

Through the canopy **SLOWly**

- ☛ **Sloths come in two varieties:** two-toed (genus *Choloepus*), and three-toed (genus *Bradypus*). They are found in Central and South America.
- ☛ **Sloths are well adapted to arboreal (tree) life.** They have long limbs and claws, slow movements, and like to hang upside-down. The green algae growing on the fur provide camouflage.
- ☛ **Sloths are mostly skeleton and fur.** They sacrifice muscles to be light enough for tree life.
- ☛ **Sloths are active during the day and night and lead solitary lives.** They prefer to eat leaves from trees with the crown exposed to the sun.



- ☛ **Sloths choose a *modal* (“home”) tree.** These trees lose up to ten percent of their foliage per year because of their resident sloths.
- ☛ **Sloths “feed” their home trees by climbing down to the base of the tree to defecate.** This once-a-week, 30 minute round trip expends energy and risks predation. Researchers are investigating whether or not sloths purposely do this to “fertilize” their home trees so they survive.

