

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Gila Monster

Heloderma suspectum

The Gila Monster is a large, heavy-bodied venomous lizard native to the arid regions of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. Recognizable by its striking black and orange or pink b...

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile

Family: Helodermatidae

Habitat: Desert scrublands and semi-arid regions

Diet: Carnivore

Conservation status: Near Threatened

Lifespan: 20-30 years

Weight: 1.3–2.2 kg

Scientific name: *Heloderma suspectum*

Did you know?

- The venom of the Gila Monster has been used to develop drugs for treating type 2 diabetes in humans.
- Gila Monsters store fat in their tails to survive long periods without food. Their venom is delivered through grooves in their lower teeth, and they ...

What I learned
