

Brown Throated Three Toed Sloth

Bradypus variegatus



Evolution: The Giant Ground Sloth gave rise to many modern sloth species one of which being *Bradypus variegatus* commonly known as the Brown-throated three-toed sloth! Interestingly, the three-toed sloth maintains few primitive forms including its hand structure.

Behavior: Sloths spend the majority of their day sleeping, almost 67%! 24% is dedicated to being alert and awake, which includes mating and caring for young. The remaining 9% is divided between feeding (7%) and use of locomotion (2%)

Foraging: Because of a slow metabolism and only 7% of a sloth's day being dedicated to foraging, sloths will only eat the foliage nearest them. They do, however, have a favorite snack: the Hibiscus flower!

Conservation

Efforts: With habitat loss being the greatest threat to an already threatened species, conservation efforts have shifted to more cacao agroforests. This would benefit already existing species of sloths so the continuation of their species is possible!

Ecology and

Location: Sloths are solitary arboreal mammals, however, multiple species will coexist in a location at the same time. They reside in the canopies of riparian forests primarily in Southern Honduras through Brazil. Their long arms and specialized toes/claws allow them to climb and hang from trees effortlessly.

Classification:

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Mammalia

Order: Pilosa

Family: Bradypodidae

Genus: *Bradypus*

Species: *Bradypus variegatus*



Sharp claws for gripping and climbing.

