

Sticking Out

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Members of the puffer fish family take in extra water when they are threatened by their enemies. This extra water makes them appear to be large and hard to eat.

One member of the puffer fish family, the porcupine fish, has long, sharp spines on its body and head. Usually, these spines lay flat against the fish. However, when the porcupine fish is threatened, it adds enough water to grow to twice its usual size—or more. The extra water also makes its spines stand out. The enemies of the porcupine fish swim away when they see a large ball with spikes instead of a fish.



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Review

1. Why do members of the puffer fish family take in water when they are threatened?
 - A. to make themselves swim more quickly
 - B. to make themselves appear large and hard to eat
 - C. to make themselves look like porcupine fish
 - D. to make themselves grow spines on their bodies
2. How do porcupine fish protect themselves from their enemies?
