CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



African Pancake Tortoise

Malacochersus tornieri

The pancake tortoise abandoned the one thing tortoises are famous for: armour. Its shell is flat, thin and riddled with large fenestrations — genuine holes in the underlying bone — so the whole carap…

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile
Family: Testudinidae
Habitat: Rocky outcrops in dry savanna and scrublands
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Lifespan: 25-35 years
Weight: 0.5–1 kg
Scientific name: Malacochersus tornieri

Did you know?

- Unlike almost all other tortoise species, the African Pancake Tortoise's shell is soft and flexible, allowing it to quickly slip into rock crevices, …
- Its shell is so light and pliable that a live pancake tortoise weighs a fraction of what a same-sized domed tortoise weighs. Individuals show strong …

What I learned

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