

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 coloration.
- Sierra Newts secrete a powerful neurotoxin called tetrodotoxin, making them unpalatable to most predators. During the breeding season, males develop ...

What I learned
