



LITTLE armadillos

Did you know that there are approximately five billion tiny armadillo-like mites and bacteria roaming around your body? When you think about it, our planet is blessed with a similar population. From the microscopic world of our personal fauna to the macroscopic beauty of the cosmos, ***Little Armadillos*** explores interconnectedness of worlds both large and small.



In this zany animated short, the universe is just one very big—and very small—dance of life... rockin' to the tune of co-director John Forrest's title song, with Long John Baldry, Canada's king of rock and roll, on vocals.

Concept and direction **JOHN FORREST**
 Director of animation **DEBRA DAWSON**
 Producer **GEORGE JOHNSON**

5 minutes 35 seconds
Order number: C9102 153

 **Closed captioned.**
A decoder is required.

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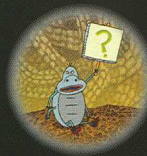
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Printed in Canada

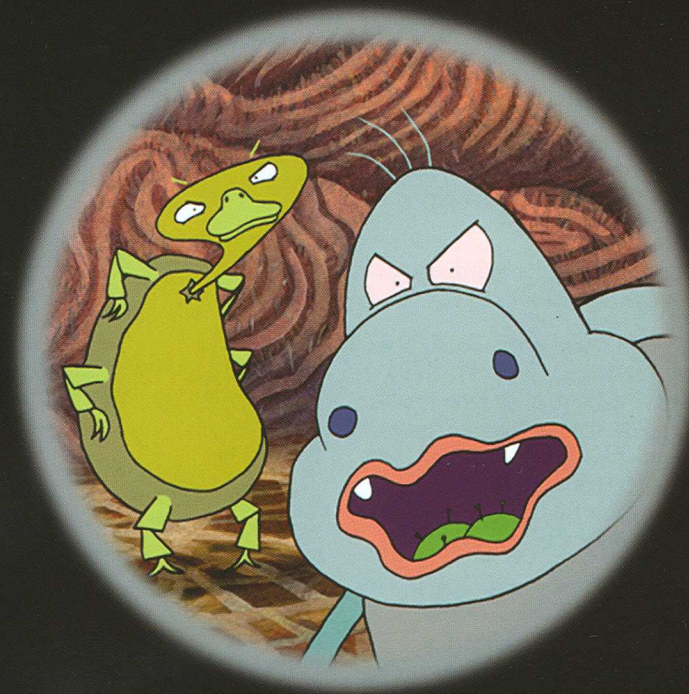


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A NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA PRODUCTION



Pre-screening

Make sure that your students understand some basic vocabulary: *armadillo, organism, micro-organism, parasite.*

Body Bugs

Billions of armadillo-like creatures live in our bodies: parasites, viruses and bacteria are some examples. These micro-organisms (or bugs) live on our skin and hair and can occupy just about every other part of the body. Some of these bugs are harmless or can help fight off more harmful germs, while others make us sick.

Activity

Get into small groups. (If you wish, have each group choose a reporter, a student who writes down the group's ideas.)

On a piece of paper make a list of common illnesses and diseases.

Now take a second piece of paper and draw a line down the middle. You are going to divide the first list you made into two categories. In one column, list the diseases caused by bugs or organisms living in or on your body. (The common cold, for example.)

On the other side of the paper, write down the illnesses that come from other causes. For example, some illnesses are genetic, meaning they are passed on from generation to generation and therefore can be inherited from your parents. Other illnesses are caused by the environment or by personal behaviour. (Lung cancer, for example, can be caused by smoking cigarettes or by breathing certain chemicals.)

Teachers can help students with this exercise. References such as dictionaries, the Internet and encyclopedias can also be consulted. Encourage students to do some guessing in their groups.

Ecosystems

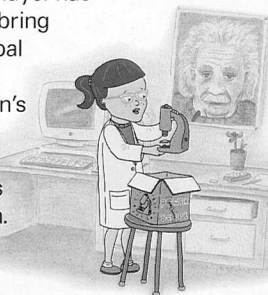
An ecosystem is a combination of elements that work together, each part depending on the next one for survival. An ecosystem can be tiny or as huge as the universe. The human body is one ecosystem existing within a larger ecosystem. Humans depend on plant life and animals to stay alive, and other living things depend on us, like the little "armadillos" in the film.

Activities

Ask students for some examples of ecosystems.

To illustrate how an ecosystem works, help students draw a diagram representing the food chain, which is an ecosystem. (It should show how light eventually becomes light again, through the food chain.)

Ask what happens when an ecosystem is disturbed, that is, when one part doesn't function properly. For example, think of how the planet Earth has been affected by pollution. The destruction of the ozone layer has helped to bring about global warming, and the sun's rays are now more dangerous to our skin.



5 minutes 35 seconds
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Credits

concept and direction
JOHN FORREST

director of animation
DEBRA DAWSON

producer
GEORGE JOHNSON

"Little Armadillos"
song composed by
JOHN FORREST

vocals
LONG JOHN BALDRY

animators
WAYNE MORRIS
DEBRA DAWSON
SEAN NEWTON

technical director and special
effects
SHELLY McINTOSH

character & background design
DEBRA DAWSON

backgrounds
JUDY GARFIN, DEBRA DAWSON

character voices
DOUG PARKER
LEE TOCKAR
KATHY WHYTOCK

musicians
The Nanaimo Bar Band
PAT COLEMAN, GERRY BARNUM
BILLY HICKS, JOE MORELLI

BILL SAMPLE, BLACKY

sound effects editor
DAN GAGNON

sound mixer
SHAWN PIERCE

sound design
MX Solutions Inc.

executive producer
SVEND-ERIK ERIKSEN

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