

### Chapter 1 : What Animals Live in the Desert - Animals that Live in the Desert

*The armadillo is the state animal of Texas. The female armadillo is the only mammal that can give birth to four identical babies with one egg. An armadillo can hold its breath for up to six minutes.*

Some are mountainous and rocky while others are pebbly or full of sand dunes. Some become baking hot under the sun whereas others are bitterly cold but there is one thing common about all of them and that is the hostile conditions which prevail making the survival of flora and fauna a complete admirable task. So here is the answer to your question. What Animals live in the Desert? What all can face such temperatures? To adapt according to deserts is no less than an art and there are few experts in the animal kingdom who perform it every day. If we start naming casually the list would conclude mammals , reptiles , birds and few amphibians. Few of the varieties of animals that dwell in the desert are armadillos , coyotes, jack-rabbits, and cougars. Other critters include snakes , scorpions , and spiders. Mammals that Live in the Desert Coming on mammals, the mammals of desert show appreciable ability to withstand the conditions that would be dangerously hot and dry for other mammals across the world. Some such camels can tolerate a steep rise in their body temperature and long dehydration. Others have their own means of securing shade, obtaining moisture, finding food and avoiding danger in wide open terrain. Birds that live the in desert Though some desert dwelling finches and doves forage for seeds, the most well-known birds of arid lands are predators. They probe vegetation and scour the ground for prey, obtaining all moisture they need from the bodies of their victims. Amphibians and Reptiles that live in the Desert Both snake and lizards are tolerant of dry climates, and these reptiles are among the commonest of desert animals. Amphibians are much more in danger of drying out, but a few species do appear on the desert surface especially after rare bouts of rain. Invertebrates that live in the Desert Few insects and other invertebrates can withstand the full force of the desert sun. This can have those waxy covering, or tough cuticle that prevents them from drying out. Others invertebrates take shelter during daytime. For examples we can mention Yucca moth, Desert cricket, Domino beetle and scorpion. In spite of this, many remarkable animals survive and even thrive in these hostile environments. Desert presents in whichever variety but surely is devoid of ample water for normal growth and sustenance of animals and plants. They burrow through moist soil in order to absorb water through the skin which is thick and tough to avoid any moisture loss. They tend to obtain their moisture needs from solid eatables or the food they eat as there is an acute cute shortage of drinking water. When it comes to prevent moisture loss these are quite economizing and so they excrete their metabolic waste in most concentrated forms like uric acid conserving the precious body water. By now, we know that nature has provided them with numerous adaptations to combat the harsh environment. And in these series of accommodation is to dissipate heat by lighter colouration which reflects heat. Apart from this long appendages and huge ears that perform the activities of a car radiator. Some animals are gifted with special eyelids to see through the sandstorm and the high temperature. Popular Animals that live in the Desert Gila monster: Venomous Gila Monster is the largest venomous snake in the snake list of Unites States. Unfortunately it is threatened in its very own natural environment. They spend an enormous part of their life hiding under the ground. Due to their low metabolic resting rate, huge size which enables them to store more energy and their ability in having bulk meals at a time helps them survive in the hostile conditions of the desert. This is a large, even-toed ungulate native to the steppes of Central Asia. Among the two species of camel, it is by far rarer in nature. They are typically herbivorous and is a shrub or grass eater. Obviously they would have to feed on dry, thorny, salty, or bitter plants whereas they can drink brackish somewhat salty water with no negative effects. A poisonous viper species found in the southern Europe through to the Balkans and in the parts of the Middle East. Known as one of the most dangerous snakes of among European Vipers due to their large size, long fangs, and high venom toxicity. It is nocturnal and often tends to hide in sand being an ambitious predator. Its dietary plan revolves around rodents, birds, and lizards. Sand fish is not even some distant relative of the fishes known to us. This is a species of skink. Its unique name is given because of its incredible ability to move through the sand swiftly which makes it appear of swimming. It is insectivorous and can predict the location of its prey through the vibrations produced at the time of their movement. These

## DOWNLOAD PDF ARMADILLOS (DESERT ANIMALS)

creatures are fascinatingly interesting especially for the evolutionary researchers. These are generally small in size and nondescript in nature. They participate to be a part of a moderate pest list. This venomous stinger can generously be a reason a terror for any human in stretches of deserts. It is mainly an insect eater. These highly capable hunters who can cause the death of its prey even in a moments notice can survive and flourish its existence in the deserts which are highly unsympathetic for its inhabitants just because of its tough and protective covering. How about sharing these desert animals with your friends and family.

