

Houston Zoo at Home

NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE

North American porcupines spend most of the time on the ground, but they are good climbers and regularly climb trees in search of food and occasionally even build nests in trees. The second largest rodent in North America (beavers are the largest), porcupines are herbivores, dining on leaves, grasses, twigs, buds, and the bark of trees.

For these activities watch the video of Zookeeper Russell and Ernie, our North American porcupine. [Click here to watch!](#)

Creative Climber

Ages: 4 and up

Materials: None

Steps:

1. Find a space either in your own or outside that you can safely move around.
2. See how high you can SAFELY climb off the ground
3. You can use furniture, cabinets, and pillows if you are inside
4. You can use sticks, rocks, and trees if you are outside
5. Be sure to be safe while playing this game!
6. Marvel at your discoveries! There are usually way more living things around us than we notice. Take a moment to thank them for all they do to keep our earth healthy for us and the animals we all love.

Porcupine Snacks!

Ages: 4 and up

Materials Needed: Food items from your kitchen

1. Search your kitchen for food items you can use to make your own porcupine
2. For the body, you might use a soft piece of fruit, a hardboiled egg, or a marshmallow
3. For the quills, you might use pretzel sticks, chip pieces, or cereal
4. Get creative with your designs! See if you can make a family of porcupines that are different sizes using different food items!
5. End the activity with the best part: eating your creations!

Share your project with us!

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at communications@houstonzoo.org.