

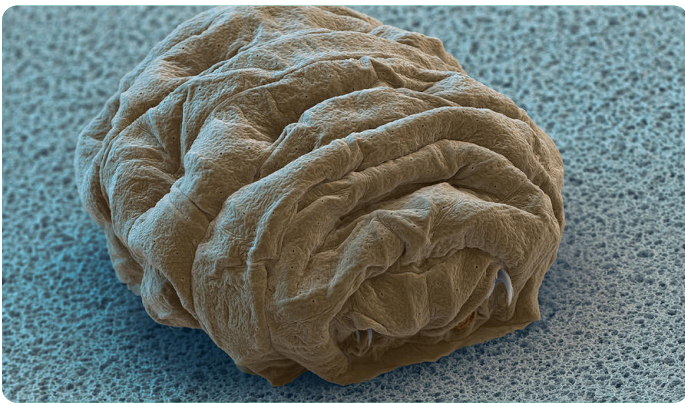
AMAZING ANIMALS: TARDIGRADE

Tardigrades are tiny eight-legged animals who live in water. They measure just 0.5 mm, only slightly larger than the diameter of a human hair. Because of the way they look, they are also called 'water bears'.



Tardigrades can be found everywhere on earth; from mountaintops to the deep sea and from tropical forests to Antarctica. (Antarctica is the most southern continent of the earth. It's very cold there.)

Another name for a tardigrade is 'moss piglet'.



Tardigrades are nearly impossible to kill: they can survive in very difficult conditions, where most living things would die, by rolling up into a ball and drying out. They can live in very hot or very cold places, they can survive when they don't have any air, water or food. They can even survive in outer space!



Discuss the answers to the following questions:

1. What do you find the most amazing about tardigrades? Why?
2. Would you like to be a tardigrade? Why/why not?
3. Is there an animal which you think is more amazing than a tardigrade? What is it and why is it more amazing?



Now write three facts that you have just read into your book. Then write what you feel about what you have learnt.