

# For Creative Minds

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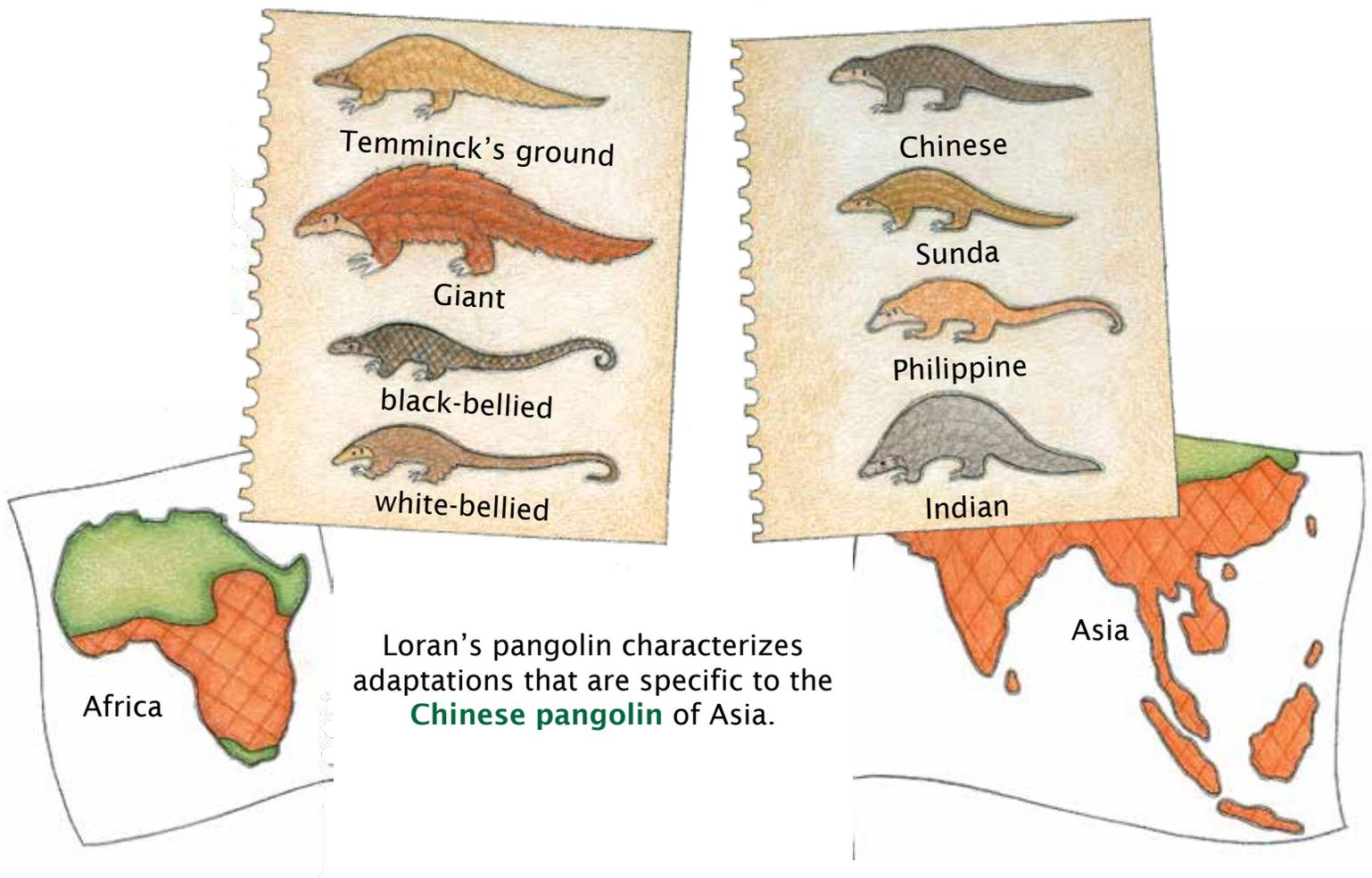
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## What is a Pangolin?

