Name:

The Scaliest Mammal in the World



By Guy Belleranti

In Africa and Asia lives the scaliest mammal in the world. It looks like a mix between a space alien, a pinecone with legs, and a skinny-nosed, long-tailed artichoke. This mammal is the pangolin.



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

sleep in tree hollows. Their tails are prehensile. This means the tail acts like an extra limb, gripping branches.

Pangolins have a great sense of smell. They can sniff out insects both on the ground and in the fruit and flowers of trees. They have no teeth. Instead, they use long sticky

tongues to lick up the insects.

Because of their armor and their diet, people often call pangolins "scaly anteaters". However, pangolins aren't related to anteaters. They're in their own unique family.

Pangolin mothers usually give birth to one baby. The newborn's scales are soft, but begin hardening within days.

Like many animals, pangolins are losing their habitat

to farms, roads, and other human activities. In addition, some people break the law and hunt them for their scales and meat. As a result, pangolins are one of the world's most endangered groups of animals.

Name: _____

The Scaliest Mammal in the World



By Guy Belleranti

- 1. Based on the information you read in the article, which statement about pangolins and anteaters is **not** true?
 - **a.** Both pangolins and anteaters are mammals.



Preview

- **3.** According to the article, a pangolin's scales are made up of keratin. What part of the human body is also made up of keratin?
- **4.** How do pangolins find food to eat?
- 5. Based on what you read, which of the following is the biggest threat to pangolins?
 - **a.** larger, more powerful animals
 - b. harmful human activities
 - c. competition with other pangolins
 - d. natural disasters and extreme weather patterns

Name:

The Scaliest Mammal in the World



By Guy Belleranti

Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.



Preview

5	unique
J .	 uriique

- **6.** burrows
- **7.** prehensile
- **8.** _____ termites
- 9. ____ endangered
- **10.** _____ hollows

- e. insects that live in mounds and eat wood
- f. a hard, protective covering
- g. holes or cavities inside something
- h. distinct, different from anything else
- i. referring to an animal's tail, the ability to grasp or grip things
- j. having to do with the earth

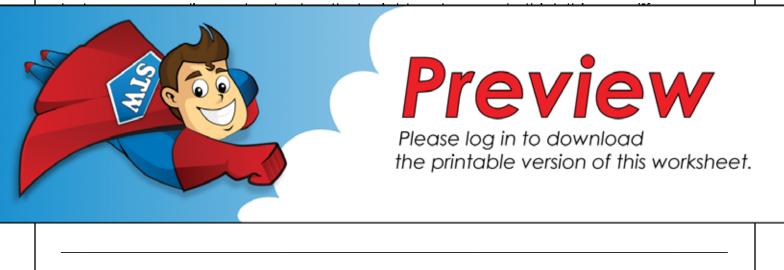
Name:		
Name.		
Maine.		

The Scaliest Mammal in the World



By Guy Belleranti

In the article, "The Scaliest Mammal in the World," you learned that many people think pangolins are related to anteaters, even though they aren't. Based on the information you learned in the article, write about three similarities



ANSWER KEY

The Scaliest Mammal



Preview



- 5. Based on what you read, which of the following is the biggest threat to pangolins?
 - a. larger, more powerful animals
 - b. harmful human activities
 - c. competition with other pangolins
 - d. natural disasters and extreme weather patterns

ANSWER KEY

The Scaliest Mammal



Preview



- 9. <u>a.</u> endangered
- **10. 9.** hollows

- referring to an animal's tail, the ability to grasp or grip things
- j. having to do with the earth