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Pee-Yew!

**The Stinkiest, Smelliest
Animals, Insects, and
Plants on Earth!**

Mike Artell



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Culver City, California

Good Year Books

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WARNING!

Don't read this book . . .

***. . . unless you want to know about
plants, animals, and insects that
smell bad and do disgusting things.***

***You do want to know about
those things?***

***OK, don't say we didn't
warn you . . .***

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Introduction

Some plants, animals, and insects are so stinky and smelly that they deserve a whole book of their own. And now they have one! In this book, you'll learn about some pretty stinky animals, insects, and plants. But remember: Even though they smell bad, all are important to life on earth.

Many plants use their stinky smells to attract bees and flies. The bees and flies spread the plants' pollen, which fertilizes the plants so the plants can produce fruit. The seeds from the fruit create new plants.

Animals and insects often use strong smells to attract mates or to let other animals and insects know that they have moved into the area. When animals find mates, they are able to reproduce, and life can go on. That's why even stinky smells are important.



Are you ready for a **REALLY SMELLY** adventure? Good, let's get started. But before you turn the page, do the following:

STEP 1

Take your thumb and put it on the side of your nose.

STEP 2

Take your index finger and put it on the other side of your nose.

STEP 3

Pinch your nose closed so you can't smell anything.

STEP 4

Got it?
OK, turn the page . . .



Humans Smell, in More Ways Than One



For a long time, scientists didn't understand much about our human sense of smell and how it works. Recently, however, they have made new discoveries that have helped them better understand how our sense of smell is connected to our other senses, to our memories, and to the way we understand the world.

Here's what happens when you smell something:

As you breathe in, air passes over millions of cilia inside the upper part of your nose. Cilia are tiny little hairs covered with a wet coating called *mucous*. This mucous catches the chemicals in the air and dissolves them.

Each cilia cell has hundreds of receptors. A receptor is a part of the cilia cell that checks the air for chemicals it recognizes. If the receptor recognizes

a chemical, it tells your brain. Your brain takes information from all the receptors and then decides whether what you're smelling is nice or nasty. So even though it seems weird, your brain does a lot of the work of smelling. It all happens very fast, and every time you breathe, your cilia, receptors, and brain go through the whole process again.

SMELLY FACT

Our sense of smell affects the way things taste. When we say something has a good "flavor," we're really saying that it has a good taste and a good smell, because "flavor" is a combination of both.