



Thinking Guide Activities – Expository

Title of the Selection: Proud Symbol of Texas

Teaching Band Grades 3 - 5

Genre: Nonfiction – Informational, Magazine Article

The selection and Expository Thinking Guide are provided. The Expository Thinking Guide identifies the topic, central idea of the selection, and the main idea of each paragraph. In addition, the main ideas are clustered by color code to develop a meaningful summary.

- ★ Proud Symbol of Texas Selection
- ★ Proud Symbol of Texas Expository Thinking Guide
- ★ Color-Coded Expository Thinking Guide and Summary

The Expository Thinking Guide is used to develop other fun and interactive activities. Fisher Reyna Education offers the following activities and test items:

- ★ Matching Pre-Reading Activity
- ★ Matching Activity Part 1
- ★ Matching Activity Part 2
- ★ Thinking Guide Write Main Ideas Activity
- ★ Thinking Guide Cloze 1st Letter Activity
- ★ Thinking Guide Cloze Blank Activity
- ★ Vocabulary Activity
- ★ Marked Selection Activity
- ★ Test Questions and Answer Key



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Expository Thinking Guide

Content-Based Topic

Title of Selection Proud Symbol of Texas

Topic of Selection	The Nine-banded armadillo
Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection)	The Nine-banded armadillo is the proud symbol of Texas
Main Idea of Each Paragraph	1. Introduction to the Nine-banded armadillo
	2. Species and size
	3. Mammal and average size and weight
	4. The "armor"
	5. Nine-banded armadillos do not roll up in a ball
	6. Jump and run when frightened
	7. Birth and youth
	8. How and what they eat
	9. Adaptation to temperature changes
	10. Dig for food and shelter
	11. Adaptation to rivers and creeks
	12. Poor eyesight and strong sense of smell
	13. Hunting and possession restrictions
	14. Conclusion: Nine-banded armadillos can be found anywhere in Texas.

Color-Coded Thinking Guide and Summary
Clustering and Summary

Topic of Selection	The Nine-banded armadillo
Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection)	The Nine-banded armadillo is the proud symbol of Texas
Main Idea of Each Paragraph	1. Introduction to the Nine-banded armadillo
	2. Species and size
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	13. Hunting and possession restrictions
	14. Conclusion: Nine-banded armadillos can be found anywhere in Texas.

Color-Coded Summary

Clustering used to produce a meaningful summary



The main ideas are clustered by color-code to develop a meaningful summary. The statements provided in the Thinking Guide and summary paragraph serve as only ONE way to paraphrase the story elements for this selection.

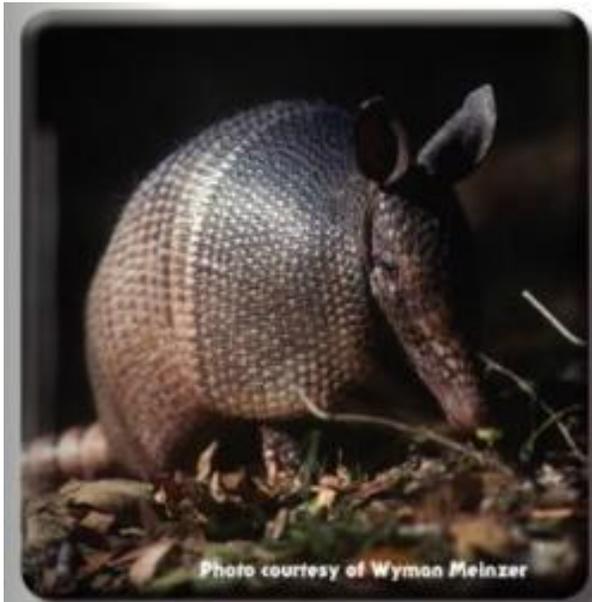
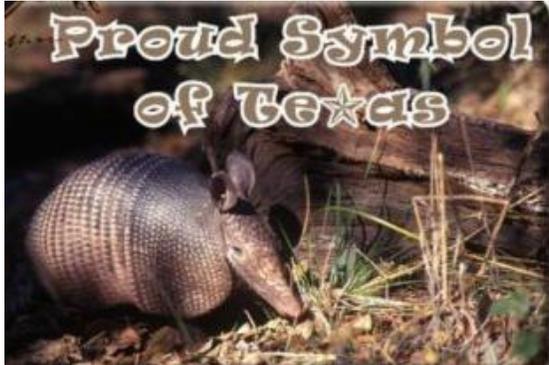
The Nine-banded armadillo is the proud symbol of Texas. Only the Nine-banded species of armadillo lives throughout Texas and the US. They are mammals that average 12-17 pounds and about 2.5 feet in length. Their distinguishing feature is their protective "armor" body shield. As mammals they are dependent on their mother for survival and will grow to develop skills for finding food independently. Myths, behaviors, and adaptations make it a very interesting animal. In Texas they are protected with hunting and possession restrictions and can be found just about anywhere.

