

# Animal Fact Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Tuatara

*Sphenodon punctatus*

The tuatara is a rare reptile endemic to New Zealand, often referred to as a 'living fossil' due to its close resemblance to species that lived during the age of the dinosaurs. Tuataras are the only ...

### 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.
- Tuataras possess a unique third eye, called the parietal eye, which is visible in hatchlings and may help regulate their circadian rhythms. Unlike mo...

### What I learned

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