CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Coelacanth

Latimeria chalumnae

The coelacanth was known only from fossils and assumed to have died out with the dinosaurs, roughly sixty-six million years ago — until 1938, when one turned up in a South African trawler's catch and…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Latimeriidae
Habitat: Deep marine caves and volcanic slopes
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Critically Endangered
Lifespan: Up to 60 years
Weight: 50–110 kg
Scientific name: Latimeria chalumnae

Did you know?

- Coelacanths give birth to live young after an unusually long gestation period of up to 3 years.
- It was believed extinct for 66 million years until a live one was caught in 1938. It is more closely related to humans than to a tuna. It has a hinge…

What I learned

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