CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Atlantic Horseshoe Crab

Limulus polyphemus

The horseshoe crab is not a crab. It is closer to spiders and scorpions than to anything crustacean, and its body plan has run essentially unchanged for something like four hundred and fifty million …

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Limulidae
Habitat: Shallow coastal waters, estuaries, and tidal flats
Diet: Omnivore
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Lifespan: 20-40 years
Weight: 1.5–4 kg
Scientific name: Limulus polyphemus

Did you know?

- Atlantic horseshoe crab blood is so valuable to the medical industry that a quart can be worth thousands of dollars.
- It is not a crab — it is closer to spiders and scorpions, and its body plan is around 450 million years old. Its blood is blue because it uses copper…

What I learned

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