



# Six Banded Armadillo

*Dasypus septemcinctus*



## Physical Characteristics:

I am a small mammal that is covered by plates that are made of true bone. They are jointed in the middle allowing some flexibility. I have a long snout and tongue which I use to capture food. I have claws on my toes to dig into ant and termite colonies for food and for digging burrows.

### Habitat / Climate

Dry Warm

**Where am I from?** I am native to South America. I am found in Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Brazil. I live in dry habitats outside of the rainforest region. I am terrestrial.



### Other family members:

- Giant armadillo
- Pink fairy armadillo
- Nine banded armadillo

**Who are my relatives?** I am a mammal from the order Xenarthra, formerly known as Edentata. This group is characterized by peg like teeth without enamel or roots. This group includes the sloth and the anteater. My family is Dasypodidae



### Breeding Potential

Clutch size/litter?

Number of offspring per year?

**How am I born?** My parents mate in July and August and I am born after a gestation period of 140 days. I am unique in the fact that my species gives birth to genetically identical young (polyembryony), a litter of one to three. I am born blind and naked. It takes a couple of weeks for my soft leathery skin to fully harden into the bony armor that will protect me. I will be able to walk around after a week and after 3-4 weeks my eyes are open. Mother has the job of caring for me by herself. She will nurse me for 2 to 2 ½ months

### Breeding Season

F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E	A	P	A	U	U	A	E	C	O	E
B	R	R	Y	N	L	G	T	V	C	

### How long does it take me to grow up and how long do I live?

I can grow up to 30 inches long and weigh about 15 pounds.

### Names for:

- Adult male- male
- Adult female- female
- Young- Kit or pup
- Group:-

**What kind of family life do I have?** I am a solitary animal for the most part although young siblings and mating pairs may forage together.

**What do I eat and when do I eat?** I am a nocturnal/crepuscular omnivore. I come out at night to eat small invertebrates like beetles, grubs, ants and termites. I also eat bits of dead flesh and soft plants. I do not have many teeth and what I do have are small peg shaped without enamel. My eyesight is very poor so I use my sense of smell to locate food.



**Who are my predators?** Jaguarondis jaguars, pumas,, wild dogs, alligators and maned wolves.

### What is my relationship with man?

I am considered tasty food in Latin America and even in the United States during the Great Depression people ate my cousin the nine banded armadillo and called it Texas turkey and Hoover hog. Farmers do not like me eating their crops and searching for food in the garden. Scientists use me in the study of leprosy since we are one of the few non human mammals that can contract the disease.