

The Dreaded Cliff



Fact or Fiction

The traits of the animals in *The Dreaded Cliff* are based on animals in the real world. Identify each statement as fact or fiction. Add a statement that is fact or fiction at the end of each animal section.

Packrats	Fact	Fiction
Collect shiny objects.		
Eat prickly pear cactus pads and are good at avoiding the spines.		
A mom will teach her young about "Packrat Etiquette."		
Collect cactus pieces and place in their nests for protection.		
Pee in certain portions of their homes, cementing the loose pieces together.		
Say fun words such as "sublorious" and "snibble."		
Will weave blankets out of fibers, twigs, and bark shreds.		
Sometimes share their homes with a snake during the cold season.		
Will build nests under car hoods and destroy wiring.		
Will drop a collected object and "trade" it for another.		
Kangaroo Rats		
Live in underground burrows.		
Thump their hind feet on the ground, especially when threatened.		
Frequently share their burrows with other creatures such as packrats.		
Can leap six to nine feet in a single bound.		
Don't need to drink water because they can make water from their food and conserve moisture well in their bodies.		
Collect seeds in fur-lined pouches on their cheeks.		
Emerge from their burrows during the day when they can see better rather than night to gather food.		

Porcupines		
Their quills are a special kind of hair.		
Can climb trees.		
Sing opera, pop, country, and hip hop, depending on their mood.		
In addition to their quills, have other ways to defend against predators.		
Never fall when climbing trees.		
Can shoot their quills like bullets at attackers.		
Love to hang out with other rodents.		
Cottontail Rabbits		
Their predators include: hawks, owls, coyotes, foxes, domestic cats, badgers, and bobcats.		
Like a ventriloquist, they can confuse a predator by “throwing” their voice on to another object or place, such as a rock, bush, or hole.		
Run in zig-zag patterns up to 18 miles per hour from predators.		
Can see to the side, front, and rear, all at the same time.		
Produce a lot of babies which helps maintain the population.		
Great-Horned Owls		
Their tufted ears help with its excellent hearing.		
Can't move their eyes in their sockets, but they can twist their heads in a near circle (270 degrees) to see around them.		
Can swallow smaller prey whole.		
The leading edge of their flying feathers is ragged which helps give them nearly soundless flight.		
Can carry prey much heavier than themselves.		
Bullsnakes (gopher snakes)		
Can move up trees, swim, and go in holes underground.		
Can spit venom at an attacker.		
Can puff themselves up, flatten their head, and shake their tail to mimic a rattlesnake.		
When daytime temperatures are hot, move in cooler evenings.		
Will paralyze their prey with venom.		
Will sometimes hiss loudly when threatened.		
Consume their prey whole.		
Leave their molted skins hanging around to scare other animals.		