Gopher Tortoise

Species of turtle. Native to Southeast US. **Adult Size:** 6 to 16 inches.

Weight:

4 to 13 pounds. Top shell: Carapace.

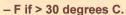
Bottom shell: Plastron.

Connected at sides for protection. Sections of shell called scutes.



Gopher Tortoise

Lay eggs. Incubate 100 days. Sex depends on heat of sand in the nest.



- M if < 30 degrees C.

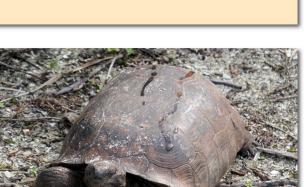
Most eggs eaten by predators. Only 6% survive.

Normal lifespan 40 years.

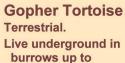
Some much longer.











burrows up to 50 feet long.

Dig with front feet.

"Keystone species" because they share their burrow with 360 other species.

Herbivorous.

Especially grass, mushrooms, and berries.

	Tortoise	Turtle
Habitat	Land based. Prefer high, dry,	Aquatic based. Live in and near
	sandy places. Also pine	water. Ocean or freshwater.
	flatwoods, dry prairies.	
Shells	Domed or rounded, heavy	Thin, flat, lightweight shell.
	shell. Protection from	Streamlining helps them swim.
	predators.	
Legs	Thick, club-like. Easier to get	Webbed feet with long claws.
	around on land.	Flipper-like forelegs. Helps them
	Front legs like a shovel to dig	swim and latch onto objects getting
	burrow in sandy soil.	out of water.
Food	Herbivores. Eat grasses,	Omnivores. Eat fish, jellyfish,
	leaves, plants, flowers.	insects, worms, and plants.
Living	Underground burrows – tunnels	In and near water.
	up to 40 ft long.	
Nesting	Hatchlings move into burrow	Hatchlings remain in nest 90-120
	soon after birth.	days.











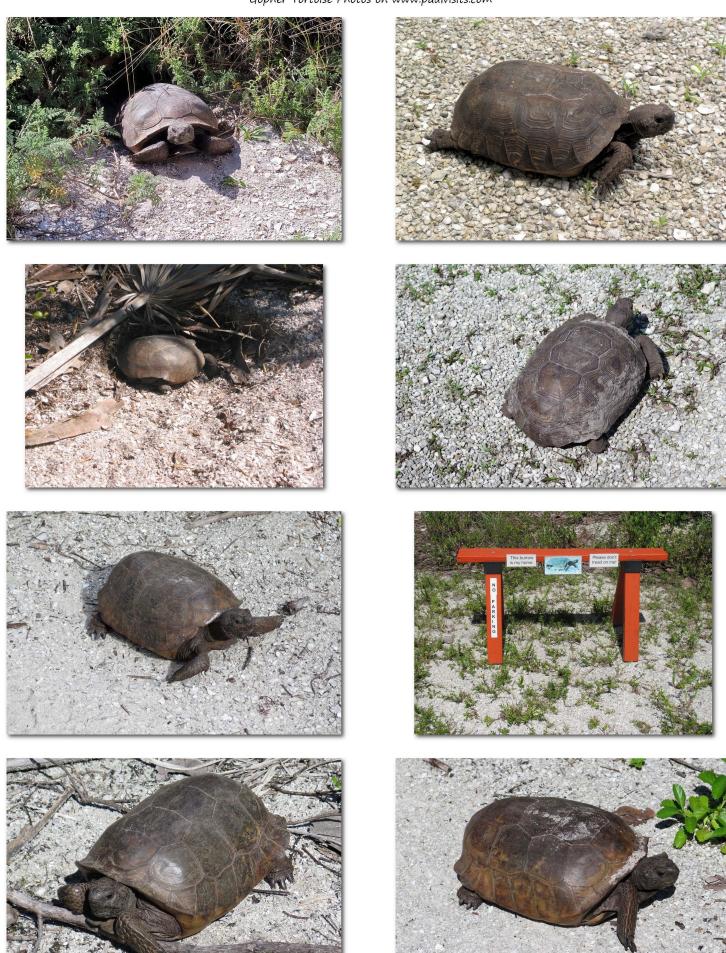












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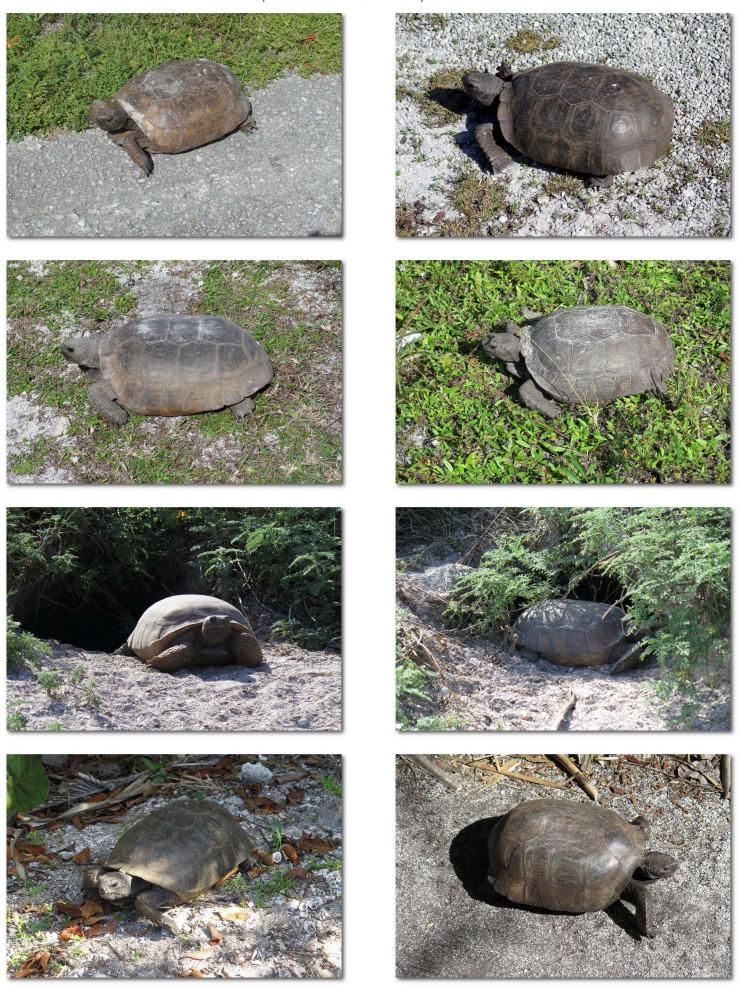




