CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Mary River Turtle

Elusor macrurus

Elusor macrurus is confined to a single river system in Queensland, and it has two claims to fame. The first is respiratory: it has specialised gill-like structures in the cloaca that extract dissolv…

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile
Family: Chelidae
Habitat: Freshwater rivers
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Endangered
Lifespan: 25-50 years
Weight: 1.5-3.0 kg
Scientific name: Elusor macrurus

Did you know?

- The Mary River Turtle was only scientifically described in 1994, despite being kept as a pet for decades prior, and is the sole species in its genus.
- The Mary River turtle ranked in the top 30 of the Zoological Society of London's EDGE reptile list in 2018, which is what launched the punk-turtle pu…

What I learned

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