

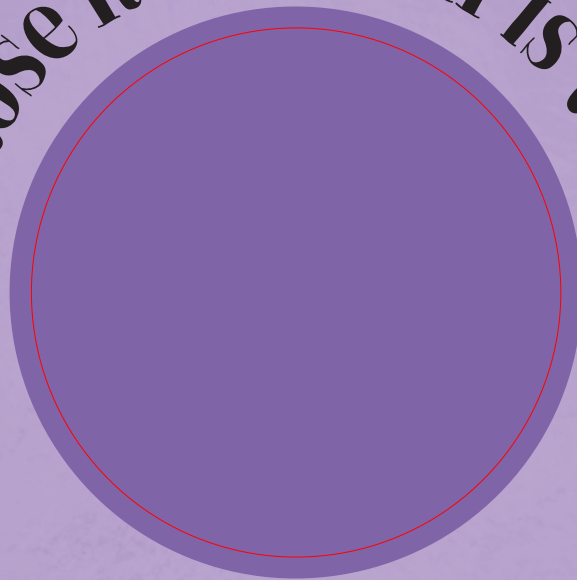
Why Do Turtles Have Shells

and Other Ways
Animals Protect
Themselves



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Whose hard shell is this?



This animal has an armored back, head, and tail.

Armadillos have strong back armor and in an emergency some can curl up into a ball. Their enemy can roll them about, but they won't be able to take a bite.

Armadillos don't get much rest curled up into a ball. Instead, to sleep well, they dig themselves a burrow so no one will bother them.

Armadillos enjoy eating ants and termites the most. They have long sticky tongues like anteaters, which they use for ant catching.

Surprise!

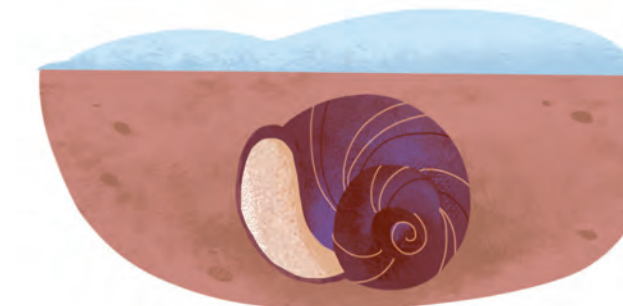
Which other animals can boast of their own armor?



A turtle's shell is practically an unconquerable fortress. And thanks to the safety that it provides, turtles can live up to 100 years or more.



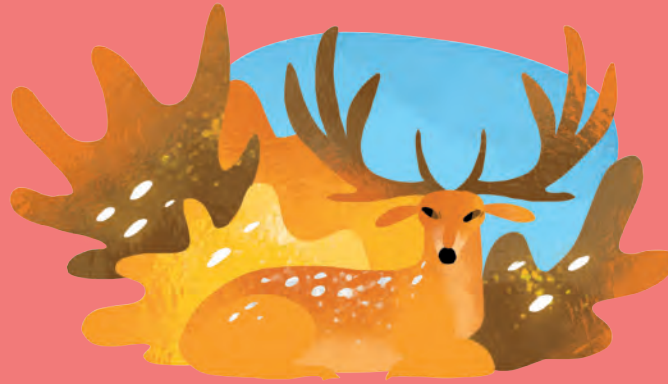
Sometimes a grain of sand can get into the mussel's protected shell. The mussel then wraps it in mother-of-pearl and thus a pearl is formed.



In winter, snails seal off the opening of their shells. They ride out the cold inside and poke their noses out once it gets warm outside.



The hermit crab doesn't have its own shell, which is why it looks for abandoned shells that it can squeeze itself into.



Ha, got you! Or maybe not? Animals are not easy to catch and sometimes are even hard to find. Some are great runners who are off in the blink of an eye. Others have strong armor for shelter and protection from others. And others yet are able to disguise themselves so well that you would only find them if they wanted to be found. Do you know the ways which animals protect themselves from danger? Can you identify them perhaps by their shells or nimble legs? Learn about them here and they might just reward you by teaching you one of their nifty tricks.