Matching Pre-Reading Activity



Directions and Activity Variations -

Students may work individually or with a partner. Teacher shows the titles, subtitles and photos with captions as a pre-reading activity to the Matching Activity.



Matching Activity Part 1



Directions and Activity Variations

Students may work individually or with a partner.

1. Cut apart the main ideas and give one main idea to individual student or partners. Teacher reads the selection one paragraph at a time. Students identify when they have the matching main idea.
2. Provide the selection and cut-apart main ideas. Students read the selection and match cut-apart main ideas to paragraphs in the selection.
3. Provide cut-apart selection and cut-apart main ideas. Students match cut-apart paragraphs to the cut-apart main ideas.



Introduction to the Nine-banded armadillo

Species and size

Mammal and average size and weight

The "armor"

Nine-banded armadillos do not roll up in a ball

Jump and run when frightened

Birth and youth

How and what they eat

Adaptation to temperature changes

Dig for food and shelter

Adaptation to rivers and creeks

Poor eyesight and strong sense of smell

Hunting and possession restrictions

Conclusion: Nine-banded armadillos can be found anywhere in Texas.



Matching Activity Part 2

The Nine-banded armadillo is one of our state's most well known symbols. In fact, it was named Texas' state small mammal in 1995, but they are not limited to just Texas. Their range covers from Florida up to South Carolina, north to Kansas and southern Nebraska and west to parts of New Mexico. In recent years, they have appeared as far north as Indiana and Illinois. In Texas, they live all over the place except for far west Texas. They are, though, the only armadillo in the United States.

There are about 20 different species of armadillo. All of them are native to the Americas, with the majority of them found in South America. The word 'armadillo' is Spanish for "little armored one". The largest species is called the Giant Armadillo (weighs up to 130 pounds) and the smallest is the Pink Fairy Armadillo, which is only 5 – 6 inches long! Armadillos are in the same scientific family as ant eaters and sloths.

Nine-banded Armadillos are mammals. They average about 12-17 pounds and are approximately 2.5 feet long. Males are generally larger than females.

It is easy to see where the Nine-banded Armadillo got its name – from the nine bands which protect its body. The "armor" is actually a bony carapace (rhymes with 'anyplace'), which is a shield similar to a turtle or crab. The carapace is covered with scutes (pronounced 'scoot'), which are composed of bone with a covering of horn.

Many people think armadillos roll themselves up into a ball to protect itself from predators, but the fact is that only the Three-banded Armadillo can actually do that – a pretty cool adaptation.



Matching Activity Part 2 cont.

The Nine-banded armadillo is protected from predators by its armor, but it usually will just run away when frightened. Its armor can protect it when it is running into thick brush. Unfortunately, the Nine-banded Armadillo has the tendency to jump when startled. This may explain why you see dead armadillos on the side of the highway. If startled by a car, they may jump and can be hit by the fender of the car.

Baby armadillos are called pups. When Nine-banded armadillos are born, they always have brothers or sisters. The Nine-banded armadillo is unique in that the female always gives birth to four (4) identical babies. Generally, babies are born in March, and they are fully formed with their eyes open. Young will nurse for less than two (2) months, but may stay with the mother until they are several months old. When born, the shell is soft, similar to a human fingernail, and as the animal grows, bone is deposited under the skin to make a solid shell.

Armadillos are insectivores, which mean they eat primarily insects and other invertebrates. They have a long sticky tongue. Their teeth are unusual also. They are called 'pegs' and look square. Favorite foods include grubs, worms, beetles, termites, ants, and caterpillars. Reptiles, amphibians, and berries are occasionally eaten. Carrion, or dead animals, are also eaten upon, as much for the maggots and fly pupae as anything else. Armadillos have also been accused of eating quail, turkey, and chicken eggs, and they probably do occasionally destroy some nests, but eggs are not a large part of their diet.

Unlike most mammals, armadillos do not have a lot of hair covering their body nor do they have a lot of body fat, so they are susceptible to temperature changes. To keep more heat in their bodies, they have an adaptation which allows cold blood coming in through the veins to cool the hot blood going out through the arteries. This system of veins and arteries in their legs is called *reta mirabilia*, which is Latin for 'miraculous net'.



