



# Arapaine a

#### by Ellen Lawrence

#### **Consultant:**

Lesley de Souza, PhD

Conservation Scientist and Arapaima Researcher Field Museum of Natural History Chicago, Illinois



New York, New York

#### Credits

Cover, © Aleksander Kurganov/Shutterstock, © Vladimir Wrangel/Shutterstock, and © Kichigin/Shutterstock; 4, © National Geographic Creative/Alamy; 5, © Lesley de Souza; 6T, © Vladimir Wrangel/Shutterstock; 6B, © Pete Oxford/Minden Pictures/FLPA; 7, © Pete Oxford/Minden Pictures/FLPA; 8T, © Filipe Frazao/Shutterstock; 8B, © Cosmographics; 9, © Photo Researchers/FLPA; 10, © Amazon-Images MBSI/Alamy; II, © Piotr Wawrzyniuk/Dreamstime; 12T, © hypotekyfidler/iStock; 12B, © MarclSchauer/Shutterstock; 13, © Kichigin/Shutterstock and © Ammit Jack/Shutterstock; I4, © guentermanaus/Shutterstock; 15, © epa european pressphoto agency/Alamy; 15T, © RBG Kew; 16, © Aleksandr Kurganov/Shutterstock; 17, © Tennessee Aquarium; 18–19, © Kichigin/Shutterstock and © Ammit Jack/Shutterstock; 20T, © Franco Banfi/Biosphoto; 20B, © Andrew M. Allport/Shutterstock; 21, © Aleksander Kurganov/Shutterstock; 22, © Ruby Tuesday Books; 23TL, © Ammit Jack/Shutterstock; 23TC, © Photo Researchers/FLPA; 23TR, © Ondrej Prosicky/Shutterstock; 23BL, © Santi Rodriguez/Shutterstock; 23BC, © Fotos593/Shutterstock; 23BR, © Edward007/Shutterstock.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Joyce Tavolacci Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Photo Researcher: Ruby Tuesday Books Ltd

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Lawrence, Ellen, 1967– author. Title: Arapaima / by Ellen Lawrence.

Description: New York, New York: Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., [2017] | Series: Apex predators of the amazon rain forest | Audience: Ages 5–8. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016044533 (print) | LCCN 2016046867 (ebook) | ISBN

9781684020331 (library) | ISBN 9781684020850 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Arapaima—Juvenile literature. l Freshwater fishes—Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC QL624 .L39 2017 (print) | LCC QL624 (ebook) | DDC 597.176—dc23

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2016044533

Copyright © 2017 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

10987654321

## Contents

River Monster 4
Meet a Mega Fish 6
Watery Home
An Unusual Fish
Watch Out!
Thousands of Teeth
An Underwater Nest16
Protective Parents
Top Predators
Science Lab
Science Words
Index
Read More
Learn More Online24
About the Author24

### River Monster

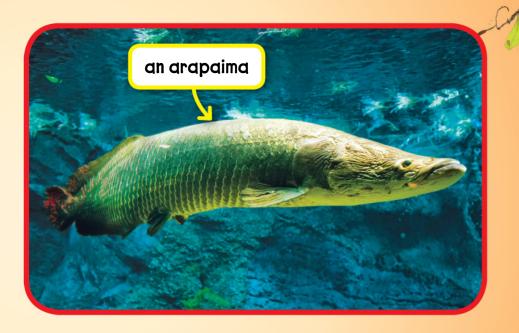
It's nighttime in the Amazon rain forest.

Something huge is lurking in a muddy river.

The enormous **predator** is 10 feet (3 m) long and covered with silvery scales.

What is this giant creature?

It's an arapaima (ar-uh-PAHY-muh)—one of the largest freshwater fish on Earth!



How would you describe an arapaima to someone who has never seen this giant fish?





### Meet a Mega Fish

An arapaima's giant body is streamlined for moving through the water.

It has a flat head and a big, upturned mouth.

The fish's body is covered with huge scales.

A single scale can be more than 2 inches (5 cm) long—that's the length of a chicken's egg!

The scales near the fish's tail have bright red edges.







