



**Tell Me Why**

# WHY?

**Skunks Smell Bad**



Susan H. Gray



Published in the United States of America by Cherry Lake Publishing  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
www.cherrylakepublishing.com

Content Adviser: Dr. Stephen S. Ditchkoff, Professor of Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University,  
Auburn, Alabama  
Reading Adviser: Marla Conn, Readability, Inc.

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Gray, Susan Heinrichs, author.

Skunks smell bad / by Susan H. Gray.

pages cm. -- (Tell me why)

Summary: "Young children are naturally curious about animals. Tell Me Why  
Skunks Smell Bad offers answers to their most compelling questions about  
when skunks attack. Age-appropriate explanations and appealing photos  
encourage readers to continue their quest for knowledge. Additional text  
features and search tools, including a glossary and an index, help students  
locate information and learn new words."—Provided by publisher.

Audience: Ages 6-10.

Audience: K to grade 3.

ISBN 978-1-63188-999-8 (hardcover) -- ISBN 978-1-63362-038-4 (pbk.) --

ISBN 978-1-63362-077-3 (pdf) -- ISBN 978-1-63362-116-9 (ebook) 1.

Skunks--Juvenile literature. 2. Animal chemical defenses--Juvenile  
literature. 3. Adaptation (Biology)--Juvenile literature. I. Title.

QL737.C248G73 2015 599.76'8--dc23

ISBN-13: 978-1-68444-474-8 (e-book)

2014025718

Cherry Lake Publishing would like to acknowledge the work of The Partnership for 21st Century  
Skills. Please visit [www.21.org](http://www.21.org) for more information.

Printed in the United States of America  
Corporate Graphics

Synchred Read-Along Version by:  
Triangle Interactive LLC  
PO Box 573  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

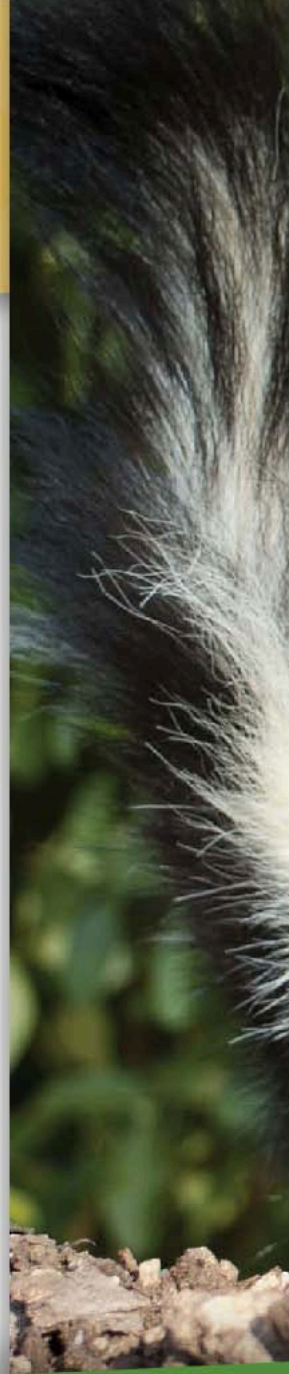
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# Phew-Eee!

Emily heard something scratching around in her dad's garden. Was it a rabbit or a turtle? Emily just had to find out.

It was already getting dark outside. Emily squinted her eyes as she drew near the garden. Suddenly, a little head poked out from behind a plant. The mysterious animal crept out a little farther. Then it began moving strangely.







## Ask Questions!

Have your friends or neighbors ever seen a skunk? If they have, ask them if it was during the day or at night.



*Skunks often live in neighborhoods, near people's houses.*

Emily and her dad went inside. Soon her dad called to her. "Emily, look what I found about skunks on the Internet!"

All of a sudden, a terrible **stench** filled the air. Emily shut her eyes tightly and held her breath. She turned and began running back to the house. She couldn't see where she was going and ran right into her dad.

"Dad! There's a skunk in the garden!" she shouted. "Yuck! Why do they smell so bad?"



*The smell of a skunk will make you want to hold your nose!*

# A Helpless Animal?

Emily's dad began to read aloud. "Skunks live in open fields and in brushy or wooded areas. They also live in farmlands and along riverbanks. Sometimes, they even appear in town. These little **mammals** eat whatever they can find. They dig in the earth to find worms and grubs. They scratch through the grass for crickets and beetles. They also eat mice, eggs, corn, berries, and pet food."

**Her dad stopped reading. "Now there's a good reason to keep pet food inside!" he laughed.**







**Look!**

**What features  
would help this  
skunk find worms  
and insects?**



*A skunk has a pointed nose and sharp claws.*





*A full-grown skunk is about the size of a house cat.*

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