CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Arapaima

Arapaima gigas

The arapaima is an air-breather that will drown if it cannot reach the surface: its swim bladder is lined with lung-like tissue and it must gulp air roughly every five to twenty minutes, an adaptatio…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Arapaimidae
Habitat: Freshwater rivers and lakes
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Data Deficient
Lifespan: 15-20 years
Weight: 100–200 kg
Scientific name: Arapaima gigas

Did you know?

- Despite living in water, arapaimas can actually drown if they are unable to surface regularly to breathe air.
- The very habit that made arapaima easy to overfish also made them easy to manage: because they must surface to breathe, Amazonian communities can cou…

What I learned

© Creature Atlas · www.creatureatlas.com · Free for classroom & personal use