

Fun and interesting facts (Tortoise's characteristics and uniqueness)

1. Did you know how tortoises are identified?

Animals that have hard shells on their backs, which are found on land, are called [tortoises](#).

2. Did you know that some tortoises are opportunistically carnivorous?

Tortoises eat plants, grass, flowers and fruit. They are primarily [herbivorous](#). Some tortoises eat small animals like insects for their survival, hence, being called opportunistic carnivores.

3. Did you know tortoises are unable to swim?

It is not easy for tortoise to swim in water because its shell is heavier, and its shape is like a dome. Furthermore, they have sturdy feet, better suited for walking than padding.

4. What is the word for a group of tortoises?

Tortoises would like to live alone. When tortoises are in a group, they are called creeps.

5. Do you know how many parts there are in the shell of a tortoise?

There are three main parts of the shell of the tortoise. The outermost part of a shell is known as the carapace. The innermost part of a shell is known as the plastron. These two parts are bound together by a bridge. Bone and cartilage together form the shell. The function of the shell is protection. On the interior of the shell, there are ribs, a spine, and a collarbone. The shell is covered with scutus. This layer acts as protection for the shell of the tortoise. It protects the tortoises from injury and infection.

6. Do you know how we can identify the approximate age of a tortoise?

There are ring-like structures around the scutes. Approximate age can be calculated by using a growth ring.

7. Did you know that climate conditions affect the color of the shells of the tortoises?

The environment in which tortoises live can affect the color of the shell of the tortoise. Light-colored shells are found on the backs of tortoises, living in hot places. Dark-colored shells are found on the backs of tortoises that live in cool places.

References

- <https://www.britannica.com/animal/tortoise>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tortoise>
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