CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Eastern Hellbender

Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis

Cryptobranchus alleganiensis is a giant aquatic salamander of Appalachian streams, reaching around 70 cm, and its whole body is an oxygen-absorbing surface. The loose, wrinkled skin along its flanks …

Quick facts

Classification: Amphibian
Family: Cryptobranchidae
Habitat: Fast-flowing, rocky streams and rivers
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Near Threatened
Lifespan: 25-30 years
Weight: 1.5–5.5 lbs (0.7–2.5 kg)
Scientific name: Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis

Did you know?

- Despite their intimidating appearance and name, hellbenders are completely harmless to humans and play a crucial role in maintaining healthy stream e…
- Unlike the superficially similar mudpuppy, an adult hellbender has no external gills at all, keeping only a single pair of gill slits — the two are r…

What I learned

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