

LEVELED BOOK • H

# Nature Stinks!



**Multi  
level  
H•K•N**

Written by Kira Freed

[www.readinga-z.com](http://www.readinga-z.com)



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## Focus Question

How does being stinky help plants and animals?





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Skunks spray to keep themselves and their babies safe.

## **Stinky Nature**

Some animals smell bad.

Some plants smell bad, too.

Being **stinky** helps some plants  
and animals stay alive.





Striped polecats are like skunks. They raise their tail and spray when scared.

## **Stinky Furry Animals**

This animal **sprays** a stinky liquid when **enemies** get close.

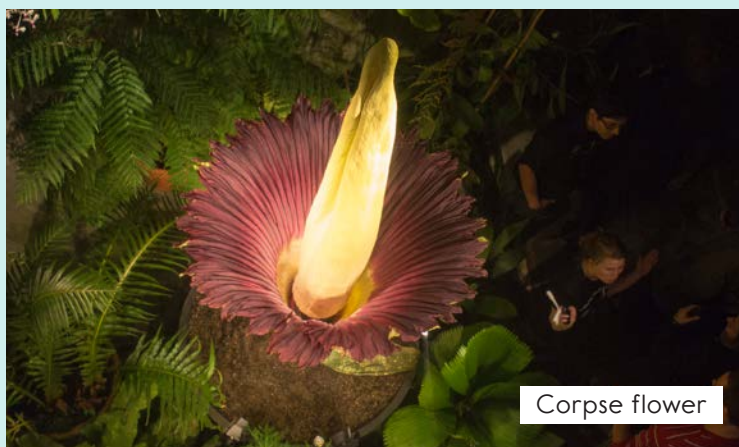


Opossums have pouches, like kangaroos.

This animal plays dead if enemies  
get close.

It also makes stinky green slime.





## A Very Stinky Plant

The corpse flower stinks!

A *corpse* is a dead body, and this plant smells like one.

The plant's bad smell brings flies and beetles near.



A lesser anteater's rough fur keeps ants off its body.

This animal shoots a stinky liquid  
at its enemies.



Wolverines are also called "nasty cats" because of their stink.

This animal makes stinky liquid to keep other animals away.

It also pees on food it doesn't eat right away.

The smell may keep other animals away.



Musk oxen have two layers of hair to keep them warm.

This animal fights over **mates**.

It uses stinky pee to keep others away.





The "stinkbird" has wings but does not fly much.

## **Stinky Birds**

This bird eats leaves.

Tiny living things in its body  
break down the leaves.

This way of eating makes  
it smell bad.





The smelly acid in a vulture's stomach helps it eat.

This bird eats dead animals.

It throws up when enemies  
get close!

Its throw-up smells very bad.



This beetle's smelly spray shoots out with a pop!

## **Stinky Bugs**

This bug sprays a hot, stinky liquid when enemies get close. The liquid is so hot that it can kill some enemies.



The stinky spray that some millipedes give off can itch and burn.

This bug is too slow to run away.  
It makes a stinky liquid when  
enemies get close.

## Other Stinky Animals

This turtle is also called “stinkpot”! It smells bad when enemies get close.



A musk turtle lives forty to sixty years.



This frog smells like **rotten** onions when enemies get close.

A female mink frog can lay up to 4,000 eggs at once.





This female bird sprays a dark, stinky liquid to keep its nest safe.

## **Good and Stinky**

Some animals smell bad.

Some plants smell bad, too.

Being stinky helps some plants  
and animals stay alive.

## Glossary

**enemies** (*n.*) living things that hate or hurt other living things (p. 5)

**liquid** (*n.*) something that can flow and change shape while keeping its size (p. 5)

**mates** (*n.*) partners of animals (p. 9)

**rotten** (*adj.*) very bad or unpleasant (p. 14)

**sprays** (*v.*) scatters many drops of a liquid in a certain direction (p. 5)

**stinky** (*adj.*) having a strong or bad smell (p. 4)

## Words to Know

enemies

liquid

mates

rotten

sprays

stinky

Front cover: The corpse flower's stinky bloom only stays open for a day or two.

Title page: Stinkbugs spray a smelly liquid to stay safe from enemies.

Page 3: The Tasmanian devil only smells bad when it senses danger.

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### Correlation

LEVEL H	
Fountas & Pinnell	H
Reading Recovery	13–14
DRA	14

# Nature Stinks!

*A Reading A-Z Level H Leveled Book*

*Word Count: 210*



## Connections

### Writing and Art

Which animal from this book do you find most interesting? Why? Draw a picture and write several sentences about it.

### Science

Compare and contrast two animals from this book. Make a list of how these animals are alike and how they are different. Share your list with a partner.

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