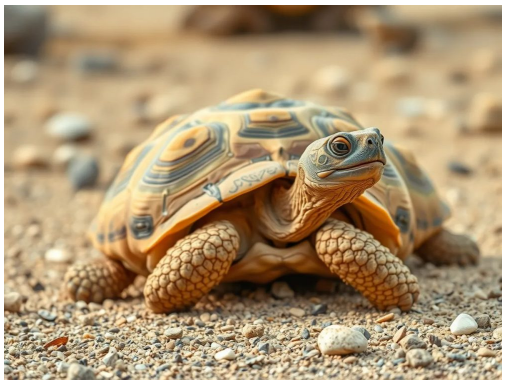
CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Desert Tortoise

Gopherus agassizii

Gopherus agassizii of the Mojave spends about 95 percent of its life underground. Its burrow, dug with flattened, shovel-like forelimbs, can run several metres back into a bank, and it is the whole b…

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile
Family: Testudinidae
Habitat: Desert
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Lifespan: 30-80 years
Weight: 4-7 kg
Scientific name: Gopherus agassizii

Did you know?

- Desert tortoises can retract their head and limbs into their shells, and if startled, may release stored urine as a defense mechanism, which can be d…
- Subsidised ravens — attracted to human rubbish, roads and power poles — have become a major predator of juvenile tortoises, whose shells stay soft en…

What I learned

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