CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Red-bellied Piranha

Pygocentrus nattereri

The piranha's reputation is almost entirely undeserved. It is not a frenzied killer that strips a cow to the bone in minutes; it is largely an opportunist and a scavenger, eating fish, insects, seeds…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Serrasalmidae
Habitat: Freshwater rivers and lakes
Diet: Omnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 4-10 years
Weight: 0.5–1.5 kg
Scientific name: Pygocentrus nattereri

Did you know?

- Red-bellied piranhas are more likely to scavenge than to attack live prey, and large feeding frenzies usually occur only when food is scarce.
- Piranhas shoal for protection, not to hunt in packs — they are heavily preyed on themselves. They are mostly opportunists and scavengers, not the fre…

What I learned

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