

Did you know in Madagascar the Radiated Tortoise is also known as the Sokake?

Conservation Action

Tortoise and turtle shells are very beautiful and are often used in ornaments and jewellery however the collection of these shells can lead to numbers of these species dwindling. When travelling overseas avoid buying things made of tortoise and turtle shells so you are not part of this terrible trade.

Twelve Tortoise words!

- Radiated
- Tortoise
- Critically
- Endangered
- Herbivore
- Grass
- Fruit
- Plants
- Carapace
- Madagascar
- Habitat
- Woodlands

P	N	I	L	H	E	R	B	I	V	O	R	E	P
M	C	O	R	A	D	I	A	T	E	D	W	S	R
U	R	R	J	B	U	T	M	O	N	A	O	V	K
A	I	P	A	I	A	I	O	R	D	R	O	T	J
F	T	H	L	T	G	H	E	T	A	D	D	A	Q
L	I	T	Q	A	E	S	F	O	N	B	L	W	E
B	C	F	E	T	N	K	L	I	G	R	A	S	S
G	A	A	S	D	C	T	C	S	E	B	N	P	B
P	L	A	R	I	N	C	S	E	R	G	D	Z	N
H	L	S	T	A	R	V	O	R	E	A	S	E	T
W	Y	I	V	X	P	D	W	O	D	I	C	I	M
P	A	D	B	G	J	A	Q	A	M	P	U	Q	E
M	A	D	A	G	A	S	C	A	R	R	X	C	J
W	R	T	S	K	D	O	B	E	F	H	A	C	G

Tort-true or Tort-false?

Put a T for True or an F for False next to these statements. Use the Perth Zoo factsheet to find the answers if you are unsure or to check them if you already know lots about these beautiful reptiles.

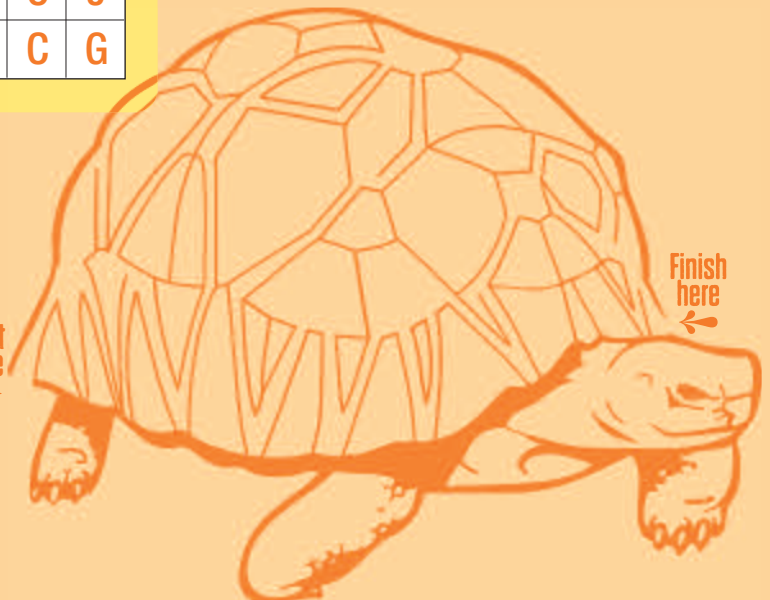
- _____ Male Radiated Tortoises have longer tails than the females.
- _____ Radiated Tortoises are the smallest of all of the 'star' tortoises.
- _____ Radiated Tortoises are threatened due to habitat loss.
- _____ Radiated Tortoises can lay up to 20 eggs.
- _____ Radiated Tortoises have black legs, feet and head.
- _____ Radiated Tortoises are herbivores.
- _____ A tortoise shell is called a carapace.
- _____ Radiated Tortoises at Perth Zoo can be seen in the Nocturnal House.

A-mazing shells!

Can you work your way through this maze on the star patterned shell of the Radiated Tortoise?

Start here
→

Finish here
←





Meet a Radiated Tortoise

Scientific Name: *Astrochelys radiata*

Conservation Status: Critically Endangered

Body Length: 30-40cm

Distribution: Southern Madagascar

Habitat: Dry regions of brush, thorn bushes and woodlands.

Description: Radiated Tortoises are the largest of the 'star' tortoises, so called because of the star pattern on their back. The shell, or 'carapace', is black with yellow or orange stars. Males have longer tails than females. This tortoise has yellow legs, feet and head except for a black patch on top of its head.

Diet: Radiated Tortoises are herbivores, feeding on grasses, fruit and succulent plants.

In the wild: After mating, females lay their eggs in a pre-excavated hole and then leave them alone. Juveniles are 3.2-4 cm upon hatching and are a white to an off-white shade. The juvenile's carapace hardens and colours soon after hatching.

Did you know? In the wild, it is estimated that Radiated Tortoises can live up to 100 years!.

Numbat Club Gallery

If you're a Numbat Club member, we want you to show off your artistic side and send us a drawing of the next animal to be featured in Kidz Biz, the Sun Bear. We'll choose a first, second and third place winner with the first place winner featured in Kidz Biz and the runner-ups on our website at perthzoo.com.au/kidzbiz and Facebook page.

Congratulations to Sophie Prigrove who drew the winning picture of a Radiated Tortoise. In second place was Hamish Macdonald and in third place was Sophie Jensen. We hope you enjoy your prizes.

It's time to get drawing. This time the first prize is an Ele Art picture and second and third prizes are a Perth Zoo goodie bag. Send your drawing, either by mail or email, to newspaws@perthzoo.wa.gov.au by 17 April 2015. Include your name, phone number and Numbat Club membership number. Prizes can only be collected from Perth Zoo and will not be posted. Terms and conditions are on our website.



Ele Art picture and Perth Zoo goodie bag. Prizes vary for each edition.

Winner Sophie Prigrove's drawing.

Radiated Tortoise

Astrochelys radiata