Once more commonly known as the scaly anteater, pangolins have been described as a cross between a dragon, an artichoke, a pinecone, a tiny dinosaur, and an armadillo. The name pangolin comes from the Malay word “pengguling” meaning “something that rolls up.” Four species of pangolin are found in Asia, and four are found in Africa.

Depending on the species, they inhabit forest and savannah environments.

Sadly, all pangolins are endangered. Pangolins are relentlessly hunted across all their ranges for their meat and the adaptation that sets pangolins apart from all other mammal species, scales. Thousands of pangolins are killed each year, and some species are facing extinction if effective measures to protect them are not taken soon.



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## Design Your Own Animal!

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Just like Loran designed what he thought would be his own animal, you can too!

Pick an animal shape. Will it be long or short? Flat or round?

What kind of skin covering will your animal have: fur (hair), feathers, or scales? Will it have bones inside or outside (exoskeleton)?

What will the animal eat: plants, other animals, or both? And what kind?

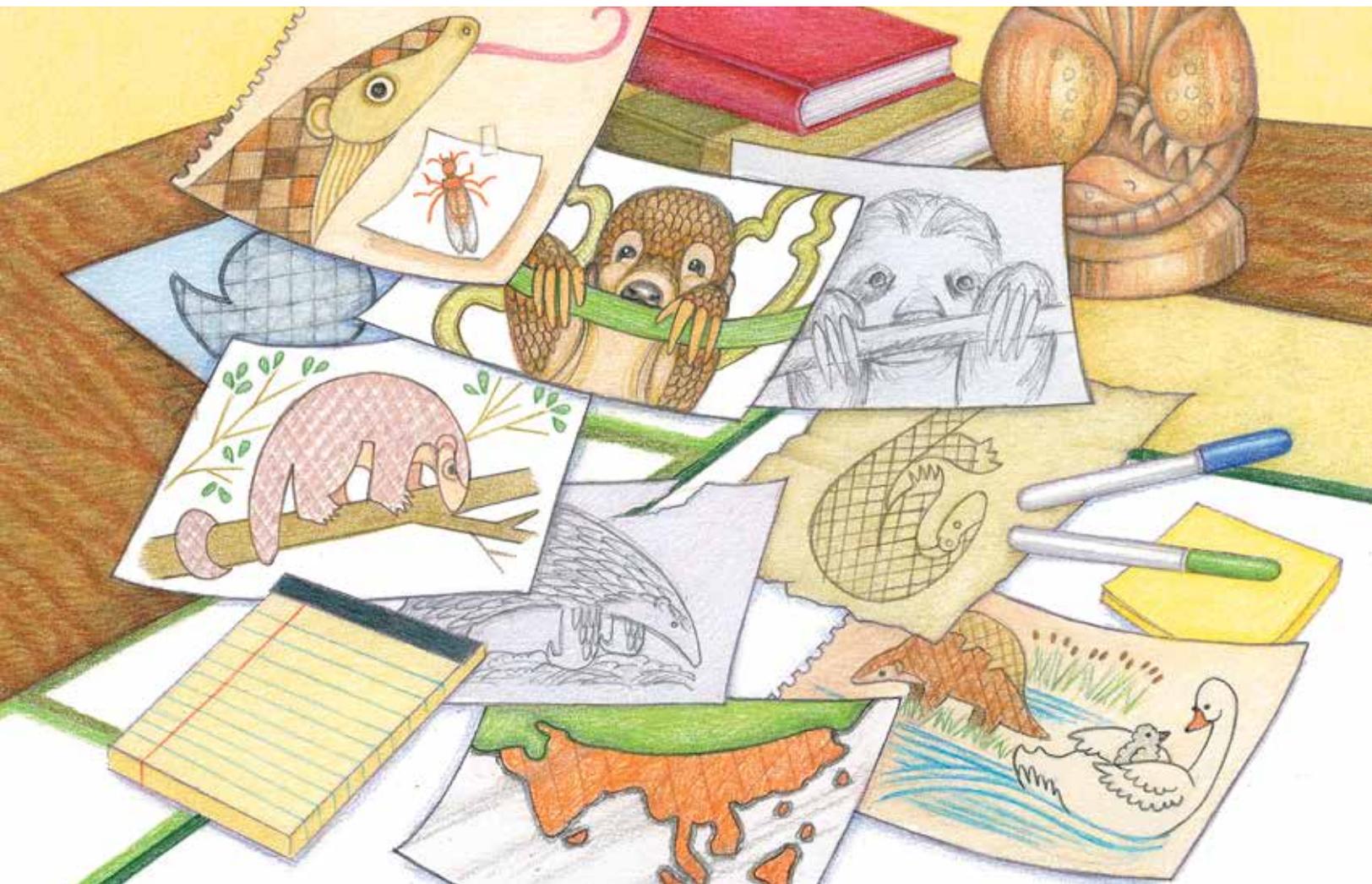
How will it get and eat its food?

