREGON	THING
AND	COLORADO	HAWK	THE	SARAH
KANSAS	BREATH	GOAT	BOBBY	OF
ALL	BETTY	MANKIND.	OWL	UTAH
SAMMY	JOB	AMANDA	12:	EMU
FLORIDA	SHEEP	10	FOOTBALL	MARY



A skunk entering the park is about to upset everybody's day.
 Find the 18 differences between the 2 pictures



CROSS-OUTS

Only an intelligent Creator could create amazing creatures like a Skunk.
 Solve the puzzle above to find what the Bible says about that Creator.

Cross Out All: 1. Farm Animals 2. Sports 3. Boy's Names
 4. Girl's Names 5. States 6. Birds

FOR ANSWERS, GO TO:
www.discovercreation.org/kids/newsletteranswers.htm

Puzzles by Lanny Johnson
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