CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Steller's Sea Cow

Hydrodamalis gigas

Steller's sea cow (Hydrodamalis gigas) was the largest sirenian ever known, reaching 8 to 9 metres and several tonnes, and it was extinguished within 27 years of being described. The naturalist Georg…

Quick facts

Classification: Mammal
Family: Dugongidae
Habitat: Coastal marine waters, particularly around kelp forests
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Extinct
Lifespan: Unknown (estimated up to 30 years)
Weight: 8,000–10,000 kg
Scientific name: Hydrodamalis gigas

Did you know?

- Steller's Sea Cow went extinct less than three decades after it was first discovered, making it one of the fastest documented extinctions of a large …
- The only naturalist ever to see a living Steller's sea cow was Georg Steller, and the species was extinct 27 years later. It was too buoyant to dive …

What I learned

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