



Nine-Banded Armadillo By C4A Academy



<https://a-z-animals.com/media/2021/07/Armadillo.jpg>

The NINE-BANDED ARMADILLO is native to the Americas. It is the only species of armadillo found in the United States. It was introduced to North AMERICA in the late 1800s. The armadillo can run SURPRISINGLY fast, reaching speeds of up to 15 miles per hour. The average LIFESPAN of the armadillo is around 7 to 8 years in the wild.

Spell: BANDED SURPRISINGLY AMERICA

We are learning about the Nine-Banded ____ . ARMADILLO

The average what of the armadillo is 7 to 8 years. LIFESPAN

It was introduced to North America in the late ____ . 1800S

How fast can this armadillo run? 15 MILES PER HOUR

Where can this armadillo be found? UNITED STATES, NORTH AMERICA, AMERICA, US

The armadillo is known for its distinctive ARMOR-like shell made up of bony plates that cover the back and sides of its CYLINDRICAL body shape. The Nine-Banded Armadillo has nine bands on its shell. These bands are FLEXIBLE and allow the animal to move and bend. The armadillo is also covered in tough, LEATHERY skin that is difficult to penetrate, providing additional PROTECTION.

Spell: ARMOR LEATHERY FLEXIBLE
What shape of body does an armadillo have? CYLINDRICAL
The skin provides additional _____. PROTECTION
The armadillo has what kind of skin? TOUGH, LEATHERY
Name something else that's a sphere.

When threatened, the Nine-Banded Armadillo will jump several feet into the air, tucking its legs and tail underneath its body, which acts as a natural armor to its softer UNDERBELLY. This is a defense MECHANISM that helps it escape PREDATORS. Additionally, the armadillo's armor-like shell provides it with additional protection, by allowing it to roll into a tight ball.

Spell: MECHANISM UNDERBELLY SHELL
The armadillo will ____ several feet in the air. JUMP
It has defense mechanisms to help it escape what? PREDATORS
What does the armadillo tuck underneath its body? LEGS, TAIL

The Nine-Banded Armadillo has small eyes and a small, pointed SNOUT that it uses to search for food. Its strong legs and sharp claws make it easy for it to dig BURROWS and find food. It is also an excellent swimmer, using its powerful legs and tail to paddle through the water helping it SURVIVE in a variety of ENVIRONMENTS and feed on a variety of food sources. It is small to medium in size, weighing anywhere from 4 to 17 pounds. Its length can range from 12 to 18 inches, with a height of 6 to 8 inches.

Spell: BURROWS EYES SURVIVE
The armadillo has a small pointed _____. SNOUT
The armadillo survives in a variety of _____. ENVIRONMENTS
Its length ranges from 12 to _____. 18 INCHES
What does it use to dig burrows? LEGS, CLAWS

The armadillo ranges over large areas in search of food. It can be found in areas as far north as the United States and as far south as ARGENTINA.

The armadillo's range has EXPANDED in recent years, with populations appearing in areas where they were once rare or ABSENT. This is due to a combination of factors, including the DESTRUCTION of natural habitats and the creation of new habitats through HUMAN activities.

Spell: DESTRUCTION ABSENT EXPANDED

Nine-Banded Armadillos can be found as far south as where? ARGENTINA

The armadillo ranges in search of _____. FOOD

New habitats have been created for armadillos due to ____ activities.

HUMAN

The armadillo is also known for its burrowing HABITS. It prefers to live in areas with loose soil, where it can easily dig. It digs burrows to find food, escape from predators, and avoid heat. The burrows are usually about 4 to 8 feet long and can be up to 6 feet deep. The armadillo is a SKILLED digger and can create a burrow in just a few minutes. In the wild, the armadillo is active at night and spends much of its day in its burrow. It REGULATES its body TEMPERATURE by burrowing into the ground, which provides INSULATION and helps to regulate its body temperature.

