Real Sandpiper Point: porcupine quills



Sandpiper Point is made up. The animals and plants on this page are real, and so are the facts. Each one comes from the source named beneath it.

- A North American porcupine has over 30,000 quills.
  Source: San Diego Zoo. animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/porcupine
- Quills are modified hairs made of keratin, the same stuff as our hair and fingernails.
  Source: San Diego Zoo. animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/porcupine
- Porcupines cannot shoot their quills.
  Source: San Diego Zoo. animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/porcupine
- A baby porcupine (a porcupette) has soft, bendable quills that harden over its first few days. Tiny muscles at the base of each quill let it stand up when the porcupine is excited or alarmed.
  Source: San Diego Zoo. animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/porcupine
- In California, porcupines have lived in mountain and plateau country (Klamath Mountains, southern Cascades, Modoc Plateau, Sierra Nevada), mostly in the north.
  Source: California Dept of Fish and Wildlife. wildlife.ca.gov/Science-Institute/News/tag/porcupine

Where they live

In California the records are mostly from the north and the Sierra Nevada. The Quillers live in a story canyon at Sandpiper Point. We do not say that real porcupines live at the beach or in a coastal canyon.

In the stories

In Quill Line, quills go up when the quillers are prickly and smooth when they are calm. That is the Quillers, not a rule for every porcupine.

Stories: Quill Line, The Great Canyon Picnic.

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