CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Water Flea

Daphnia pulex

Daphnia, the water flea, is not a flea but a small planktonic crustacean, and it is one of the most instructive animals in freshwater biology. It reproduces by cyclical parthenogenesis: in good condi…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Daphniidae
Habitat: Freshwater ponds, lakes, and slow-moving streams
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 1-3 months
Weight: 0.001–0.003 grams
Scientific name: Daphnia pulex

Did you know?

- Daphnia can enter a dormant state by producing hardy eggs that survive harsh conditions, allowing populations to persist even in temporary water bodi…
- Whether a Daphnia is male or female is decided by its environment, not its genes, so genetically identical clones can be either sex. If it smells a p…

What I learned

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