

Tadigrade's

A tardigrade, often called a water bear, is a tiny microscopic eight legged creature that can survive extreme environments, such as boiling heat and freezing cold pressure. Even the vacuum of space by entering a state called cryptositis.

What Does A Tardigrade Look Like?

A tardigrade has eight tiny chubby tube-like legs with sharp claws all around the body, it's also microscopic. It is known for its slow moving bear-like crawl and has the fascinating ability to survive without water for long periods.

Habitat

Tardigrades particularly like moist environments, such as moss, lichen, soil and leaf litter, even extreme habitats such as deep oceans, hot glaciers and hot springs.

Diet

Tardigrades are mostly herbivores or detritivores, meaning they eat:

- **Plant cells-** by using their mouths to poke cells and suck out liquid.
- **Bacteria-** some species eat tiny bacteria.

- **Small creature's- A few tardigrades eat smaller animals such as Nematodes or other smaller tardigrades.**

Fun facts

- 1. Tardigrades can survive extreme temperatures from -272° to 150°**
- 2. When conditions get really bad they shut down their metabolism [which is the continuous process of chemical radiation in your body, that converts food and drink into energy] and curl up into a dry tiny ball called a tun. They stay like that for decades and when they get hydrated enough they can COME BACK TO LIFE!!!**
- 3. In 2007 scientists sent a Tardigrade to space on the FOTON-M3 mission, it survived exposure to vacuum and radiation making it the first known animal to survive space.**

I hope that you enjoyed learning about tardigrades!