



26th July to 2nd August 2008

www.essexscouts.org.uk/jamboree

Join in the Jamboree



Aardvark

The Aardvark Subcamp are sponsoring Kiyo, the baby of Colchester Zoo's family group!

You can call me 'Orycterus Afer', if we need to go out to a posh dinner or something, and I live in Africa.

I'm famous for many things but probably most of all for being the first animal when listed alphabetically.



My name means Earth Pig, I know not as attractive as Kiyo, but hey it's not all good looks you know! I was named by Afrikaan Dutch settlers many years ago and the name has just stuck with me ever since. There really is nothing quite like me anywhere else in the world. I am classified in my own family, Orycteropodidae, which is the only family in the order Tubulidentata. You see I must be Royalty after all!

I grow to about 2.3 metres long, which includes my tail and I weigh in at a modest 110 - 180 pounds (50 - 80kg) so I weigh about the same as you. I have a very nice long tongue, which makes it much easier for me to catch termites than it is for you, which is probably why you don't eat termites. I often stick my tongue out and walk around with it coiled like a spring, ready for a quick termite take-away.

Sorry girls, I don't shave very often but I do grow my exquisite white whiskers to about 1 - 2 inches (25 - 50mm) long.



I make my home by excavating a burrow that is about 10 feet (3 metres) long. I generally enter and exit headfirst, so that at the large chamber that I have dug at the end of my modest but well decorated tunnel, I have enough room in which to turn around, but unfortunately not big enough to party in!

Boys, you will be pleased to know that my main area of expertise is digging. An armadillo digging in soft earth can beat several people armed with shovels and my powerful forefeet can even tear through hard sun-baked ground. I dig in the same manner as other professional animal diggers, by pushing dirt backwards under my body. After a hard day's dig I like to rest on my tail, comfort is everything you know, as well as my hind legs, especially when taking a well earned tea break. My nose is sealed from the dirt





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by fleshy tentacles and dense hairs, so I am cleverer than I might look! I can even push the dirt back again using a hind foot or my tail, so I'm quite good at multi-tasking aswell!

I have extremely acute hearing, I heard that!, and I can flee to my nice safe burrow at the slightest hint of danger. You see when I am pursued by an enemy, and there aren't that many as I'm quite brave, we armadillos have three choices. One, I can run away but I'm hopeless at that; Two, I can hide in my burrow which is much safer or if you are really pushing your luck; Three, I can stand and fight with my sharp claws by rolling onto my back and thrashing out, too which you really only want to take me up on that choice once!



So to be really safe, I don't mooch about outside during the day except when I'm sunning myself at my burrow entrance in the early morning, I mean I do have standards you know! Usually I spend the day underground, not always asleep may I add, but curled up in a tight circle with my tail protecting my nose, us armadillos would be simply lost without our noses. I am therefore mostly nocturnal, where my keen sense of smell in the dark can hunt out the odd termite mound or two, without being disturbed by some pesky lion!

So you see I really am quite a special animal, with the main difference between me and you is that I eat termites and you don't! But then as I already explained, you humans are not so well adapted. You don't have our long sticky tongues necessary to catch a termite dinner efficiently, nor do you have my powerful claws specially adapted to breaking open those hard clay termite nests or my long narrow head with which I can squeeze into the small crevices to catch the termites where they actually live.



Basically, you therefore have to survive by eating other less appetising foods. What a pity - more termites for me!

Yours affectionately,

Kiyo x



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Beavers and Rainbows

- Catch ants – using smarties as ants and straws as the aardvark nose
- Print pictures off of the internet and use them to design aardvark masks – see how creative you can be to make long wiggly noses
- Sit youngsters in a circle with one in the middle as the Aardvark, blindfolded.
- The rest of the young people are the ants and they have to try to get to the aardvark to capture a treasure of some sort. If you turn the lights out it makes it a nocturnal game

Cubs and Brownies

- Design 'Super-Aardvark' starting with an outline of the animal and add costume and accessories to create a new superhero
- Using sponge cakes and plenty of chocolate butter icing create termite mounds and add jelly insects – enjoy!
- Instead of a Beetle Drive, try an Ant Drive

Scouts and Guides

- Make termites from pipe cleaners and other craft materials. The challenge is to make them up to 1m long!
- Origami aardvarks – big ones from newspaper and small ones from squares of coloured paper (see link below for template)
- Play 'I went to the Zoo and saw an Aardvark' adding an animal each time with the next letter of the alphabet

Explorers and Senior Section

- Penelope Pitstop starred alongside the Ant Hill Mob. Dig out copies of old cartoons and sit back and enjoy a world before CGI – don't forget refreshments
- Aardvark is the first 'real' word in the dictionary. Quiz the unit on the meaning of words by opening the dictionary and picking a word at random
- Termite Wide Game – hide items to be retrieved around a wooded area.

Rules state that you can only pick up the items using some form of 'trunk' – perhaps with some form of sticky end to it. As aardvarks are nocturnal, play this game at night



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Network and Senior Section

- From high up cars and people appear as ants. Why not have a go at flying, gliding or parascending
- Run 'ANTics' – a fun day for the younger sections
- Aardvarks dig burrows and tunnels – instead of having to dig them yourself, why not go and find some large holes in the ground and try potholing

All sections

- Play softball – as do the Arlington Heights Aardvarks team! Or Rugby like the Beijing Aardvarks!
- This is stretching the theme, but try barnd dancing – the kind performed by the Aardvark Celidh Band!

Web info

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aardvark>
- <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/mammals/aardvark/>
- <http://www.awf.org/content/wildlife/detail/aardvark>
- <http://www.musicforaardvarks.com/>
- <http://www.theaardvarks.co.uk/>