

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Gopher Tortoise

Gopherus polyphemus

The Gopher Tortoise is a medium-sized land tortoise native to the southeastern United States, easily identified by its sturdy, domed shell and strong, shovel-like forelimbs adapted for digging. Renow...

Quick facts

Classification: Reptile

Family: Testudinidae

Habitat: Longleaf pine forests, sandhills, scrub, coastal dunes, and dry upland habitats

Diet: Herbivore

Conservation status: Vulnerable

Lifespan: 40-60 years

Weight: 4-6 kg

Scientific name: *Gopherus polyphemus*

Did you know?

- Gopher tortoises are considered a keystone species because their burrows are critical to the survival of many other animals in their ecosystem.
- Gopher tortoise burrows can be up to 10 meters long and 3 meters deep. Each burrow can provide refuge for over 350 different animal species, includin...

What I learned
