CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



African lungfish

Protopterus annectens

An African lungfish will drown if you hold it underwater. Its gills are vestigial and it must surface to fill a pair of true lungs — an obligate air-breather among fish. When its swamp dries, it burr…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Protopteridae
Habitat: Freshwater swamps, floodplains, and slow-moving rivers
Diet: Omnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 20-25 years
Weight: 1.5–7 kg
Scientific name: Protopterus annectens

Did you know?

- The African lungfish can slow its metabolism by up to 60% and survive for years in a dormant state during droughts.
- The marbled lungfish, Protopterus aethiopicus, has the largest genome of any animal yet measured — roughly forty times the size of a human's, so bloa…

What I learned

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