CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Florida Softshell Turtle

Apalone ferox

The Florida Softshell Turtle is a large, aquatic turtle native to the southeastern United States, particularly in Florida. It is easily recognized by its smooth, leathery shell, elongated snorkel-lik…

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile
Family: Trionychidae
Habitat: Freshwater lakes, rivers, ponds, and marshes
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 20-30 years
Weight: 6-13 kg (13-29 lbs)
Scientific name: Apalone ferox

Did you know?

- Unlike most turtles, the Florida Softshell Turtle breathes using its specialized pharyngeal lining, allowing it to absorb oxygen from water while sub…
- Florida Softshell Turtles can bury themselves in sandy bottoms, leaving only their nostrils exposed to breathe. They are among the fastest swimming t…

What I learned

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