CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Electric eel

Electrophorus electricus

The electric eel is not an eel — it is a knifefish, more closely related to catfish — and its electricity does far more than stun. Three specialised organs, built from stacked cells called electrocyt…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Gymnotidae
Habitat: Freshwater rivers and swamps
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 12-22 years
Weight: 20-22 kg
Scientific name: Electrophorus electricus

Did you know?

- Despite their name, electric eels are not true eels but belong to the knifefish family.
- The electric eel is not an eel at all — it is a knifefish, closer to catfish. It discharges over 800 volts from three organs made of stacked, battery…

What I learned

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