

Name: _____

The Pink Fairy Armadillo

By Lydia Lukidis

Here's a riddle for you: which animal is tiny, with a pink shell and fluffy white fur underneath? You may have a hard time guessing this one! This animal is not so common. It is also a little strange. Actually, you may have never even heard of it. It's a pink fairy armadillo!

So what makes this little critter so unique? First of all, it has a funny name and it's the color pink. It also has a really



Photo by: Mariella Superina



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runs along the spine.

The pink fairy armadillo is the smallest kind of armadillo. This armadillo's entire body is only about 5 inches long, and it weighs less than a pound. Even though it is so small, a pink fairy armadillo has gigantic claws. In fact, its claws are so big, it has trouble walking on hard surfaces like rock. These claws help the armadillo dig into the earth for food. This animal can dig very quickly. If it feels threatened, it will bury itself in the earth in just a few seconds.

As for food, the pink fairy armadillo loves to chomp on ants. That is its favorite meal. It also eats worms and other creepy crawlers. Sometimes it will even eat plants and roots.

If you want to see a pink fairy armadillo, it may not be that easy. First of all, they only live in Argentina. They prefer to live on the sandy plains or in the dry grass. Second of all, they rarely come out in public. They mostly stay hidden from view. Some scientists spend years studying them yet may have never actually seen a pink fairy armadillo in the wild! It is difficult to say whether the pink fairy armadillos



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About the Author



Lydia Lukidis is a published children's author with a multi-disciplinary background that spans the fields of literature, theater, and puppetry. Lydia's picture book, *Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Dally Bedtime Routine*, is now available. Find out if Mocha will ever get his silly son to sleep!

Lukidis, Lydia. *Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Dally Bedtime Routine* ISBN: 978-0-9917402-7-7

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1. How does a pink fairy armadillo get its color?
- a. The pink color results from the armadillo's diet of pink plants, such as flowers.
 - b. The pink color comes from the blood pumping in and out of the armadillo's shell.
 - c. The pink color arises when the armadillo is threatened, angered, or scared.
 - d. The pink color comes from the armadillo's shiny body and shell reflecting sunlight.



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3. According to the information you read in the article, describe **one advantage** and **one disadvantage** of a pink fairy armadillo's giant claws.

4. Put a check mark () next to each reason why it is difficult to see a pink fairy armadillo in the wild.

- Pink fairy armadillos only come out at night.
- Pink fairy armadillos hide from other animals that may eat them.
- Pink fairy armadillos are endangered.
- Pink fairy armadillos mostly stay hidden from view.

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Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.

_____ 1. endangered

a. a thin structure in a living organism that acts as a boundary or barrier

_____ 2. plains

b. very large; enormous



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_____ 6. gigantic

f. steady, balanced

_____ 7. critter

g. puzzle; question to solve

_____ 8. threatened

h. munch or chew food

_____ 9. unique

i. wide expanses of flat land

_____ 10. riddle

j. creature; small animal

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In the article, "The Pink Fairy Armadillo," you learned that scientists have a difficult time studying this unique animal because of how rare it is and how difficult they are to find.

On the lines below, describe another animal that is difficult for scientists to study. In your writing, discuss why that animal is difficult for scientists to research.



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ANSWER KEY

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1. How does a pink fairy armadillo get its color? **b.**
 - a. The pink color results from the armadillo's diet of pink plants, such as flowers.

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- Pink fairy armadillos hide from other animals that may eat them.
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ANSWER KEY

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Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.

d. 1. endangered

a. a thin structure in a living organism that acts as a boundary or barrier

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g. 10. riddle

j. creature; small animal

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