CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Tuatara

Sphenodon punctatus

The tuatara is not a lizard, though almost everyone assumes it is. It is the last survivor of the Rhynchocephalia, an order that split from the lizards and snakes well over 200 million years ago — ev…

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile
Family: Sphenodontidae
Habitat: Coastal forests and scrublands on offshore islands
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Lifespan: 60-100 years
Weight: 0.5-1.5 kg
Scientific name: Sphenodon punctatus

Did you know?

- Tuataras are the only surviving members of an ancient reptilian order that existed alongside the earliest dinosaurs.
- The tuatara is not a lizard — it is the last survivor of an order that split from lizards over 200 million years ago. Juveniles have a working third …

What I learned

© Creature Atlas · www.creatureatlas.com · Free for classroom & personal use