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COMMON NAME – Nine-Banded Armadillo

SCIENTIFIC NAME – *Dasypus novemcinctus*

DESCRIPTION –

- Length – 12 to 75 cm
- Bony armor and shell formed by plates of dermal bone covered in scales

RANGE/HABITAT –

- Americas, including majority of eastern and central United States
- Rainforests, grassland, and dry scrub
- Likes burrows close to feeding areas

DIET –

- Omnivorous
- Grubs, termites, and other insects
- Some can rely solely on ants

FACTS -

- Only species that can inflate its intestine to float across a river!
- Can hold its breath for up to 3 minutes
- Can jump up to three feet in the air
- Three-banded armadillos can roll up into a ball to avoid predators
- One of the few animals that can contract leprosy
- Always produces four identical quadruplets in each litter!