

Name: _____ Date: _____

Unusual Animals: The Pink Fairy Armadillo



Do you like to swim? Can you swim in water? What would it be like to swim in sand? The pink fairy armadillo knows. It is a sand swimmer. It can swim in sand like you can swim through water. The pink fairy armadillo is not a sand fish, though. It's not a fairy, either.

The pink fairy armadillo is a mammal. It is very small, between 3 and 4 inches long. It is a kind of armadillo, an animal with a bony shell that protects its body. The pink fairy has a pink shell and a furry body. It lives in the plains of Argentina. These plains are dry and sandy. Perfect for the pink fairy. The pink fairy lives underground. It digs with its strong front paws. It can dig very quickly. It will hide itself underground if it is frightened. It can bury its entire body. The pink fairy doesn't just dig when it is scared. Pink fairy's live underground. They dig into the ground to make their holes. The holes are their homes, they are called burrows. They like to dig burrows near ant colonies, where large numbers of ants live. The pink fairy likes to eat ants. They eat ants and ant larvae. The pink fairy also eats other insects, plants and roots. Its small size and strong claws let the pink fairy swim through sand.

A. Why can the pink fairy swim in sand? _____

B. Read and complete the chart.

The Pink Fairy Armadillo

Looks Like

Life and Diet

Skills

C. Would the pink fairy armadillo make a good pet? Why or why not? Tell your partner what you think.