### Chapter 2 : Where Do Armadillos Live? | Wonderopolis

*Armadillos (Desert Animals) [Emily Rose Townsend] on www.nxgvision.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Text and photographs introduce the habitat, appearance, and behavior of armadillos living in the desert.*

The armadillo is really strange looking. Some people refer to the hairs as curb feelers, since armadillos can feel their way around an area at night as the hairs touch objects. The one thing that tells everyone they are looking at an armadillo is the roly-poly shell with "armored" bands. The number of bands depends on the species. These hardened, overlapping sections give most armadillos a pleated look. Although the bands are tough like fingernails, the shell is flexible, with softer skin that expands and contracts between the bands. Armadillos also have long claws for digging and foraging for food. Looks can be deceiving. In the looks department, the nine-banded armadillo appears naked, while the pink fairy armadillo is mostly furry and has little shell. In fact, it looks like a mole wearing a fancy, armored headdress and cape! In the size department, armadillos range in length from the pink fairy armadillo at 3 inches 8 centimeters to the giant armadillo, which can be up to 5 feet 1. There are 20 armadillo species in the Americas; most live in Central or South America. Only the nine-banded armadillo is native to the United States. Most armadillos like wetlands with thick shade and sandy soil that is easy to dig in. But they are also found in thorn scrub, grasslands, and wooded areas. The heat is on. They travel to look for food and try to avoid danger. When the weather is cold, armadillos may group together in burrows, often making a large nest of leaves, with grass inside. Seven-banded armadillos sometimes share the burrow with several others of the same gender. Armadillos have little body fat and thin shells, so they cannot maintain their internal temperature as most mammals do. This causes their behavior to change from season to season. When an armadillo feels threatened, it usually runs, digs, or presses its body down in the dirt to keep from getting flipped over. The three-banded armadillo is the only species that can roll up into a ball for protection: All my exes live in Texas. Nine-banded armadillos are also known as long-nosed armadillos because of their longer head and snout. Despite the common name, they can have eight or nine bands, depending on where they live. This is the species commonly seen in Texas, where it was adopted as the official state mammal. Besides being the largest of the armadillos, the giant armadillo also has the most teeth, up to ! It often rises on its back legs, balancing with its tail. It digs a burrow out of large ant nests, which are common in the Chaco region, using its six-inch claws. Armadillos are insectivores, and their closest relatives are sloths and anteaters. Although most of their diet consists of insects and invertebrates, armadillos also eat fruit, eggs, and small animals. A sensitive nose helps armadillos sniff out tasty treats. Nine-banded armadillos grunt constantly while rooting around for food. If the food is underground, they use their long front claws to dig it up. This digging is why many people consider armadillos pests. Farmers and gardeners do not want this animal rooting around for bugs while destroying their crops or plants. Breeding season for armadillos varies from species to species, but there are some armadillos that can reproduce year-round. Gestation is anywhere from two to five months. Armadillos do not form bonds, and the father does not stay to help raise the young. A baby armadillo is called a pup. Armadillos can have from 1 to 12 pups in a litter. When the pups are born, their shell is soft and gray and feels like leather. They can roll up into a ball within hours of being born. The shell hardens within a few days. The mother nurses the pups for 2 to 4 months. Armadillos usually become mature between 9 and 12 months of age. The life span of an armadillo ranges from 4 to 30 years. Most armadillos in zoos live longer. However, the pink fairy armadillo rarely lives more than a few years in zoos, so little is known about this species. It takes an especially calm armadillo to make a good animal ambassador. These days, the San Diego Zoo and San Diego Zoo Safari Park have three-banded armadillos that serve as excellent animal ambassadors, meeting guests up close and making television appearances. Humans affect the armadillo in many ways. Some people consider them pests and call exterminators to rid them from their gardens. Armadillos are often run over by cars as the animals cross roads looking for food and new habitat. Many people eat them and use their shells for novelties like purses. Another growing threat to all armadillos is habitat destruction: Five armadillo species are classified as vulnerable. These animals are truly industrious excavators that are great at digging, serve as excellent insect control, and both confuse and delight most

## DOWNLOAD PDF ARMADILLOS (DESERT ANIMALS)

humans who come across them. Giant armadillo up to 39 inches centimeters long plus tail and weighs up to pounds 60 kilograms Smallest: The 9-banded armadillo has 4 identical pups in every litter, either all male or all female, and the 7-banded armadillo produces between 8 and 15 identical offspring.

