

Name _____

The porcupine is a rodent, though in Latin its name means "quill pig." The porcupine looks like he is wearing a coat of needles, called quills which are mixed in with his soft hair. The quills lie flat when the porcupine is calm and relaxed, but if he gets scared, they pop up and come to his defense. They tell any predator that gets too close that the porcupine does not want to be his dinner! Some of the porcupine's quills are almost a foot long! At one time people thought that the porcupine could shoot his quills, but that is not true. They do fall out, though, if touched, and often an animal that has had a run-in with a porcupine will come away from it with a quill or two stuck somewhere in their bodies. The quills have sharp tips, or barbs, that make the quills hard to pull out once they have attached themselves to an unlucky predator. Porcupines grow new quills to replace the ones they lose.

1. A *predator* is an animal that:
 - A. has quills
 - B. eats another
 - C. runs away
2. An animal's *defense* is how he keeps from getting:
 - A. attacked
 - B. sick
 - C. lost
3. True or False: an animal that is relaxed is calm.
 - A. True
 - B. False
4. A *run-in* is a _____ meeting
 - A. safe and pleasant
 - B. dangerous and unpleasant
 - C. accidental
5. A synonym for *barb* is:
 - A. sharp
 - B. needle
 - C. tip
6. *Replace* means:
 - A. to take the place of
 - B. to grow back
 - C. to fall out

ANSWERS

1. B
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. C
6. A