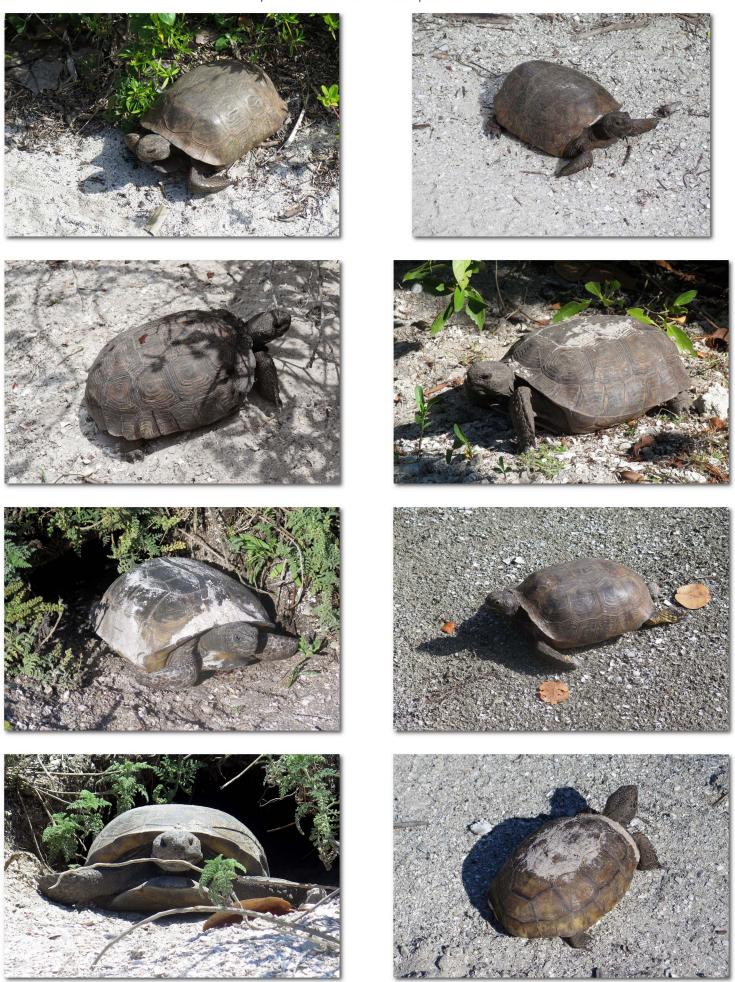
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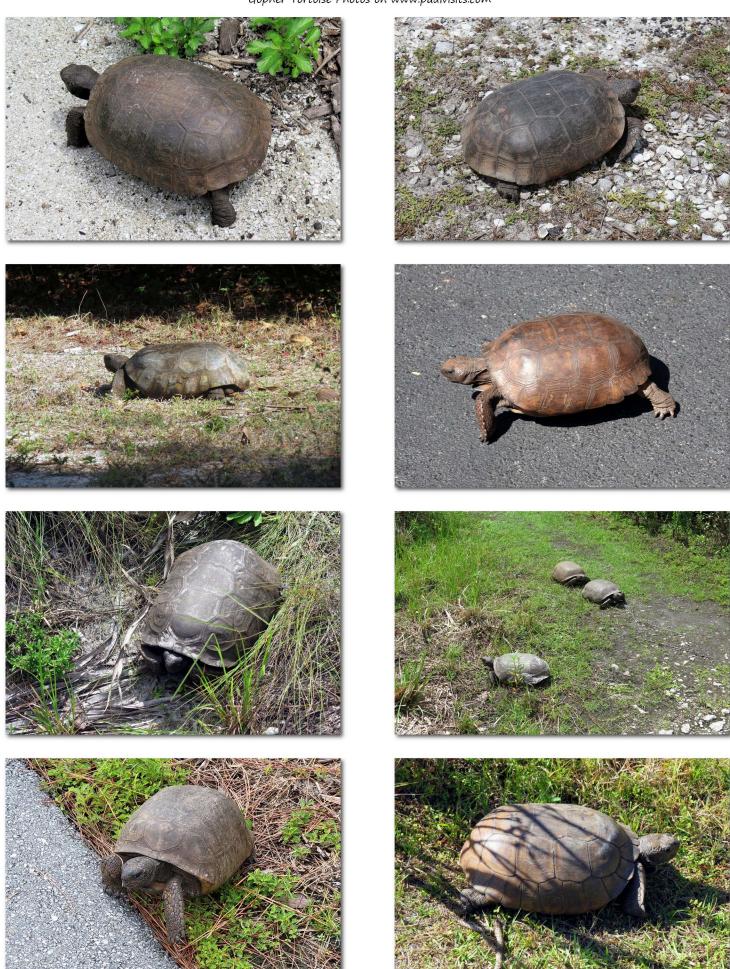
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