Matching Activity Part 2 cont.

Armadillos spend most of their time foraging for food. They are extremely good diggers, with strong claws on both the front and back feet. Depending on the soil type, they will dig a simple den or burrow. Armadillos do not hibernate.

Another very unique adaptation of armadillos is their ability to cross creeks and rivers. If the distance is not too far, they will swim across. On other occasions, the armadillo may walk across the bottom of the creek. If the distance is great, the armadillo can ingest air, inflate themselves, and float across. Scientists are not sure how they know what to do when they come across a creek or river.

Although they have large eyes, they do not have good eyesight. Their sense of smell is very good. They are able to smell worms up to 8 inches underground!

Armadillos may be hunted on private property throughout the year, but you must have a hunting license. Possession or sale of live armadillos is restricted.

Texas is fortunate to have such an interesting animal as its state small mammal. Be on the lookout for the Nine-banded Armadillo as you travel across the different ecosystems of Texas. You are bound to see them anywhere!

Write Main Ideas Activity

Title of the Selection Proud Symbol of Texas



Directions

Students take notes that include topic, central idea of the selection, and main idea of each paragraph. Paragraphs with implied main ideas increase the level of difficulty with this activity.

Topic of Selection	
Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection)	
Main Idea of Each Paragraph	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.
	6.
	7.
	8.
	9.
	10.
	11.
	12.
	13.
	14.

Expository Thinking Guide
Cloze – 1st Letter Activity



Title of the Selection Proud Symbol of Texas

Directions

As selection is read, complete the words in the blanks with the first letter given.

Topic of Selection	The N_____ -b_____ a_____
Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection)	The Nine-banded armadillo is the p_____ symbol of T_____
Main Idea of Each Paragraph	1. I_____ to the Nine-banded a_____
	2. Species and s_____
	3. Mammal and average size and w_____
	4. The "a_____"
	5. Nine-banded armadillos do not r_____ up in a b_____
	6. Jump and run when f_____
	7. Birth and y_____
	8. How and what they e_____
	9. Adaptation to t_____ changes
	10. D_____ for food and shelter
	11. Adaptation to r_____ and c_____
	12. Poor e_____ and strong sense of s_____
	13. Hunting and possession r_____
	14. Conclusion: Nine-banded armadillos can be found a_____ in Texas.

Cloze – Blank Activity

Title of the Selection Proud Symbol of Texas

Genre: Nonfiction – Informational, Magazine Article



Directions

As selection is read, fill in the blanks.

Topic of Selection	The _____ - _____
Central Idea (Main Idea of Selection)	The Nine-banded armadillo is the _____ symbol of _____
Main Idea of Each Paragraph	1. _____ to the Nine-banded _____
	2. Species and _____
	3. Mammal and average size and _____
	4. The "_____"
	5. Nine-banded armadillos do not _____ up in a _____
	6. Jump and run when _____
	7. Birth and _____
	8. How and what they _____
	9. Adaptation to _____ changes
	10. _____ for food and shelter
	11. Adaptation to _____ and _____
	12. Poor _____ and strong sense of _____
	13. Hunting and possession _____
	14. Conclusion: Nine-banded armadillos can be found _____ in Texas.

Proud Symbol of Texas Vocabulary – Using Context Clues

Directions: Display the following vocabulary list. Ask the students to define the words they recognize. Then read Proud Symbol of Texas as the students listen for these words. After hearing one of the listed words in context, ask students to give its definition. The words are listed in the order in which they appear in the article.

Note: This vocabulary activity should be used after students have read the article.

1. range
2. carapace
3. predators
4. armor
5. startled
6. pups
7. identical
8. permanent
9. insectivores
10. pegs
11. carrion
12. foraging