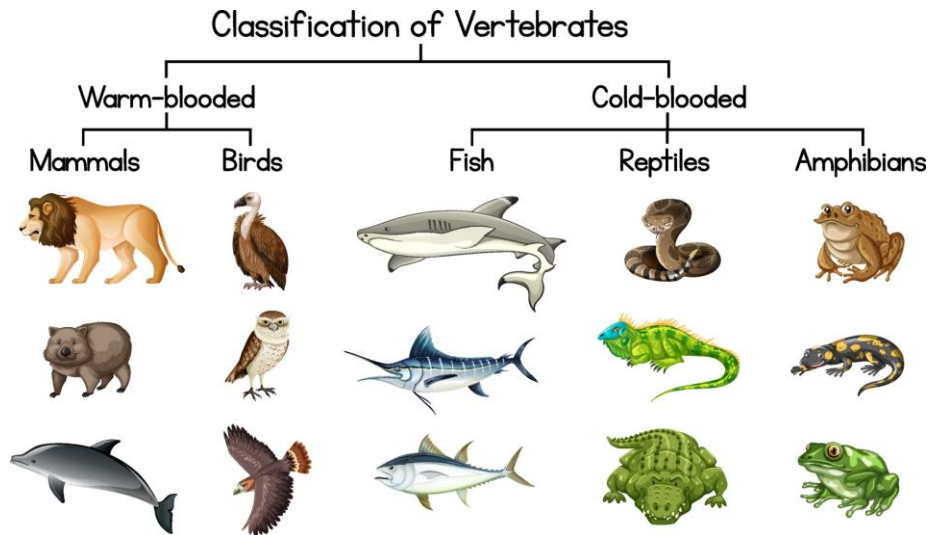
Spell: REGULATES SKILLED TEMPERATURE

The armadillo is also known for its burrowing _____. HABITS

Burrowing into the ground provides _____. INSULATION

The armadillo burrows to avoid _____. HEAT

The Nine-Banded Armadillo is a primarily INSECTIVOROUS animal, meaning that it primarily feeds on insects, such as ants and TERMITES. It has a keen sense of smell and uses its snout to dig for food. The armadillo's sharp claws make it easy for it to dig into the soil to find insects and other food. It also occasionally eats fruits, small VERTEBRATES (animals with a backbone), and CARRION (dead animals).



Source: <https://www.vecteezy.com/vector-art/2046667-diagram-showing-classification-of-vertebrates>

Spell: CARRION INSECTIVOROUS SHARP

Animals with a backbone are _____. VERTEBRATES

The armadillo has a keen sense of what? SMELL

One of the two insects mentioned was _____. ANT, TERMITE

Besides insects, name something that the armadillo will eat. FRUITS, VERTEBRATES, CARRION

The armadillo's unique DIGESTIVE system allows it to digest tough and hard-to-digest food. This is due to the presence of a SPECIALIZED chamber in its gut that FERMENTS (brews) tough food, making it easier to digest. This allows the armadillo to eat food that other animals cannot, such as hard-shelled insects and tough plant material.

Spell: SPECIALIZED PLANT SYSTEM

The armadillo has a unique _____ system. DIGESTIVE

The specialized chamber _____ or brews tough food. FERMENTS

One of the foods that the armadillo can eat that other animals cannot is _____. HARD-SHELLED INSECTS, TOUGH PLANT MATERIAL, INSECTS, PLANTS

The Nine-Banded Armadillo is a SOLITARY animal. Female armadillos give birth to a LITTER of up to 8 young. All armadillo offspring are always identical QUADRUPLETS. This is because the armadillo egg splits into four identical EMBRYOS (unborn offspring), resulting in four identical offspring. The young are born with a soft, leathery armor that hardens as they grow. They grow quickly and are fully mature by their second year.

Spell: SOLITARY GESTATION LITTER

Female armadillos have a litter of up to _____. 8 YOUNG

All armadillo offspring are identical _____. QUADRUPLETS

The armadillo egg splits into four identical what? EMBRYOS

The young are born with what that hardens? SOFT ARMOR, LEATHERY ARMOR

The armadillo is also SUSCEPTIBLE to a variety of DISEASES, including LEPROSY. The armadillo is the only non-human animal known to be a natural host of the BACTERIUM that causes leprosy, and it is thought that the disease may have been transmitted to humans through contact with armadillos.

Spell: SUSCEPTIBLE BACTERIUM HOST

The armadillo is susceptible to a variety of _____. DISEASES

The armadillo is the only non-human animal known to be a natural host of the bacterium that causes _____. LEPROSY

The Nine-Banded Armadillo is not considered to be an ENDANGERED species, but it is threatened by several factors. Habitat DESTRUCTION is a major threat, as the armadillo's natural habitats are being destroyed or altered by human activities. Additionally, the armadillo is hunted for its meat and shell, which are considered to have MEDICINAL properties in some CULTURES.

Spell: CULTURES DESTRUCTION MAJOR

The armadillo is not considered to be an ____ species. ENDANGERED

The armadillo is considered to have what kinds of properties by some cultures? MEDICINAL

The armadillo is hunted for its what? MEAT, SHELL

The Nine-Banded Armadillo is a CAPTIVATING species that has many interesting physical characteristics, habits, and adaptations. With its ability to roll into a ball, dig, and regulate its body temperature, the Nine-Banded Armadillo is able to THRIVE in a range of habitats from deserts to forests. Despite its hard shell, the Nine-Banded Armadillo is still threatened by habitat loss and disease, making it important for us to learn about and understand this fascinating species in order to help protect it for future GENERATIONS.

Spell: CAPTIVATING GENERATIONS FOREST

The Nine-Banded Armadillo is able to ____ in a range of habitats. THRIVE

The armadillo can roll into a ____ BALL

Why should we learn about and understand this species? TO HELP PROTECT IT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

What is the most interesting thing you have learned about the Nine-Banded Armadillo?

This lesson was written with the assistance of ChatGPT.