CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Christmas Island Red Crab

Gecarcoidea natalis

Christmas Island's red crabs are terrestrial: they breathe air, live in burrows in the rainforest floor, and would drown if held under water for long. But they cannot escape the sea, because their la…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Gecarcinidae
Habitat: Tropical rainforest
Diet: Omnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 20–30 years
Weight: 300–500 grams
Scientific name: Gecarcoidea natalis

Did you know?

- Although they are land crabs, Christmas Island Red Crabs must return to the ocean to breed, releasing their eggs directly into the sea.
- Where crazy ants wiped out the crabs, the forest floor changed dramatically — leaf litter piled up, seedlings that crabs would have eaten shot up, an…

What I learned

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