

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Desert Tortoise

Gopherus agassizii

The Desert Tortoise is a slow-moving reptile native to the arid regions of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Adapted to harsh desert climates, this tortoise spends much of its life ...

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...
- Desert tortoises can survive nearly a year without access to free-standing water by obtaining moisture from their food and storing it in their bladder...

What I learned
