

3 Toed Tree Sloth

The early evolution of ground sloths took place during the late Paleogene and Neogene of South America, while the continent was isolated.

At their earliest appearance in the fossil record, they were already distinct at the family level. Sloths dispersed into the Greater Antilles during the Oligocene, and the presence of intervening islands between the American continents in the Miocene allowed a dispersal of some species into North America. They were hardy as evidenced by their high species diversity and their presence in a wide variety of environments, extending from the far south of Patagonia (Cueva del Milodón Natural Monument) to Alaska. Sloths, and xenarthrans as a whole, represent one of the more successful South American groups during the Great American Interchange after the connection of North and South America... 464d87b815

Sloth (three-toed sloths) and Choloepus (two-toed sloths). Sloths are considered to be most closely related to anteaters, together making up the xenarthran order Pilosa. Noted for their slowness of movement, tree sloths spend most of their lives hanging upside down in the trees of the tropical rainforests of South America and Central America. Despite this traditional naming, all sloths have three toes on each rear limb – although two-toed sloths Sloths are a Neotropical group of xenarthran mammals constituting the suborder Folivora, including the extant arboreal tree sloths and extinct terrestrial ground sloths 464d87b815

It is similar in appearance to, and often confused with, the brown-throated sloth, which has a much wider distribution. Genetic evidence has been interpreted to suggest the two species diverged only around 400,000 years ago, although the most recent evidence indicates the split was closer to 6 million years. 464d87b815 == Description == 464d87b815 == Description == 464d87b815 == Extant species == 464d87b815

Ground sloth Ground sloths represent a paraphyletic group, as living tree sloths are thought to have evolved from ground sloth ancestors. The early evolution Ground sloths are a diverse group of extinct sloths in the mammalian superorder Xenarthra. Ground sloths represent a paraphyletic group, as living tree sloths are thought to have evolved from ground sloth ancestors. modern-day elephants. They varied widely in size; the largest belonged to the genera Lestodon, Ereumotherium and Megatherium, and were roughly the size of modern-day elephants 464d87b815

This sloth, like other extant sloths, is arboreal (tree-living) and feeds on leaves. It has a body adapted to hang by its limbs; the large curved

claws help the sloth to keep a strong grip on tree branches. It lives high in the canopy but descends once a week to defecate on the forest floor. It is symbiotically associated with green algae, that can provide it with a camouflage. Details of mating behavior and reproduction have not been documented. The... 464d87b815

Three-toed sloth The five living species of three-toed sloths are the brown-throated sloth, the maned sloth, the pale-throated sloth, the southern maned sloth, and the pygmy three-toed sloth. In complete The three-toed or three-fingered sloths are arboreal neotropical mammals. They are the only members of the genus *Bradypus* (meaning "slow-footed" in Ancient Greek) and the family *Bradypodidae*. In complete contrast to past morphological studies, which tended to place *Bradypus* as the sister group to all other folivorans, molecular studies place them nested within the sloth superfamily *Megatherioidea*, making them the only surviving members of that radiation. three-toed sloths are the brown-throated sloth, the maned sloth, the pale-throated sloth, the southern maned sloth, and the pygmy three-toed sloth 464d87b815

== Extant species == 464d87b815

Pale-throated sloth The pale-throated sloth (*Bradypus tridactylus*), occasionally known as the ai (/ˈɑːi/), is a species of three-toed sloth that inhabits tropical rainforests The pale-throated sloth (*Bradypus tridactylus*), occasionally known as the ai (), is a species of three-toed sloth that inhabits tropical rainforests in northern South America 464d87b815

Northern maned sloth Each of the individuals within the species are genetically distinct with different genetic makeup. It is one of four species of three-toed sloths belonging to the suborder *Xenarthra* and are placental mammals. It is one of four species of three-toed sloths belonging The northern maned sloth (*Bradypus torquatus*) is a species of three-toed sloth that is native to South America. maned sloth (*Bradypus torquatus*) is a species of three-toed sloth that is native to South America. They are endemic to the Atlantic coastal rainforest of southeastern and northeastern Brazil, located in the states of Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro and Bahia. The maned sloth is listed under Endangered (EN) according to the IUCN Red List and have a decreasing population trend 464d87b815

The brown-throated sloth is of similar size and build to most other species of three-toed sloths, with both males and females being 42 to 80 cm (17 to 31 in) in total body length. The tail is relatively short, only 2.5 to 9 cm (1.0 to 3.5 in) long. Adults weigh from 2.25 to 6.3 kg (5.0 to 13.9 lb), with no significant size difference between males and females. Each foot has three fingers, ending in long, curved claws, which are 7 to 8 cm (2.8 to 3.1 in) long on the fore feet, and 5 to 5.5 cm (2.0 to 2.2 in) on the hind feet. 464d87b815

