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## Task: ANIMAL DEFENSES

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### PART 1 (35 minutes)

#### Student Directions:

**Your Task:**

You will read an article and watch a video about what animals do to defend themselves from danger. Then you will answer three questions about what you have learned. In Part 2, you will write an article that explains how some animals defend themselves.

**Steps you will be following:**

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In order to plan and write your article, you will do the following:

1. Examine two sources.
2. Make notes about the information from the sources.
3. Answer three questions about the sources.

**Directions for beginning:**

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You will now examine two sources. Take notes on both sources. You may use the graphic organizers to organize your notes while writing your article, but your notes will not be scored. You can re-read the article and watch the video as often as you like.

**Source #1:** “Animal Roll-Ups” (*Ranger Rick* Article)

**Source #2:** “Animal Defenses” (*National Geographic* Video)

[http://www.teachersdomain.org/asset/tdc02\\_vid\\_defense/default/](http://www.teachersdomain.org/asset/tdc02_vid_defense/default/)

**Use the notetaking graphic organizers to take your notes on both sources.**

# Animal

# Roll-Ups

Different kinds of animals have different ways of escaping predators. Some flee. Others hide. Some may even fight. But the *three-banded armadillo* has a more unusual way of protecting itself. It curls its armor-covered body into a ball, tucking in its ears and legs as it rolls up.

Then it pulls in its head and tail, which fit together like the last two pieces of a puzzle. Now the armadillo is a well-wrapped package **(above and below)** - one that predators would have trouble opening.



## COZY CURL-UP

A red fox also rolls into a ball, but not for protection against enemies. It curls up for protection against the cold **(below)**. The fox tucks its feet and nose under its big, bushy tail. As the fox snoozes, its tail serves as a built-in blanket for a toasty nose and comfy toes.



## LITTLE SHARPIE

With its pointy spines, a European hedgehog **(right)** has protection from most predators. But if a predator flipped a hedgehog over, it could attack the animal's soft belly. So when danger is near, a hedgehog rolls up into a prickly, round pincushion - with no soft parts in sight **(circle)**.





## **ROLY-POLY**

If you've ever touched a *common pill bug* (**2 photos at left**), then you know why it's sometimes called a roly-poly. When a pill bug feels threatened, it rolls up into a tight little ball. Spaces between the plates on the pill bug's body allow it to bend as it curls up. Can you see why it's sometimes called an "armadillo bug"?

## **EGGS IN A BASKET**

The mother *stone centipede* (**right**) keeps all her eggs in one basket. And her rolled-up body is the basket! The centipede stays curled around her eggs to protect them from enemies – even going without food until they hatch.



## **FAST GETAWAY**

A *wheel spider* (**circle**) hides in its sand dune burrow during the day. But if a spider wasp comes to attack it, the wheel spider can make a quick getaway. It scrambles out of the burrow, flips onto its side, tucks in its legs, and rolls down the dune as fast as three feet per second! (**right**)

***And that's our roundup of animals that roll up!***



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**NOTES**

Source 1: "Animal Roll-Ups" (*Ranger Rick* article)

Animal	Type of Defense

**NOTE: Your notes will not be scored.**

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### NOTES

Source 2: "Animal Defenses" (*National Geographic* video)

Animal	Type of Defense

**NOTE: Your notes will not be scored.**



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### Research Questions

After examining the research sources, use the remaining time in Part 1 to answer three questions about them. Your answers to these questions will be scored. Also, your answers will help you think about the research sources you have read and viewed, which should help you write your explanatory article.

You may click on the source buttons to refer back to the sources when you think it would be helpful. You may also refer to your notes. Answer the questions in the spaces provided below them.

1. What does the article “Animal Roll-Ups” tell you about why some animals curl up? Use details from the article to support your answer.

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2. Think about the **armadillo** and the **hedgehog** described in the article “Animal Roll-Ups.” In what way are their defenses similar or different? Explain your answer using details from the article.

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3. In the video “Animal Defenses,” the **puffer fish** and the **crab** were both successful in protecting themselves from the same enemy-the sea otter. Do the puffer fish and the crab have the same type of defense? Explain your answer and include details from the video in your response.

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### PART 2 (70 minutes)

#### Student Directions:

You will now have 70 minutes to review your notes and sources, plan, draft, and revise your article. You may use your notes and refer to the sources. You may also refer to the answers you wrote to questions in Part 1, but you cannot change those answers. Now read your assignment and the information about how your article will be scored; then begin your work.

#### Your Assignment

Your class is preparing a museum display that will include photos of a variety of animals and interesting facts about them. You have been asked to write an article for the museum display explaining about **animal defenses**.

#### In your article

**Choose one animal from the article “Animal Roll-Ups” and one animal from the video “Animal Defenses.”**

In your article, identify your two animals, explain how each animal protects itself from its enemies, and explain how the two animals’ defenses are similar to or different from one another. Include details from your sources.

#### Now begin work on your article.

*Manage your time carefully so that you can:*

- plan your article
- write your article
- revise and edit for a final draft

Type your response in the space provided.

Write as much as you need to fulfill the requirements of the task; you are not limited by the size of the response area on the screen.

**Word-processing  
tools and spell  
check are  
available to you.**

#### REMEMBER: A well-written explanatory article:

- Has a clear main idea
- Is well-organized and stays on the topic
- Provides evidence from the sources to support your topic
- Uses clear language that suits your purpose
- Follows rules of writing (spelling, punctuation, and grammar)