CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Alligator gar

Atractosteus spatula

The alligator gar is the largest fish that lives its whole life in fresh water in North America, reaching 2.5 m and over 130 kg, and it is armoured in a way no bony fish alive today matches. Its scal…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Lepisosteidae
Habitat: Slow-moving freshwater rivers, lakes, and bayous
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 20-50 years
Weight: 45–137 kg (100–300 lbs)
Scientific name: Atractosteus spatula

Did you know?

- Despite their size and intimidating appearance, there are no confirmed reports of alligator gars attacking humans.
- Gar eggs are toxic to mammals and birds, including humans — a genuine chemical defence in a fish egg, and a good reason not to eat the roe. The gar l…

What I learned

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