

Nine-banded Armadillo

Dasypus Novemcinctus



ANIMAL CHARACTERISTICS

Appearance: The Nine-banded armadillo is roughly the size of a large house cat. Its head, body, and tail are covered in scaly plates known as scutes. These creatures have a brownish-gray body that spans 15-17 inches in length, which is about the size of a ten-pin bowling pin to two soccer balls.

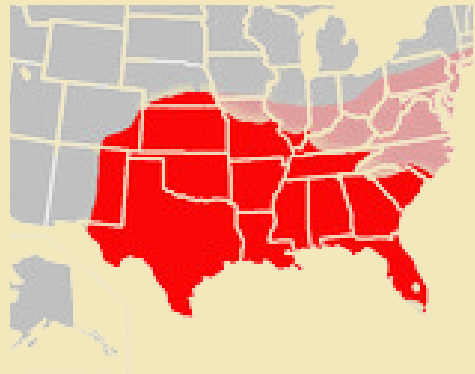
Habitat: They thrive in warm, wet climates and typically inhabit forested or grassland environments.

Diet: Nine-banded armadillos are generalist feeders. They rely on their keen sense of smell to locate food, primarily targeting invertebrates like beetles, cockroaches, wasps, scorpions, and snails.



REPRODUCTION

Nine-banded armadillos are generally solitary creatures, with males and females coming together only during the summer breeding season. They reproduce nearly every year throughout their lives, a crucial factor contributing to the rapid growth of their population.



RANGE

Nine-banded armadillos are found in the southeastern United States, but their range has been expanding continually northward for more than a hundred years.

WHERE DO I LIVE IN THE ELM FORK NATURE PRESERVE?

I prefer to stay in deep burrows during the day, but I become more active at night. When I'm awake, you can find me foraging in the forest litter for small invertebrates.