



When you think of slow and steady, a tortoise probably pops into your mind, right? These incredible creatures are known for their hard, dome-shaped shells and short, sturdy legs. Tortoises come in many different sizes, from tiny ones that can fit in your hand to giants that can weigh over 900 pounds! Their eyes might be small, but they can see in color, which is pretty cool for an animal!



Leaving their distinctive looks behind, let's dive into what tortoises munch on. Tortoises are mainly herbivores, which means they eat plants - lots of leafy greens, fruits, and even cactus in the wild! Some tortoises, like the Red-footed Tortoise, also eat insects and other small animals. They have strong, beak-like mouths to help them chew tough plants and crack open hard food.

From their eating habits, let's journey to where tortoises call home. Tortoises live all around the world, but they really love warm places like deserts, grasslands, and even rainforests. They spend most of their time on land, unlike their cousins the turtles who enjoy swimming. And did you know? Tortoises can live to be over 100 years old, making them one of the longest living animals on Earth!



Now that we've explored their homes, let's talk about tortoises and their relationships. Tortoises are pretty peaceful and usually keep to themselves, but they're also known to be friendly with humans and other animals. Their hard shells provide great defense against predators, but when they feel threatened, they will retreat into their shell for protection. Tortoises are unique, fascinating creatures, and their slow, steady pace reminds us that it's not always the fastest that wins the race!



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) Can tortoises see in color?
  - A. They can only see in black and white
  - B. They can only see in shades of grey
  - C. Yes
  - D. No
- 2) What do tortoises have that help them chew tough plants and crack open hard food?
  - A. Large flat teeth
  - B. A spit that dissolves substances
  - C. Sharp teeth
  - D. Strong, beak-like mouths
- 3) How long can tortoises live?
  - A. Less than 50 years
  - B. Over 100 years old
  - C. Less than 80 years
  - D. Less than 20 years
- 4) Where do tortoises love to live?
  - A. On tree branches
  - B. Underground
  - C. Cold places
  - D. Warm places
- 5) What is the general behavior of a tortoise towards humans and other animals?
  - A. Indifferent
  - B. Aggressive
  - C. Fearful
  - D. Friendly
- 6) What type of diet does a Red-footed Tortoise follow?
  - A. It eats both plants and animals
  - B. It only eats insects
  - C. It only eats small animals
  - D. It only eats plants
- 7) How do tortoises protect themselves from predators?
  - A. They fight back
  - B. They play dead
  - C. They retreat into their shells
  - D. They run away
- 8) What do tortoises mostly eat?
  - A. Grains and cereals
  - B. Mainly meat and insects
  - C. Nuts and seeds
  - D. Leafy greens and fruits
- 9) Are tortoises good swimmers?
  - A. No
  - B. Yes
  - C. They are better swimmers than turtles
  - D. They are the best swimmers
- 10) Where do tortoises spend most of their time?
  - A. Underground
  - B. On tree branches
  - C. In water
  - D. On land

**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it is not something the animal would say (N).**

- 11) "I'm a desert dweller, but some of my tortoise cousins like the rainforest."
- 12) "My body is covered with soft fur. This fur keeps me warm in the harshest of winters."
- 13) "We tortoises are super speedy and love racing each other."



- 14) "Swimming is our main form of exercise, we can stay underwater for hours."
- 15) "Guess what? I can see in color!"
- 16) "I love munching on plants. Green leaves, fruits, and even cactus, yum!"
- 17) "Tortoises don't live very long, a decade or two is our max."
- 18) "I prefer munching on meat rather than these boring plants."
- 19) "We tortoises can live to be over 500 years old."
- 20) "I have a really long life. In fact, tortoises can live for over 100 years!"
- 21) "We are quite aggressive and love to fight with other animals."
- 22) "I live on land, not in water, like my relatives the turtles."
- 23) "We tortoises prefer cold places, the chillier the better."

