CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Sea Squirt

Ascidiacea

Sea squirts, or ascidians, spend adult life as immobile bags filtering seawater through a pharyngeal basket, and their name comes from the jet of water they fire when squeezed. Nothing about that adu…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Varies (e.g., Styelidae, Ascidiidae, Pyuridae)
Habitat: Marine coastal waters
Diet: Filter feeder
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 1-7 years
Weight: Up to 200 grams
Scientific name: Ascidiacea

Did you know?

- Sea squirt larvae possess a backbone-like structure, but lose it as they transform into adults—a key link to the evolutionary origins of vertebrates.
- Sea squirt larvae are chordates with a notochord and dorsal nerve cord, which is why these blobs are our closest invertebrate relatives. They are the…

What I learned

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