CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Texas Horned Lizard

Phrynosoma cornutum

The Texas horned lizard (Phrynosoma cornutum) is famous for the strangest defence in North American herpetology: it can rupture small sinuses behind its eyes and squirt a jet of its own blood up to a…

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile
Family: Phrynosomatidae
Habitat: Arid and semi-arid grasslands, deserts, and scrublands
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Near Threatened
Lifespan: 5-8 years
Weight: 25-90 grams
Scientific name: Phrynosoma cornutum

Did you know?

- Despite its fearsome appearance, the Texas Horned Lizard is harmless to humans and relies almost entirely on ants for its diet.
- The blood squirted from the eye socket is targeted: horned lizards fire at dogs, coyotes and cats but generally will not waste it on a bird or a snak…

What I learned

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