### Chapter 3 : Armadillo Facts - Animal Facts Encyclopedia

*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 odd looking creatures. Armadillos are the only.*

Nine-banded armadillo *Dasyus novemcinctus* Average Size: Average Lifespan in the Wild: Armadillo Geography All 20 species of armadillos are found in the western hemisphere. Armadillos originated in South America, and a few species have expanded northward due to their rapid breeding cycle, adaptability and a reduction of predators. The only species that has made it into the United States is the nine-banded species, which inhabits Texas and the Gulf Coast states and can be found as far north as Missouri. Armadillo Habitat Armadillos prefer warm, moist climates, and thrive in forested areas and grasslands. Because they must dig for their food and shelter, they generally gravitate towards areas with loose, porous soil. These animals use their strong claws to dig several burrows throughout their home range in which to live and seek refuge from extreme weather or predators. An armadillo burrow is about 6" wide and up to 15 feet deep. In native southern regions, armadillos are nocturnal year-round, keeping cool underground during the day and foraging at night. Reproduction for the nine-banded armadillo begins in early summer, and the breeding period lasts about 6 months. It takes up to 4 months for a fertilized egg to become implanted and another 4 before young are born. Each time, the fertilized egg breaks into four identical zygotes, yielding quadruplets. Solitary animals, armadillos spend their lives foraging alone and only interact to breed or care for their young. Young armadillos become independent about 6 months after they are born. Armadillos are prolific diggers that excavate land for food and dig profound burrows for shelter. They prefer to dig in areas with loose, porous soil, rich in insects and invertebrates. Identify Armadillo Damage Most armadillo damage comes about as a result of their digging habits, taking the forms of holes and burrows. Signs of armadillo damage include: Armadillo Diseases Armadillos have the ability to carry the bacterium that causes leprosy in humans *Mycobacterium leprae*. However, the risk of contracting leprosy from an armadillo is extremely low. Fun Facts The smallest species of armadillo is the pink fairy armadillo - only 2" long and less than 1 lb. One type of armadillo - the three banded armadillo - instinctually rolls itself into a ball when threatened, completely enclosing its body in its armor-like shell to defend against predators. When frightened, nine-banded armadillos will jump vertically about 6 feet in the air. Scientists believe this is a defense mechanism for scaring potential predators.

*The southern three-banded armadillo has an interesting mode of locomotion: walking on its hind-legs with the tips of the fore claws touching the ground. They are dark brown and heavily armored with a thick, leathery shell that is usually segmented into 3 bands.*

Giant armadillos usually measure around inches cm. Adults weigh at around lb There has been an individual found in the wild that was lb 54 kg ; captive giant armadillos have been recorded to be up to lb 80 kg. The heads are a pale yellow-white. Their bodies are dark brown, with the sides having a yellowish band. Giant armadillos have up to a teeth, more than any other terrestrial mammal in the world. Distribution These armadillos have a wide range of distribution, being found throughout most of Northern South America east of the Andes Mountains. Their range, however, does not extend to the eastern parts of Brazil and Paraguay. Where do they live They inhabit areas with high termite populations, typically at heights of up to feet meters in and around rainforests, both tropical and subtropical, floodplains, grasslands, and semiarid and arid woodlands. Armadillo Giant Giant Armadillo Habitat Behavior Giant armadillos are nocturnal and are active mostly during the night, and spending the day inside burrows. They are terrestrial, spending their life on the ground. They are solitary animals, getting together with others of their kind only to mate. They make large burrows with entrances up to 17 inches 43 cm wide, and opening towards the west to avoid sunlight. What do they eat Giant armadillos feed primarily on termites and a few ant species. They may also take worms, small vertebrates, and even carrion, if necessary. During the breeding season, they get together and share the same burrow. Usually, one sometimes two offspring is given birth to after a gestation period of 4 months. Life-cycle The offspring usually weighs 4 ounces gram at birth, and are born with armored skin. They are weaned at around 6 months of age, and around the same time, they become independent. Both sexes become sexually mature at approximately 9 to 12 months of age. Lifespan These animals usually live for around years in the wild. Touch is also another vital form of communication between mother and offspring and mates. Adaptations The central claw of these armadillos is enlarged, to help tear into termite mounds. They can balance on their strong hind legs and tail, and stand up to get high into termite mounds. It is believed that they are adept at swimming. The bony scales on the carapace protect it from predators. Predators The only animals with jaws strong enough to get through the armor of these armadillos are the jaguar and occasionally, the puma. It is hunted for meat throughout its range, as well as captured for trade in the black market. Its habitat is threatened by deforestation. Conservation efforts are underway to ensure that the downward trend of the population of giant armadillos is checked and that the species thrives. At present, it is roughly estimated that there are about 30, giant armadillos remaining in the wild. Interesting Fact The giant armadillo is the only armadillo that cannot roll itself into a ball when threatened. Instead, it scurries away or digs its way out of trouble.