Describe the home or shelter your animal uses. Does it make the home or borrow it from another animal? Does it always live in the shelter or just when it has young?

How will your animal move: will it walk (on 2 or 4 feet), fly, or swim?

Describe the habitat where your animal lives. What special body parts or behaviors does it have that helps it live in that habitat?

Will your animal raise its young? If so, how will it carry and care for the young?



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## Pangolin Adaptations

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All living things have body parts or **physical adaptations** that help them survive in their habitat. Animals also have things they do or **behaviors** that help them survive. Can you identify whether the adaptations are physical or behavioral?

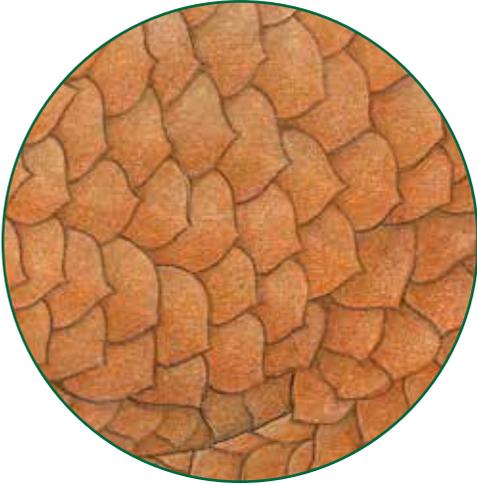


All pangolins excavate **burrows**, with some species digging very large chambers many feet underground. The burrows are used for sleeping, giving birth, and, in the case of the Chinese pangolin, maybe even hibernating.

Pangolins have 5 toes on each paw. The three curved **claws** on the front paws give them extreme digging ability to tear into termite mounds, excavate burrows, and provide stability for the tree-climbing species.

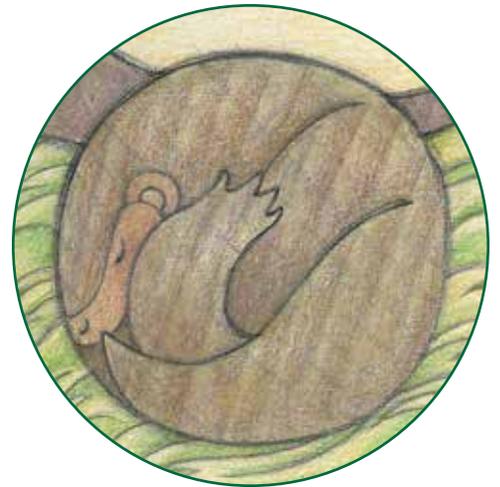


Some pangolins **climb** trees and sleep in hollow trunks, other species stay on land.



All eight pangolin species have protective **scales** made of keratin, the same material as fingernails and hair.

Pangolins **curl** up into a ball to protect themselves. The ball is so tight that it can't be opened!



Pangolins **carry** their babies on their backs.

Answers:  
Physical: claws, scales,  
Behavioral: burrows, climbing, curl into ball, carry babies on their back