CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Sierra Newt

Taricha sierrae

The Sierra Newt is a medium-sized amphibian native to the western slopes of California's Sierra Nevada mountains. It has a rough, brownish skin on its back and a vibrant orange belly, making it easil…

Quick facts

Classification: Amphibian
Family: Salamandridae
Habitat: Moist woodlands, forests, and freshwater streams in the Sierra Nevada
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 12-15 years
Weight: 7-20 grams
Scientific name: Taricha sierrae

Did you know?

- The Sierra Newt's bright orange underside is a warning signal to potential predators about its high toxicity—a classic example of aposematic colorati…
- Sierra Newts secrete a powerful neurotoxin called tetrodotoxin, making them unpalatable to most predators. During the breeding season, males develop …

What I learned

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