CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Marine Iguana

Amblyrhynchus cristatus

The marine iguana is the only sea-going lizard on Earth. It grazes algae off submerged rocks in the Galápagos, diving several metres and staying under for long stretches by deliberately slowing its h…

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile
Family: Iguanidae
Habitat: Rocky coastal shorelines of the Galápagos Islands
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Lifespan: 12-20 years
Weight: 0.5–1.5 kg
Scientific name: Amblyrhynchus cristatus

Did you know?

- Despite being cold-blooded, marine iguanas can spend up to an hour in frigid ocean waters, emerging covered in salt and often shivering to warm up on…
- It is the only lizard on Earth that forages in the sea, grazing algae underwater. It sneezes out excess salt through nasal glands — the white crust o…

What I learned

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