



©2006 William Montgomery Alligator Snapping Turtle

Alligator Snappers Need Your Help !

Macrochelys temminckii or the Alligator Snapping Turtle is not the huggable creature that most of us find attractive. As Richard Conniff said it in his March '99 National Geographic Article *Swamp Thing*, "You would not put one in a petting zoo unless maybe you wanted the children to learn to count without their fingers"(Conniff 123). It may not be the friendliest of creatures, but it has made its home in the rivers and streams that drain into the Gulf of Mexico for millions of years before man ever stepped foot on this continent. Unfortunately, if decisive action isn't taken soon, man will be the reason that it disappears from the only place on earth that it naturally exists.

Man is the sole reason this creature's future is threatened. Overexploitation and habitat loss have both placed a burden on this species from which it will not recover if we do not do more to regulate its harvest and preserve its natural habitat.

ALLIGATOR SNAPPER FACTS

- Largest fresh water turtle in North America. Lives only in US rivers, lakes, and streams that empty into the Gulf of Mexico.
- Feeds mainly on fish, but will eat almost anything
- Spends most of its life in the water leaving only to lay eggs. Females bury large clutches of white hard-shelled eggs in riverbanks every other year.
- Sex of young is determined by the temperature in the nest
- Adults reach sexual maturity between 11-13 years and may live more than a century
- Larger than the common snapping turtle, with a much larger head and a wormlike fishing lure on the surface of its tongue, with which it lures fish directly into its mouth



Introduction to the Species Formatting and Content Recommendations

When you begin using the template to format the content you have written into the space available for this section of the brochure, you will need to format the text so that it will fit. You don't have an unlimited amount of space like you might in an essay format. You also need to consider the space that will be needed for the pictures that you include in each section.

The required credit for this picture is added by placing a text box above the picture and formatting the text to display as white and the background to display as clear. This will enable the picture credit to be visible without taking up additional space below the picture.

The text in the column is fully "justified" so that both the margins are straight. Usually when you type, you use the "align left" setting as **this** statement is aligned. However, when the content is placed in your brochure the full justification setting will make your content appear more professional.

The text written on the front of this handout had to be changed to 10pt. font in order to make it fit into the space available in the brochure. The bullets listed in the *Alligator Snapper Facts* section are reduced even further to 8pt. font. You will need to play with the format settings in order to reach the optimal levels for each section of text.

If you plan about as much content into this section of your brochure as is written in the model, you will find that you do not have trouble taking advantage of the space available for this part of the brochure.

Think of this section as your **introduction** paragraph. You will use this space to **introduce** the species and the problems that have contributed to its status as **Endangered**, but you will do so in general terms and not present the specific research you found that explains the contributing factors to its status as endangered or go into detail about its habitat or the proposed solution to its situation. Other sections of this brochure are committed to that purpose.

This section also contains a **thesis statement**, which suggests the organization of the rest of the brochure and condenses its essential points into a single driving statement.

Highlight the sentence in the section that you feel must be this project's thesis statement.