CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Alligator Snapping Turtle

Macrochelys temminckii

The alligator snapping turtle is one of very few vertebrates that fishes with a lure. It lies on the river bottom with its jaws open and wiggles a pink, worm-shaped appendage on the floor of its tong…

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile
Family: Chelydridae
Habitat: Slow-moving freshwater rivers, lakes, swamps, and bayous
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Lifespan: 20-70 years
Weight: 35–70 kg (77–154 lbs), with some individuals exceeding 100 kg (220 lbs)
Scientific name: Macrochelys temminckii

Did you know?

- Despite their fearsome appearance and power, alligator snapping turtles are primarily sit-and-wait predators that conserve energy by remaining motion…
- Its lingual lure engorges with blood to redden it, and the turtle can wiggle it independently — a genuine, muscle-controlled fishing rig. Genetic wor…

What I learned

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