

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.



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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.

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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.



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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

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



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- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 5. _____ unique | e. insects that live in mounds and eat wood |
| 6. _____ burrows | f. a hard, protective covering |
| 7. _____ prehensile | g. holes or cavities inside something |
| 8. _____ termites | h. distinct, different from anything else |
| 9. _____ endangered | i. referring to an animal's tail, the ability to grasp or grip things |
| 10. _____ hollows | j. having to do with the earth |

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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



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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

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9. a. endangered

10. g. hollows

i. referring to an animal's tail, the ability to grasp or grip things

j. having to do with the earth