Marked Selection Activity

Title of the Selection Proud Symbol of Texas

Genre: Nonfiction – Informational, Magazine Article



Directions

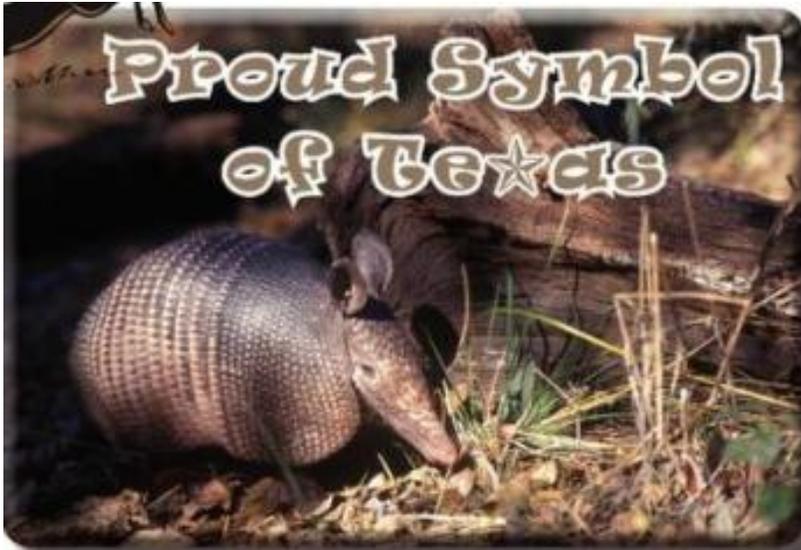
Students use marking strategies and complete the thinking guide as they read the selection. A marked selection is provided.

Marking codes are used to demonstrate comprehension strategies. Marking codes are necessary for the students to have a system for analyzing or processing what they read. This system of showing your work while working independently on a reading comprehension selection allows teachers to make effective instructional decisions. When the staff works as a team to provide instruction and monitor progress, it is important for everyone to require the same set of marking codes.

Students who consistently score 95% or better may not be required to show their work.



For more information on marking codes and comprehension strategies see our book titled,
Solution For Success: Reading
Lois Fisher & Rachel Reyna



By Helen Holdsworth

Topic

Central Idea

The Nine-banded armadillo is one of our state's most well known symbols. In fact, it was named Texas' state small mammal in 1995, but they are not limited to just Texas. Their range covers from Florida up to South Carolina, north to Kansas and southern Nebraska and west to parts of New Mexico. In recent years, they have appeared as far north as Indiana and Illinois. In Texas, they live all over the place except for far west Texas. They are, though, the only armadillo in the United States.

There are about 20 different species of armadillo. All of them are native to the Americas, with the majority of them found in South America. The word 'armadillo' is Spanish for "little armored one." The largest species is called the Giant Armadillo (weighs up to 130 pounds) and the smallest is the Pink Fairy Armadillo, which is only 5 - 6 inches long! Armadillos are in the same scientific family as ant eaters and sloths.

Nine-banded Armadillos are mammals. They average about 12-17 pounds and are approximately 2.5 feet long. Males are generally larger than females.

species and size

It is easy to see where the Nine-banded Armadillo got its name - from the nine bands which protect its body. The armor is actually a bony carapace (rhymes with 'anyplace'), which is a shield similar to a turtle or crab. The carapace is covered with scutes (pronounced 'scoot'), which are composed of bone with a covering of horn.

Many people think armadillos roll themselves up into a ball to protect itself from predators, but the fact is that only the Three-banded Armadillo from Brazil can actually do that - a pretty cool adaptation.

do not roll up into a ball

The Nine-banded armadillo is protected from predators by its armor, but it usually will just run away when frightened. Its armor can protect it when it is running into thick brush.

Unfortunately, the Nine-banded Armadillo has the tendency to jump when startled. This may explain why you see dead armadillos on the side of the highway. If startled by a car, they may jump and can be hit by the fender of the car.

Baby armadillos are called pups. When Nine-banded armadillos are born, they always have brothers or sisters. The Nine-banded armadillo is unique in that the female always gives birth to four (4) identical babies. Generally, babies are born in March, and they are fully formed with their eyes open. Young will nurse for less than two (2) months, but may stay with the mother until they are several months old. When born, the shell is soft, similar to a human fingernail, and as the animal grows, bone is deposited under the skin to make a solid shell.

birth and youth



Photo of armadillo scutes by Russell Groves

Armadillos are insectivores, which mean they eat primarily insects and other invertebrates. They have a long sticky tongue. Their teeth are unusual also. They are called 'pegs' and look square. Favorite foods include grubs, worms, beetles, termites, ants, and caterpillars. Reptiles, amphibians, and berries are occasionally eaten. Carrion, or dead animals, are also eaten upon, as much for the maggots and fly pupae as anything else. Armadillos have also been accused of eating quail, turkey,

how and what they eat



Photo of armadillo bands by Russell Graves

and chicken eggs, and they probably do occasionally destroy some nests, but eggs are not a large part of their diet.

