CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



South American Tapir

Tapirus terrestris

The tapir looks like a pig crossed with an anteater and is closely related to neither. Its nearest living relatives are horses and rhinoceroses — all odd-toed ungulates — and the lineage is so ancien…

Quick facts

Classification: Mammal
Family: Tapiridae
Habitat: Tropical and subtropical forests, grasslands, swamps, and riverbanks
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Lifespan: 25-30 years
Weight: 150-300 kg
Scientific name: Tapirus terrestris

Did you know?

- Despite their bulky appearance, South American Tapirs can run surprisingly fast and are agile in dense forest undergrowth.
- Its closest living relatives are horses and rhinos, not pigs, and the lineage has barely changed in millions of years. Its short trunk is a prehensil…

What I learned

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