



Chapter one

# ARMADILLOS

Armadillos are from South America. They can also be found in the southern United States. *Armadillo* is a Spanish word. It means “man in **armor**.” Armadillos’ shells are like armor. Armor is tough, bony plates. They protect soft muscles and tissues.

Armadillos’ shells cover the top of their bodies. Top shells are called **carapaces**. They’re strong. Dogs’ sharp teeth can’t cut their shells. These shells are their main defense. When in danger, they hide in their shells. They wait. Most predators get bored.



*Armadillos’ undersides have soft skin and fur.*

Most armadillos cannot roll into a ball. They have too many plates. But three-banded armadillos can. They fold their bodies. They hide all their body parts.