**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 24) Tortoises spend most of their time on land.
- 25) Tortoises are the most adorable reptiles.
- 26) The Red-footed Tortoise eats insects and other small animals.
- 27) It is amazing that tortoises can survive without food or water for extended periods of time.
- 28) A tortoise can weigh more than 900 pounds.
- 29) It's fascinating that tortoises can see in color.
- 30) A tortoise can live for more than 100 years.
- 31) Tortoises are mainly herbivores.
- 32) It is amazing that tortoises can live to over 100 years old.
- 33) Tortoises' slow and steady pace is the best way to go about life.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 34) Tortoises love warm places.
- 35) Tortoises usually stay in the water and are great swimmers.
- 36) Tortoises have been known to eat cactus.
- 37) Tortoises live only in deserts.
- 38) Tortoises can live to be over 100 years old.
- 39) When tortoises are frightened, they will run away.
- 40) Tortoises can only see in black and white.
- 41) All tortoises are carnivores and eat insects and small animals.
- 42) Tortoises can see in color.
- 43) All tortoises are herbivores.

**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 44) Tortoises hibernate during the winter months.
- 45) Can tortoises retract their heads?
- 46) Tortoises are herbivores, which means they eat plants.



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- 47) Tortoises live for a very long time, sometimes over 100 years.
- 48) What do tortoises eat?
- 49) Can tortoises swim?



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| 1. _____  | 26. _____ |
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**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) Can tortoises see in color?  
A. They can only see in black and white      B. They can only see in shades of grey  
C. Yes      D. No
- 2) What do tortoises have that help them chew tough plants and crack open hard food?  
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- 3) How long can tortoises live?  
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1-10	95	90	85	80	75	70	65	60	55	50
11-20	45	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0



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|---|---|
| 1. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 26. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>          |
| 2. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>        | 27. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 3. <u>          <b>B</b>          </u>        | 28. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>          |
| 4. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>        | 29. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 5. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>        | 30. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>          |
| 6. <u>          <b>A</b>          </u>        | 31. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>          |
| 7. <u>          <b>C</b>          </u>        | 32. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 8. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>        | 33. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u>       |
| 9. <u>          <b>A</b>          </u>        | 34. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 10. <u>          <b>D</b>          </u>       | 35. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 11. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 36. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 12. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 37. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 13. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 38. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 14. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 39. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 15. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 40. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 16. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 41. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>         |
| 17. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 42. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 18. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 43. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>          |
| 19. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 44. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 20. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 45. <u>          <b>interrogative</b>          </u> |
| 21. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 46. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 22. <u>          <b>true</b>          </u>    | 47. <u>          <b>declarative</b>          </u>   |
| 23. <u>          <b>false</b>          </u>   | 48. <u>          <b>interrogative</b>          </u> |
| 24. <u>          <b>fact</b>          </u>    | 49. <u>          <b>interrogative</b>          </u> |
| 25. <u>          <b>opinion</b>          </u> |   |



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) Can tortoises see in color? (paragraph 1)  
A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. They can only see in shades of grey  
C. Yes D. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What do tortoises have that help them chew tough plants and crack open hard food? (paragraph 2)  
A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. A spit that dissolves substances  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. Strong, beak-like mouths
- 3) How long can tortoises live? (paragraph 3)  
A. Less than 50 years B. Over 100 years old  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Where do tortoises love to live? (paragraph 3)  
A. On tree branches B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. Warm places
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A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. Aggressive  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. Friendly
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A. It eats both plants and animals B. It only eats insects  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_
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A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. They play dead  
C. They retreat into their shells D. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) What do tortoises mostly eat? (paragraph 2)  
A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. Mainly meat and insects  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. Leafy greens and fruits
- 9) Are tortoises good swimmers? (paragraph 3)  
A. No B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Where do tortoises spend most of their time? (paragraph 3)  
A. Underground B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. On land

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- 11) "I'm a desert dweller, but some of my tortoise cousins like the rainforest." (paragraph 3)



12) "My body is covered with soft fur. This fur keeps me warm in the harshest of winters."  
(paragraph 1)