



Dive into the world of Alligator Snapping Turtles, the river monsters with a prehistoric look! These guys are one of the heaviest freshwater turtles in the world, with rugged shells and powerful beaks that make them stand out from the crowd. Their eyes are tiny, and they have three distinct ridges on their shells that give them a dinosaur-like appearance. But don't be fooled, these slow walkers are exceptional swimmers in their watery homes.



Speaking of their homes, Alligator Snapping Turtles love to hang out in freshwater habitats. They're mainly found in the southeastern United States, especially in river systems like the Missouri, the Arkansas, and the Mississippi. They rest comfortably in the deep water, only coming up for air every 40 to 50 minutes. At night, they love to wander around on land, exploring their surroundings.

Exploring for these guys often means hunting for a yummy meal. Alligator Snapping Turtles are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and other animals. They love to snack on fish, frogs, snakes, worms, clams, and even other turtles. To catch their prey, they use a neat trick - their tongue looks like a wiggly worm that lures in unsuspecting fish!



With such a cool hunting trick, it's no wonder these turtles are the kings of their underwater world. Their strong jaws and sharp beaks can be a great defense against predators, but they usually prefer to hide or swim away. While they can be a bit scary, they're more afraid of us than we are of them, and they play an important role in controlling the populations of other animals. So, let's appreciate these fascinating creatures from a safe distance, and remember, the world of Alligator Snapping Turtles is a lot more than meets the eye!



**Solve each problem.**

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

- 1) What kind of habitats do Alligator Snapping Turtles prefer?  
A. Salty ocean habitats. B. High mountain habitats.  
C. Freshwater habitats. D. Dry, desert habitats.
- 2) Can Alligator Snapping Turtles eat other turtles?  
A. No, they only eat fish B. No, they only eat plants  
C. No, turtles eat them D. Yes, they sometimes eat other turtles
- 3) What time do Alligator Snapping Turtles explore on land?  
A. During the heat of the day. B. At night.  
C. In the afternoon. D. In the morning.
- 4) Where are Alligator Snapping Turtles mainly found?  
A. Northern Europe B. Western Canada  
C. Southeastern United States D. Central Africa
- 5) How often does an Alligator Snapping Turtle come up for air?  
A. Every 40 to 50 minutes B. Once an day  
C. Every 20 minutes D. Every 10 minutes
- 6) Are Alligator Snapping Turtles good swimmers?  
A. No, they can't swim at all. B. Yes, they are exceptional swimmers.  
C. They are average swimmers. D. They can only float, not truly swim.
- 7) Are Alligator Snapping Turtles carnivores?  
A. No, they are omnivores. B. Yes, they are exclusively fish eaters.  
C. No, they are herbivores. D. Yes, they only eat meat.
- 8) What does the tongue of an Alligator Snapping Turtle look like?  
A. It looks like a small fish. B. It looks like a piece of algae.  
C. It looks like a wiggly worm. D. It looks like a tiny frog.
- 9) What role do Alligator Snapping Turtles play in their ecosystem?  
A. They control the populations of other animals B. They don't have a specific role in the ecosystem  
C. They help plants disperse their seeds D. They are essential pollinators
- 10) What is the defense mechanism of Alligator Snapping Turtles?  
A. They produce a loud sound to scare away predators. B. They change color to blend in with their surroundings.  
C. Their strong jaws and sharp beaks. D. They spray a foul smelling liquid.

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

- 11) "My strongest defense is my sharp beak, but I usually just swim away from danger."



- 12) "Our tongue looks like a leaf, floating in the water."
- 13) "Our diet consists only of plants and green stuff."
- 14) "I can't stand being out at night, it's too dark!"
- 15) "I live in the Mississippi River."
- 16) "You won't see me too often, I hide under the water most of the time."
- 17) "I do love to bask in the sun most of the day."
- 18) "Walking is our favorite thing. We're so fast on land!"
- 19) "Unlike other turtles, we don't need air. We breathe water like fish do."
- 20) "My shell is quite rough, and I have three bumpy ridges on it, which make me look pretty tough!"
- 21) "We're native to the far north. We love the icy rivers there!"
- 22) "Did you know my tongue looks like a wiggly worm? It helps me catch fish that think they're getting a snack!"
- 23) "If you're looking for me, try the west coast."

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

- 24) Alligator Snapping Turtles are the heaviest freshwater turtles in the world.
- 25) The way Alligator Snapping Turtles catch prey with their tongue trick is really clever.
- 26) Alligator Snapping Turtles eat both plants and animals.
- 27) It is impressive that Alligator Snapping Turtles can stay underwater for such a long time without coming up for air.
- 28) Alligator Snapping Turtles have three distinct ridges on their shells.
- 29) Their ability to swim quickly despite their size makes Alligator Snapping Turtles the scariest animal.
- 30) Alligator Snapping Turtles are mainly found in river systems such as the Missouri, the Arkansas, and the Mississippi.
- 31) Alligator Snapping Turtles rest in deep water and surface for air every 40 to 50 minutes.
- 32) Alligator Snapping Turtles, with their dinosaur-like appearance, are the coolest looking turtles in the world.
- 33) It is very creepy that Alligator Snapping Turtles will eat other turtles!

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

- 34) Alligator Snapping Turtles can be found in river systems like the Missouri, the Arkansas, and the Mississippi.
- 35) Alligator Snapping Turtles can stay underwater for 2-3 hours before needing air.
- 36) Alligator Snapping Turtles eat both plants and other animals.
- 37) Alligator Snapping Turtles are found everywhere in North America.
- 38) Alligator Snapping Turtles use their tongue to lure fish.
- 39) Alligator Snapping Turtles are herbivores.
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- 41) Alligator Snapping Turtles have one ridge on their shell.
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**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

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



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A. B. No, they only eat plants  
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