

# Armadillo



Photo by Sarah Rayner

**Armadillo** is a Spanish word meaning, “little armored one,” and refers to the bony plates that cover the back, head, legs, and tail of most of these mammals. Armadillos are related to anteaters and sloths. They have long sharp claws for digging as they forage for food. Their diet includes grubs, insects like ants, beetles, and termites.

The armadillos will also use their sharp claws to dig dens, burrowing into the soil near creeks and other moist places. While their eyesight is not good, they have a great sense of smell to hunt for food. They use their armor-like skin for protection against predators. The nine-banded armadillo is the only species that includes the United States in its range.

## Learning Links:

[Nine-Banded Armadillo Video](#)

[15 Amazing Armadillo Facts](#)

[Armadillo Species and Habitats Cool Video](#)

[Armadillo Crafts](#)

[Read the Book Armadillo by Jan Brett](#)