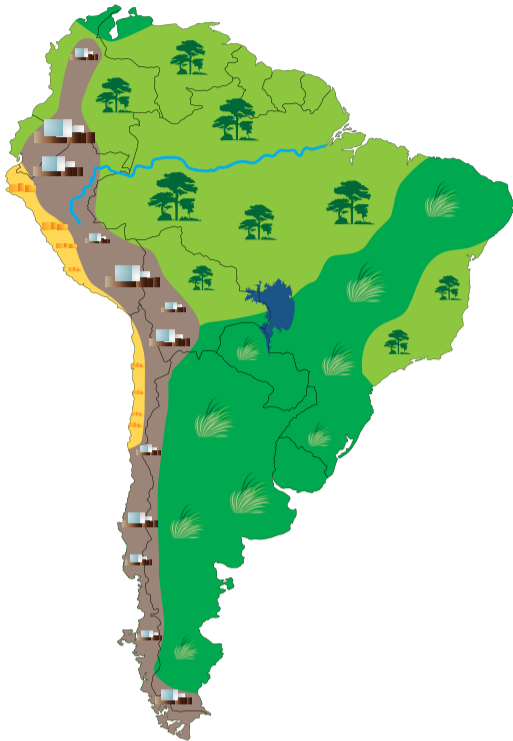


Habitat Question

The giant armadillo lives in rainforest, grasslands and wetland areas. The largest freshwater wetland area in the world is in South America. It stretches over Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay.



What is the largest freshwater wetland area in the world called?

Diet Question

This is a picture of a giant armadillo skull.

They have tiny teeth on the top and bottom.



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Why do you think the giant armadillo doesn't need any other kind of teeth?

Claw Question

The third claw on the front foot can be up to 20cm long.



Why do you think the giant armadillo needs such a big claw?

Threat Question

These are some of the threats facing the giant armadillo:

- **habitat loss** - smaller separate areas of habitat
solution – Trying to rewild corridors between the areas.
- **forest fires**
solution – Fund raised to train and provide equipment for a local community fire brigade.
- **human/wildlife conflict** – when the wildlife might be damaging to humans or their property.

For the giant armadillo, it is some of the beekeepers that don't like the armadillos!



Can you think why some beekeepers don't like the giant armadillos and what the solution is?



Answer

The giant armadillo eats ants and termites.

They might also eat some fruit and one time the researchers recorded it eating caiman eggs!

The little peg like teeth can help to crunch the insects but they don't need any other type of biting or killing teeth.

Have a look at the Unite for Literacy e-book:
Giant Armadillo by Arnaud Desbiez



Answer

The giant armadillos think that a beehive is a great place to get lots of food. They eat the larvae.

They can stand on their back legs, balancing on their tail and knock the beehive down!

For the beekeepers, the money they get from selling the honey is needed for their families. They may kill the giant armadillo to stop it knocking down the beehives.

The research team have set up a programme to help the beekeepers. They can build their hives higher so the armadillo can't reach them or they can put good fencing around the hives.

The beekeepers will then get a certificate and can put a label on their honey saying 'giant armadillo friendly honey'.

This is a great solution for both the beekeepers and the giant armadillos.

Answer

The Pantanal is the largest freshwater area in the world.

It is a huge floodplain beside the Paraguay river most of which becomes flooded during the wet season.

The wet season is from around October to March and the dry season from April to September.

The Pantanal is home to many different animals in the two very different seasons. In the dry season many animals can graze and burrow, then return to the forest for the wet season.

In the wet season there will be lots of fish, caimans, frogs and toads.



Answer

The big claw is used to rip open the ant and termite mounds.

Their other claws are not as big but they can still be useful.

Their back paws are used for digging into the sand to make their burrows.

The giant armadillos come out at night so most of the photos are from camera traps.



Length Question

The giant armadillo from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail is about 1.5m long.

The body is about 1m long with a 500cm tail.

The giant armadillo can weigh up to 60kg.

The giant armadillo is the largest of the armadillo species.



Do you know the name of the smallest of the armadillo species?

Burrow Question

Giant armadillos dig large burrows. They can be as deep as 5 metres and the mouth can be as wide as 45cm.

The giant armadillos will spend most of the day in the burrow and come out at night.

The giant armadillo will make a new burrow about every 2-3 days.



Do you know what happens to the giant armadillo's old burrows?

Babies Question

This is a photo a baby with mum.



The giant armadillos come out at night so most of the photos are from camera traps.

Do you think the mum giant armadillo can give birth to more than one baby at a time ?

Answer

Lots of other animals use the giant armadillo's old burrows!

There has been over 70 different species seen using old giant armadillo burrows.

The burrows are great for these animals to take shelter from the heat or to hide from predators.

The giant armadillos have built a hotel for other animals!

Have a look at the Unite for Literacy e-book:
Hotel Armadillo by Arnaud Desbiez



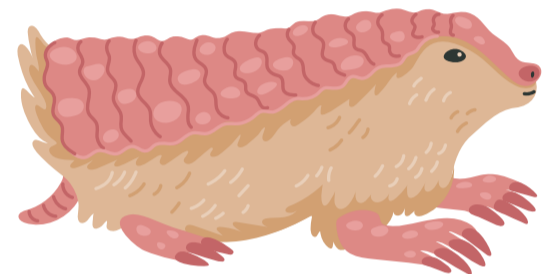
Answer

The smallest of the armadillo species is called the pink fairy armadillo.

The pink fairy armadillo is only about 11-14cm from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail. The body is about 8-11cm with a 3cm tail.

The smallest armadillo is smaller than the giant armadillo's big claw!

There isn't a lot known about this species of armadillo. It is thought to stay underground in its burrow day and night, only coming out for a few minutes at a time to find food.



Answer

Giant armadillos give birth to just one baby at a time.

Babies will grow inside mum for about 5 months before they are born. This is called the gestation period.

The baby will spend about a year with mum and will need mum's milk until they are about 4-6 months old.

Giant armadillos are not ready to have babies until they are about 7-9 years old.

One mum may have a baby every 3 years.

This is quite different to some other armadillo species. For example, the nine-banded armadillo can have 4 babies at a time and can start having babies when they are only 2 years old.