

MEET THE AMAZING ARMADILLO

Are you ready to be amazed and amused? Keep reading! You'll really dig this book!

What's the big DILL-o?

LOL!
What do you call a flying armadillo?
A SHELL-icopter!

At a Glance

Where do they live?

Armadillos live on grasslands and in deserts, forests, and wetlands.

What do they do?

Armadillos dig many underground homes. They look for food at night.

What do they eat?

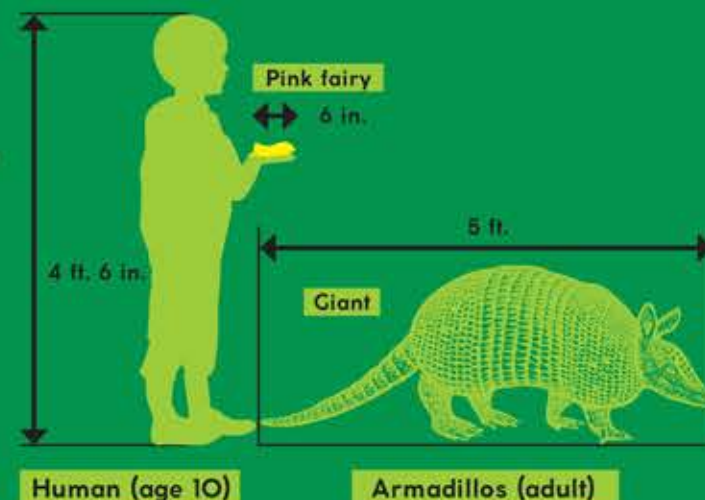
Armadillos mostly eat insects.

What do they look like?

Armadillos have a shell-like covering, short legs, and long claws.

How big are they?

HINT: It depends on the type of armadillo. Check this out!



SLURP IT UP!

An armadillo's diet is mostly made up of insects, insect larvae, eggs, and small animals. Occasionally, armadillos also eat fruit.

THAT'S EXTREME!
One armadillo can eat 40,000 ants in a single meal!

LOL!
What did the armadillo say to the waiter?
The food here is excell-ANT!

I hope my lunch isn't BUG-ging you!

ants



earthworms



These are some of an armadillo's favorite foods.

spiders



salamanders



ARMADILLOS AND PEOPLE

We have a long history together!



1800s

Nine-banded armadillos arrived in the United States. Scientists say they swam across the Rio Grande from Mexico to southern Texas!



Mid- to Late
1900s

As more land got developed for ranching and farming, several species lost their habitat. Giant armadillos became vulnerable to **extinction**.



A researcher studies a giant armadillo as it sleeps.

2011

Scientists in Brazil created new programs to study and protect armadillos. The South American project ultimately reached around the world.



Happy to help!

Today

Researchers use armadillos to learn about a disease called leprosy. They are working to develop a **vaccine** to keep people from getting sick.

extinction: when no member of a species is left alive

vaccine: a substance that can protect someone from a disease

Armadillo Cousins

Sloths and anteaters are the armadillo's closest living relatives.

We have long claws, like armadillos do. But we use them to hang from tree branches.



sloths

I feel so CLAWS to you guys.



Megatheriums

I was a pretty big deal in my day—about 2 million years ago. In fact, I was as big as an elephant.

We were a type of glyptodont.



Doedicurus

I'm really good at catching food with my tongue!



anteaters

Please note: Animals are not shown to scale.