

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
