**Learning Objective**

We are learning to précis large passages

**Challenge 1**

**Underline the key words in each sentence and then rewrite them in as few words as possible.**

There are two different types of porcupine – Old World porcupines and New World porcupines. Old World porcupines can be found in southern Europe, Asia and Africa. New World porcupines can be found in North America and South America.

The quills of a porcupine are soft at birth. However, as it grows older, the quills begin to harden. Should it lose a quill in later life, it has the ability to grow a new one.

The largest Porcupine is the North African crested porcupine. It grows up to 36 inches (90 centimetres) long. The smallest is the Bahia hairy dwarf porcupine. It grows up to 15 inches (38 cm) long.

**Challenge 2**

**Rewrite this passage in your own words to create a précis.**

When cornered, the African porcupine can be extremely aggressive. It will often run sideways or backwards at its attacker. If a sharp quill is embedded in the attacker, it can cause serious injury and even death. Contrary to myth, African porcupines cannot throw their quills at an advancing predator, but they may become dislodged when it shakes its body. Specially modified quills known as rattle quills add to the noise made when shaken. Another defensive behaviour of the African porcupine is to hide in a hole, facing inwards. Its erect spines make it almost impossible to dislodge.

**Challenge 3**

**Write a précis of this longer passage. You might find it helpful to use bullet points to list the key points and then rewrite the passage in your own words using your list.**

**There are 142 words in this passage. Can you write a précis using approximately 50 words?**

A porcupine is a rodent with a coat of sharp spines or quills. It is the third-largest rodent after the capybara and the beaver.  
There are two main types of porcupine – Old World porcupines and New World porcupines. Unlike their American cousins, African porcupines aren’t good climbers and spend most of their time foraging at ground level for bark, roots, fruits and berries. They are predominantly nocturnal creatures, which means that they are active during the night and sleep during the day.  
The correct name for a baby porcupine is a porcupette. The quills of a porcupette are soft at birth (to ease the birthing process), though they quickly harden when they make contact with air. Young porcupines grow rapidly in their first few months of life, and they reach full size after about a year.