

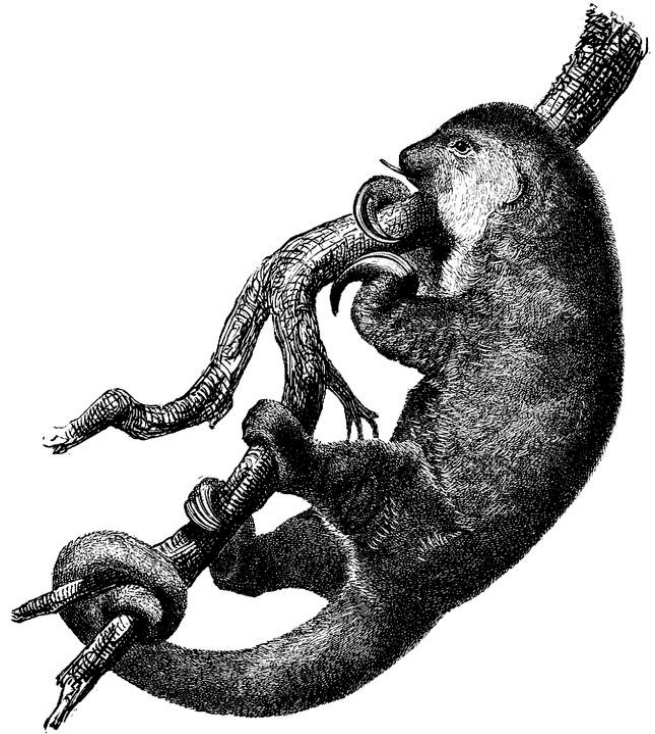
## The Silky Anteater

If you take a trip to a rainforest, you might see a silky anteater. You will have to look carefully, though, because silky anteaters are hard to find.

Silky anteaters are small, and they like to stay high in the tops of silk-cotton trees. They sleep in the day and move around at night in the dark. This makes it pretty hard to find them. What makes it even harder to spot them is their fur.

Silky anteaters have long, soft, wavy fur. It is a pale golden color. It stands out against a green, leafy background, but it looks just like the golden strands of silk cotton that grow on the tree.

During the day the silky anteater hangs from a branch in the silk-cotton tree. It sleeps and does not move. Because it looks like a bunch of silk cotton, animals that would eat the anteater if they found it cannot spot it.



Silky anteaters hide in plain sight by blending with the silk cotton around them. This kind of blending is called “camouflage” (KAM-ah-flazh). It helps keep an animal safe from predators, which are animals that eat other animals.

One animal that eats silky anteaters is the harpy eagle. Harpy eagles have strong eyes and can see small things from far away. They hunt in the daytime, but it is not easy to see a silky anteater in the day when it is hidden in a silk-cotton tree. In this way, the anteater’s fur protects it from the harpy eagle.



Have you heard of the silk-cotton tree? It is also called the “kapok” tree. Silk cotton or kapok is light and fluffy. Did you know that it is used to stuff pillows and life jackets?

## The Silky Anteater



Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. What is the silky anteater's fur like?  
 golden and wavy     gray and straight     white and limp
2. What do silky anteaters do at night?  
 sleep     rest     move about
3. Where do silky anteaters stay most of the time?  
 tops of trees     on the ground     both places
4. What animal hunts and eats silky anteaters?  
 crocodile     harpy eagle     tapir
5. What protects the silky anteater?  
 strong limbs     blending in with silk cotton     fangs
6. What is another word for this protection?  
 camouflage     flash color     luck
7. Where do silky anteaters live?  
 deserts     grasslands     rainforests