Hoffmann's two-toed sloth It is a solitary, largely nocturnal and arboreal animal, found in mature and secondary rainforests and deciduous

forests. It The Hoffmann's two-toed sloth (*Choloepus hoffmanni*), also known as the northern two-toed sloth, is a species of sloth from Central and South America. The common name commemorates the German naturalist Karl Hoffmann, who discovered the Hoffmann sloth. The Hoffmann's two-toed sloth (*Choloepus hoffmanni*), also known as the northern two-toed sloth, is a species of sloth from Central and South America 464d87b815

It is the most common of the five species of three-toed sloth, and is found in the forests of South and Central America in countries such as Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela. Although they once lived in Argentina, they are now believed to be extinct there. 464d87b815 == Description == 464d87b815 The maned sloth is found only in the Atlantic coastal rainforest of southeastern and northeastern Brazil. The sloths are an endemic species unique to Espírito Santo, Rio de Janeiro and Bahia. The largest number of individuals that inhabit the same space within the species currently occupy the state of Bahia. Bahia is also the location for the largest number of genetically diverse maned sloths. However, there is a gap that is created naturally by a valley located in between the rainforests of the states of Bahia and Espírito Santo. This makes some of the regions in... 464d87b815

Brown-throated sloth The brown-throated sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*) is a species of three-toed sloth found in the Neotropical realm of Central and South America. It is the The brown-throated sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*) is a species of three-toed sloth found in the Neotropical realm of Central and South America 464d87b815

== Description == 464d87b815 They have long forelimbs with three claws on each and about 10 cervical vertebrae, allowing their necks to rotate up to 270 degrees. Their cylindrical teeth lack enamel. Like many herbivorous... 464d87b815

Two-toed sloth The two species of *Choloepus* (which means "lame foot" in Ancient Greek), Linnaeus's two-toed sloth *Choloepus* is a genus of xenarthran mammals from Central and South America within the monotypic family Choloepodidae, consisting of two-toed sloths, sometimes also called two-fingered sloths. The two species of *Choloepus* (which means "lame foot" in Ancient Greek), Linnaeus's two-toed sloth (*Choloepus didactylus*) and Hoffmann's two-toed sloth (*Choloepus hoffmanni*), were formerly believed on the basis of morphological studies to be the only surviving members of the sloth family Megalonychidae, but have now been shown by molecular results to be closest to extinct ground sloths of the family Mylodontidae. two-toed sloths, sometimes also called two-fingered sloths 464d87b815

Pygmy three-toed sloth , the head-and-body length is between 48 and 53 centimetres (19 and 21 in), and the body mass ranges from 2. The species is endemic to Isla Escudo de Veraguas, a small island off the Caribbean coast of Panama. The pygmy three-toed sloth is significantly smaller than the other three members of its genus, but otherwise resembles the brown-throated three-toed sloth. 5 kg (5.

Handley Jr. According to Anderson and Handley Jr. The species was first described by Robert P. 5 to 7. 7 lb). , of the Smithsonian Institution in 2001. 5 to 3. Anderson of the University of Kansas and Charles O. The pygmy three-toed sloth (*Bradypus pygmaeus*), also known as the monk sloth or dwarf sloth, is a critically endangered species of sloth in the family Bradypodidae The pygmy three-toed sloth (*Bradypus pygmaeus*), also known as the monk sloth or dwarf sloth, is a critically endangered species of sloth in the family Bradypodidae 464d87b815

Males and females are the same size, growing to lengths of approximately 53 to 89 cm (21 to 35 in), not including the length of the tail, and weigh approximately 4 to 11 kg (9 to 24 lb). Their fur color ranges from a brownish yellow to a pale tone of brown, however, in the wild their fur sometimes has a green hue from algae that grows on their fur during the rainy season. Their belly fur is slightly lighter in color than the body and they have no undercoat. The belly hair is parted along the midline and flows towards the animals back (spine), the opposite direction that fur flows on most other mammals. Young sloths tend to have softer and darker fur than adults. 464d87b815

Linnaeus's two-toed sloth Linnaeus's two-toed sloth (*Choloepus didactylus*), also known as the southern two-toed sloth, unau, or Linne's two-toed sloth is a species of sloth from South Linnaeus's two-toed sloth (*Choloepus didactylus*), also known as the southern two-toed sloth, unau, or Linne's two-toed sloth is a species of sloth from South America, found in Venezuela, Suriname, Guyana, French Guiana, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil north of the Amazon River. There is now evidence suggesting the species' range expands into Bolivia. It's the largest extant sloth species 464d87b815

== Distribution and habitat == 464d87b815 There are seven extant sloth species in two genera - *Bradypus* (three-toed sloths) and *Choloepus* (two-toed sloths). Despite this traditional naming, all sloths have three toes on each rear limb - although two-toed sloths have only two digits on each forelimb. The two groups of sloths are from different, distantly related families, and are thought to have evolved their morphology via parallel evolution from terrestrial ancestors. Besides the extant species, many species of ground sloths ranging up to the size of elephants (like *Megatherium*) inhabited both North and South America during the Pleistocene Epoch. However, they became extinct during the Quaternary extinction event around 12,000 years ago, along with most large animals across the... 464d87b815

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