

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



American Paddlefish

Polyodon spathula

The American Paddlefish is a large, ancient freshwater fish known for its long, paddle-shaped snout, called a rostrum, which can be up to one-third of its body length. It inhabits slow-moving waters ...

Quick facts

Classification: Fish

Family: Polyodontidae

Habitat: Large freshwater rivers and reservoirs

Diet: Carnivore (primarily zooplanktivore)

Conservation status: Vulnerable

Lifespan: 20-30 years

Weight: 27-70 kg (60-154 lbs)

Scientific name: *Polyodon spathula*

Did you know?

- Paddlefish are among the few North American fish species that use filter feeding, sweeping plankton into their large, gaping mouths as they swim.
- The paddlefish's rostrum is covered with electroreceptors that help it detect plankton. Unlike most fish, paddlefish do not have scales, giving them ...

What I learned
