CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Gila Monster

Heloderma suspectum

Heloderma suspectum is one of only a handful of venomous lizards, a slow, heavy-bodied burrow-dweller of the Sonoran and Mojave deserts armoured in bead-like osteoderms and patterned in black and sal…

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.
- Exendin-4 was found in Gila monster saliva because the lizard's digestive system must restart after months of fasting; the same hormone-like molecule…

What I learned

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