

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Mata Mata Turtle

Chelus fimbriata

The Mata Mata Turtle is a striking freshwater turtle native to the slow-moving rivers, streams, and swamps of the Amazon and Orinoco basins in South America. This turtle is easily recognized by its l...

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile

Family: Chelidae

Habitat: Slow-moving freshwater rivers, streams, and swamps

Diet: Carnivore

Conservation status: Least Concern

Lifespan: 15-30 years

Weight: 7-15 kg

Scientific name: *Chelus fimbriata*

Did you know?

- Despite its bizarre appearance, the Mata Mata Turtle is completely harmless and rarely leaves the water except for nesting.
- The Mata Mata Turtle has a snorkel-like nose for easy breathing while submerged. Its method of catching prey involves opening its mouth rapidly to cr...

What I learned
