

Name _____

Date _____

THE ARMADILLO

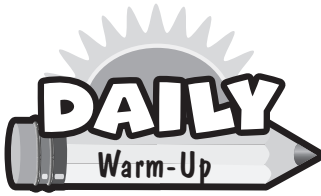
The armadillo is probably one of the most unusual-looking animals. It looks a lot like the dinosaurs that used to walk the Earth. Armadillos can live in many places throughout the United States and other parts of the world, but they are most prominent in the state of Texas.

The armadillo has a very tough shell with bands of very strong tissue. These bands are able to slide over each other, which allows the armadillo to roll up like a ball. This is how the armadillo is able to protect itself. It is like the armadillo is protected by a shield of armor. Most animals are unable to break through this tough skin. An armadillo lives in a burrow that it digs itself. The armadillo has to live in places where the dirt is easy to dig; otherwise, it cannot dig itself a home. They have very strong claws that help them dig.

The armadillo's main diet is insects. They eat ants, termites, beetles, grubs, worms, and other small insects. These animals are also known for their strange behavior. If an armadillo is startled, it will jump into the air. Sometimes it will even jump three feet high! It also makes a squealing sound. Armadillos are interesting animals!

STORY QUESTIONS

- A good title for this reading passage would be . . .
 - "The Armadillo State."
 - "Locating an Armadillo."
 - "The Basics of the Armadillo."
 - "The Squeal of an Armadillo."
- After reading the passage, what can you guess is one similarity between an armadillo and an anteater?
 - They both live in Texas.
 - They both eat ants.
 - They both squeal.
 - They both jump in the air when startled.
- The author wrote this passage to . . .
 - justify keeping armadillos in captivity.
 - inform the reader of how armadillos are mistreated.
 - share general information about armadillos.
 - raise awareness of the shrinking armadillo population.
- If you wanted to find out more about armadillos, you could . . .
 - read a book about how armadillos dig their burrows.
 - watch a television program about insects.
 - meet somebody who lives in Texas.
 - watch a television program about the different types of armadillo.



The Armadillo

1. c
2. b
3. c
4. d