**Greater Siren**

**Native to:** Southern United States

**Predators:** mud snakes, alligators

**Prey:** worms, snails, shrimp, algae, crayfish, crustaceans, spiders, fish

**Facts:**

* Their bodies have skeletons, but their arms are made of cartilage
* They are the only salamanders that eat plant material
* Likely evolved from terrestrial ancestors
* Can cross small patches of land on rainy days
* Have very small teeth on their upper jaw, and a small bone on their lower jaw, but mainly use their beak
* In times of drought, they can burrow deep into the mud, form a mucus cocoon and bromate, or essentially suspend their life for a period of time
* Greater is the larger specie of siren can reach a length of over 2 ft

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Camouflage
* Using its lateral line, it may be able to sense disturbances in the water around it

**Reproduction:**

* Lay clutches of 500 eggs on leaves of plants
* Believed to be fertilized externally

**Lifespan:** Can live to be up to 50 years old in captivity, and possibly longer in the wild

**Handling Tips:**

This animal is 2-5 years old and we do not know the gender. She requires water, so when transporting fill a container with about a gallon of lukewarm water and do not remove from the tank.