Unlike most mammals, armadillos do not have a lot of hair covering their body nor do they have a lot of body fat, so they are susceptible to temperature changes.

To keep more heat in their bodies, they have an adaptation which allows cold blood coming in through the veins to cool the hot

blood going out through the arteries. This system of veins and arteries in their legs is called *rete mirabilia*, which is Latin for 'miraculous net.'

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not too far, they will swim across. On other occasions, the armadillo may walk across the bottom of the creek. If the distance is great, the armadillo can ingest air, inflate themselves, and float across. Scientists are not sure how they know what to do when they come across a creek or river.

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Photo courtesy of Wyman Meinzer

adaptation
temperature
changes

2

3

dig
for
food

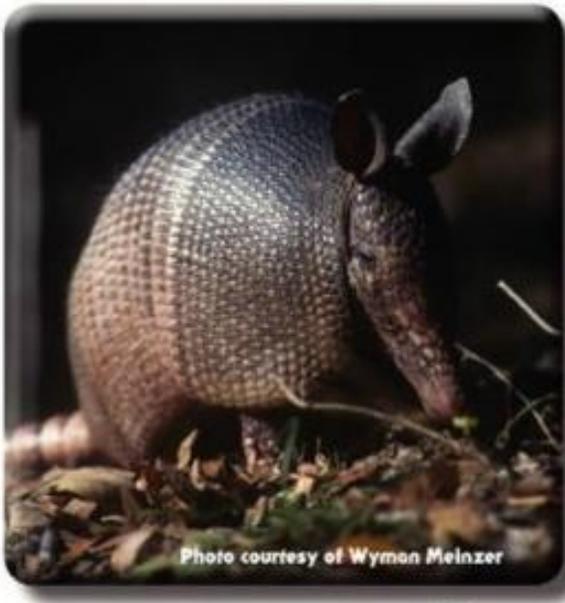


Photo courtesy of Wyman Meinzer



Photo courtesy of Wyman Meinzer

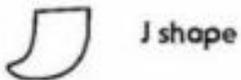
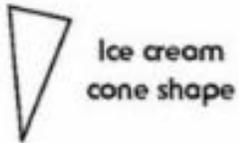
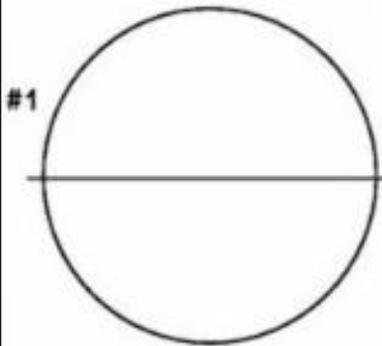
Sources:

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/dillo/>
<http://207.200.58.4/handbook/online/articles/AA/tca2.html>
<http://www.nsl.ttu.edu/tmot1/dasynove.htm>
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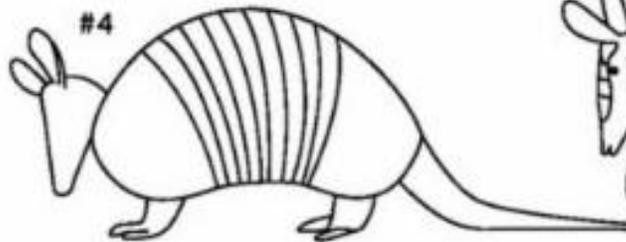
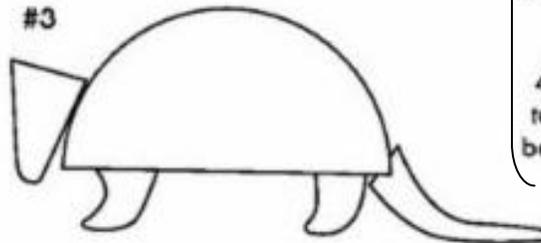
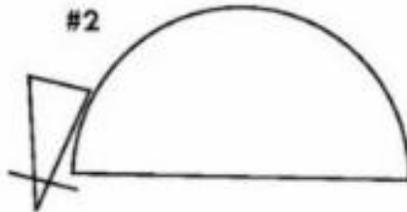


Dillo Craft

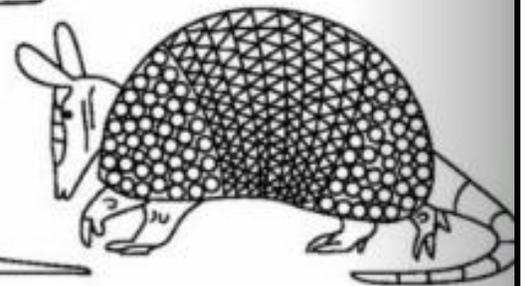
Please try this with a pencil and eraser.



