

PRICKLY PORCUPINES



Porcupines are herbivores. They use their claws to dig up roots, tubers and bulbs. They also like eating bark and fallen fruit.

They raise their long, spiky quills if they feel threatened, and can even run backwards into their attacker!



A baby porcupine is called a porcupette. They suckle milk for about 2 months. A family of porcupines is called a prickle.

Porcupines are nocturnal. You'll usually find our porcupines, Alika and Arewa, asleep in their den.



WHERE DO PORCUPINES LIVE?



58 different species of porcupine live in different places around the world, for example...



- North American porcupine
- Brazilian porcupine
- Crested porcupine
- Cape porcupine
- Sumatran porcupine
- Indian crested porcupine

Alika and Arewa are Cape porcupines
- the largest species of porcupine.
They are common in Central and Southern Africa.



QUICK QUIZ



1. TRUE OR FALSE?

Porcupines are very large rodents.
They are related to rats and guinea pigs.



2. TRUE OR FALSE?

They use their sharp front teeth
to catch and eat small animals.



3. TAKE A GUESS

How many quills can a porcupine have?
a) 30 b) 300 c) 3000 d) 30,000



4. TRUE OR FALSE?

Cape porcupines can weigh
the same as an 8 year old child.



Answers
1. True 2. False 3. 30,000 4. True



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