



WHAT'S  
WILD 🐾

# GOPHER TORTOISE QUIZ



This edition of *What's Wild* is all about Gopher Tortoises – a keystone species found in South Carolina’s sandhills. The gopher tortoise has one of the dirtiest jobs! Come out of your shell and try out this quiz!

Test your knowledge!

**Ready?**

**Here We Go!**

**Question 1. True or False: Tortoises are aquatic creatures that spend most of their time in water, either in rivers, lakes, or the ocean.**

**True**

**False**



The correct answer is...

False

**Question 2. Turtles and tortoises are both \_\_\_\_\_.**

**A. Amphibians**

**B. Birds**

**C. Mammals**

**D. Reptiles**



The correct answer is...

D. Reptiles

**Question 3. What trait do turtles and tortoises have where they lay eggs outside of their bodies rather than giving birth to live young?**

**A. Viviparous**

**B. Oviparous**

**C. Nesters**

**D. Reusers**





The correct answer is...

B. Oviparous

**Question 4. What type of ecosystem in South Carolina are gopher tortoises found in?**

- A. Sandhills**
- B. Oak forest**
- C. Mangroves**
- D. Grasslands**



The correct answer is...

A. Sandhills

**Question 5. The gopher tortoise is considered a \_\_\_\_\_ species in its environment, meaning that its presence is crucial for the survival of many other species in the same habitat.**

- A. Priority**
- B. Flagship**
- C. Umbrella**
- D. Keystone**



The correct answer is...

D. Keystone

**Question 6. The scientific name for the Gopher Tortoise is *Gopherus polyphemus*. What does polyphemus mean?**

- A. Tunnel Digger**
- B. Cave Dweller**
- C. Hard Shell**
- D. Wisdom**



The correct answer is...

B. Cave Dweller

**Question 7. What species utilize gopher tortoises' burrows as shelter?**

**A. Snakes**

**B. Lizards**

**C. Small Mammals**

**D. All of the Above**





The correct answer is...

D. All of the Above

**Question 8. True or False: When habitats are fragmented, species are often unable to move between patches, which can result in decreased genetic diversity and alter ecosystem's balance.**

**True**

**False**



The correct answer is...

True

**Question 9. Habitat \_\_\_\_\_ occurs when large, continuous areas of habitat are broken up into smaller, isolated patches.**

- A. Degradation**
- B. Fragmentation**
- C. Growth**
- D. Loss**



**The correct answer is...**

**B. Fragmentation**

**Question 10. True or False: Since 2006, a conservation partnership between the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, the Longleaf Alliance, and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has been a commendable effort aimed at restoring the gopher tortoise population in the sandhills ecosystem.**

**True**

**False**



The correct answer is...

True

How well  
did you do?