

Nine Banded Armadillo

Nine-Banded Armadillo

(Dasypus novemcinctus)

Instant ID

- Covered in up to 9 grey armored bands, with rabbit-like ears
- Weighs from 6-16 pounds and measures up to 32 inches long
- Football-shaped mammal, almost hairless, except for belly

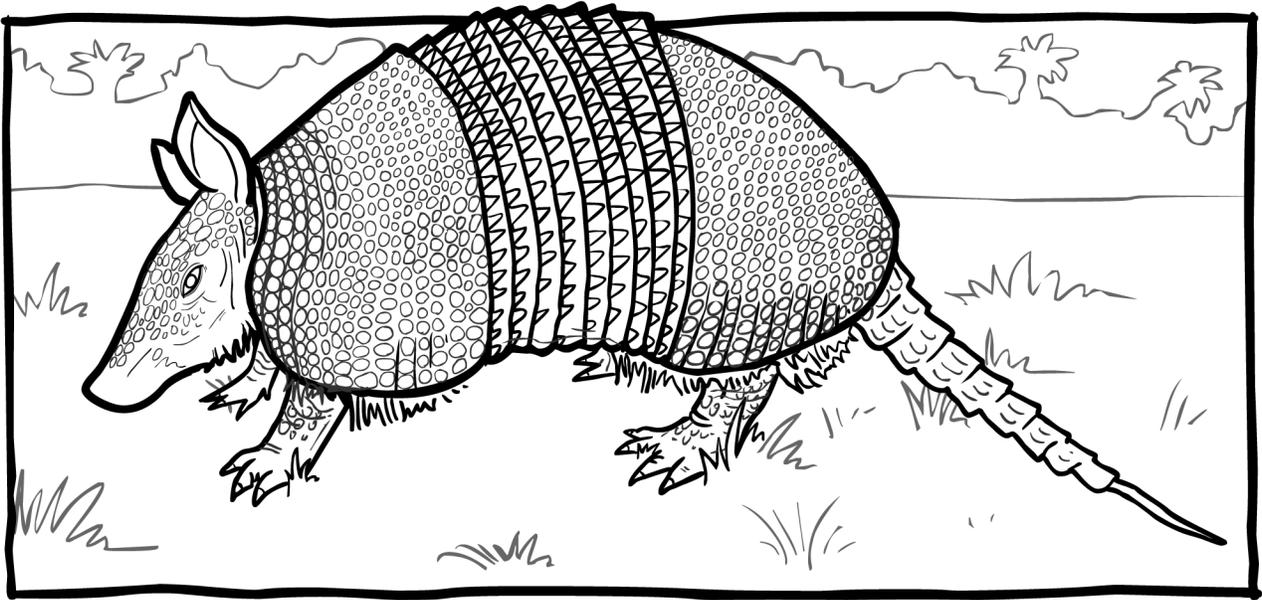
Hijacked Habitats

- Introduced to central Florida by a zoo between 1920 and 1936
- A population expanding from Texas merged with the central Florida population in the 1970s

Favorite Foods

- Eats insects, as much as half a pound per day
- Also eats carrion, amphibians, crayfish and eggs





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Critter Characteristics

- The name armadillo is from the Spanish for “little armored one”
- Giant ancestors of the armadillo were native to Florida, but died out over 10,000 years ago
- If startled, it can jump four feet up or curl to shield its belly
- Young are born in sets of identical quadruplets

Population Prevention

- Although now associated with the south, armadillos are an invasive species
- Feeding behavior disturbs the fragile soils of Florida, causing damage to the environment