### Chapter 5 : Southern Three-banded Armadillo - The Living Desert

*The armadillo lizard is an interesting species of reptile which lives only in the deserts of southern Africa. This desert lizard is known by a variety of interesting names, which might lead you to believe that there are more of them out there than there actually are.*

The recent formation of the Isthmus of Panama allowed a few members of the family to migrate northward into southern North America by the early Pleistocene, as part of the Great American Interchange. They are particularly diverse in Paraguay where 11 species exist and surrounding areas. Many species are endangered. Two species, the northern naked-tailed armadillo and nine-banded armadillo, are found in Central America; the latter has also reached the United States, primarily in the south-central states notably Texas, but with a range that extends as far east as South Carolina and Florida, and as far north as southern Nebraska and southern Indiana. Habitat and anatomy[ edit ] Armadillos are small to medium-sized mammals. Many species use their sharp claws to dig for food, such as grubs, and to dig dens. The nine-banded armadillo prefers to build burrows in moist soil near the creeks, streams, and arroyos around which it lives and feeds. The diets of different armadillo species vary, but consist mainly of insects, grubs, and other invertebrates. Some species, however, feed almost entirely on ants and termites. This is particularly true of types that specialize in using termites as their primary food source for example, Priodontes and Tolypeutes. Most species have rigid shields over the shoulders and hips, with a number of bands separated by flexible skin covering the back and flanks. Additional armour covers the top of the head, the upper parts of the limbs, and the tail. The underside of the animal is never armoured, and is simply covered with soft skin and fur. Only the South American three-banded armadillos Tolypeutes rely heavily on their armour for protection. When threatened by a predator, Tolypeutes species frequently roll up into a ball. Other armadillo species cannot roll up because they have too many plates. The North American nine-banded armadillo tends to jump straight in the air when surprised, so consequently often collides with the undercarriage or fenders of passing vehicles. The nine-banded armadillo is noted for its movement through water [10] which is accomplished via two different methods: They have five clawed toes on their hind feet, and three to five toes with heavy digging claws on their fore feet. Armadillos have a large number of cheek teeth which are not divided into premolars and molars, but usually have no incisors or canines. Most members of the genus Dasypus give birth to four monozygotic young that is, identical quadruplets, [13] but other species may have typical litter sizes that range from one to eight. The young are born with soft, leathery skin which hardens within a few weeks. They reach sexual maturity in three to 12 months, depending on the species. Armadillos are solitary animals that do not share their burrows with other adults.

### Chapter 6 : Armadillo Lizard - Tough Desert Reptile | Animal Pictures and Facts | [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com)

*Armadillo lizards (Cordylus cataphractus) -- sometimes also known as armadillo girdled lizards -- are found along South Africa's west coast from Orange River to the Piketberg Mountains. Their body usually measures between 2 and 4 inches long, with a tail of roughly the same length again. These.*

### Chapter 7 : Armadillo - Wikipedia

*Below is a list of animals that live in the desert with links to additional information on each animal. Learn how they survive in the desert biome. Learn how they survive in the desert biome. Desert Animal Survival: How animals adapt to the desert.*

### Chapter 8 : Armadillo | San Diego Zoo Animals & Plants

*The Armadillo Lizard is a prey animal. It is preyed upon by bigger and stronger predators, such as humans, etc. The*

*Armadillo Lizard's armor is most usefull against many birds, mammals, and other reptiles.*

## Chapter 9 : Is an armadillo a desert animal

*Armadillos live in warm habitats, usually near the water. While they have a reputation for being desert creatures, they live in areas like the rain forest, the woods and grasslands.*