Gopher Tortoise

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

Top shell: Carapace.

Sections of shell called scutes.



Live underground in burrows up to 50 feet long.

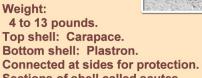
Gopher Tortoise Terrestrial. Can't swim

Dig with front feet.

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

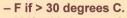
Herbivorous.

Especially grass, mushrooms, and berries.



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.