If you'd like to add detail, you can put zig zags on the 9 bands and dots on the armadillo's shell.



1. Draw a circle with a pencil. Divide it in half. Erase the bottom half. This will create the shape of the armadillo's shell.
2. Add a shape like an ice cream cone to one side. After you're done, take off the pointed tip. This will be the head.
3. Round off all the sharp angles; first on the head then on the shell. Add the legs. They are shaped like a fat J.
4. Next draw the armadillo's ears, eye, tail and the 10 strips that will form the 9 bands. The armadillo has 4 daws in front and 5 in back.



Original by: Jan Brett

Test Questions

- 1 Which sentence best supports the idea that armadillos scare easily–
- A *It is easy to see where the Nine-banded armadillo got its name – from the nine bands which protect its body.*
 - B *Unfortunately, the Nine-banded armadillo has the tendency to jump when startled.*
 - C *Another unique adaptation of armadillos is their ability to cross creeks and rivers.*
 - D *Although they have large eyes, they do not have good eyesight.*
-

- 2 The picture next to paragraph 9 is included in the article to –
- A show the symbols of Texas
 - B provide information about how the armadillo population is being increased
 - C explain why armadillos are sensitive to temperature changes
 - D show how armadillos escape predators
-

- 3 Which words in paragraph 11 help the reader understand the meaning of ingest?
- A *distance is great*
 - B *walk across the bottom*
 - C *scientists are not sure*
 - D *inflate themselves*

4 Read this sentence from paragraph 2.

The largest species is called the Giant Armadillo (weighs up to 130 pounds) and the smallest is the Pink Fairy Armadillo, which is only 5-6 inches long!

The imagery in these lines appeals most to the reader's sense of –

- A sight
 - B smell
 - C taste
 - D touch
-

5 Steps 1–4 on the “Dillo Craft” are included to–

- A convince the reader to draw an armadillo
 - B give examples of different ways to draw an armadillo
 - C give more information about armadillos
 - D explain how to draw the basic shape of an armadillo
-

6 What evidence from the selection shows that armadillos have adapted for survival?

- A Armadillos have many unique and interesting abilities.
- B The Nine-banded armadillo is one of our state's most well-known symbols.
- C Female armadillos give birth to identical brothers and sisters.
- D Armadillos primarily eat insects.

Question and Answer Strategies

1 Which sentence best supports the idea that armadillos scare easily–

A *It is easy to see where the Nine-banded armadillo got its name – from the nine bands which protect its body.*

B *Unfortunately, the Nine-banded armadillo has the tendency to jump when startled.*

C *Another unique adaptation of armadillos is their ability to cross creeks and rivers.*

D *Although they have large eyes, they do not have good eyesight.*

2 The picture next to paragraph 9 is included in the article to –

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- B The Nine-banded armadillo is one of our state's most well-known symbols.
- C Female armadillos give birth to identical brothers and sisters.
- D Armadillos primarily eat insects.

Note: The evidence used to support correct answers may not be the only supporting evidence.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills
English Language Arts and Reading
Reading/Comprehension of Informational Text/Expository Text

- 3.13 Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about expository text and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:
- (A) identify the details or facts that support the main idea;
 - (B) draw conclusions from the facts presented in text and support those assertions with textual evidence;
 - (C) identify explicit cause and effect relationships among ideas in texts; and
 - (D) use text features (e.g., bold print, captions, key words, italics) to locate information and make and verify predictions about contents of text.
- 4.13 Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about expository text and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:
- (A) identify the details or facts that support main idea
 - (B) draw conclusions from the facts presented in text and support those assertions with textual evidence;
 - (C) identify cause and effect relationships among ideas in texts; and
 - (D) use text features to locate information and make and verify predictions about contents of text
- 5.11 Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about expository text and provide evidence from text to support their understanding. Students are expected to:
- (A) summarize the main ideas and supporting details in a text in ways that maintain meaning and logical order;
 - (B) determine the facts in text and verify them through established methods;
 - (C) analyze how the organizational pattern of a text (e.g., cause-and-effect, compare-and-contrast, sequential order, logical order, classification schemes) influences the relationships among the ideas;
 - (D) use multiple text features and graphics to gain an overview of the contents of text and to locate information; and
 - (E) synthesize and make logical connections between ideas within a text and across two or three texts representing similar or different genres.