CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Spiny Softshell Turtle

Apalone spinifera

The Spiny Softshell Turtle is a large, aquatic turtle known for its distinctive leathery, pancake-like shell, which lacks the hard scutes seen in most turtles. Its shell is round, flat, and flexible,…

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile
Family: Trionychidae
Habitat: Freshwater rivers, lakes, and streams with sandy or muddy bottoms
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 20-50 years
Weight: 3.0-10.0 kg (6.6-22.0 lbs)
Scientific name: Apalone spinifera

Did you know?

- Unlike most turtles, the Spiny Softshell Turtle can bury itself completely in sand or mud, leaving only its nose exposed to ambush prey and avoid pre…
- Spiny Softshell Turtles can breathe through their skin and throat lining while underwater. They are among the fastest swimmers of all freshwater turt…

What I learned

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