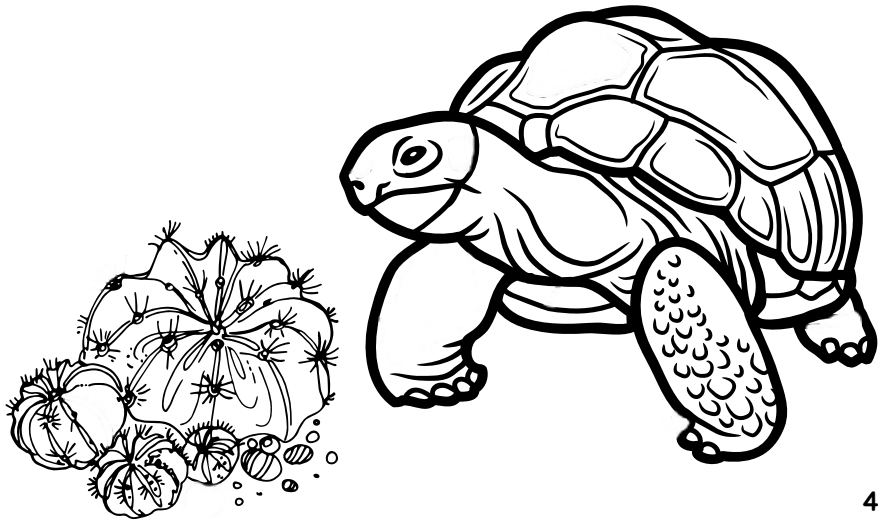
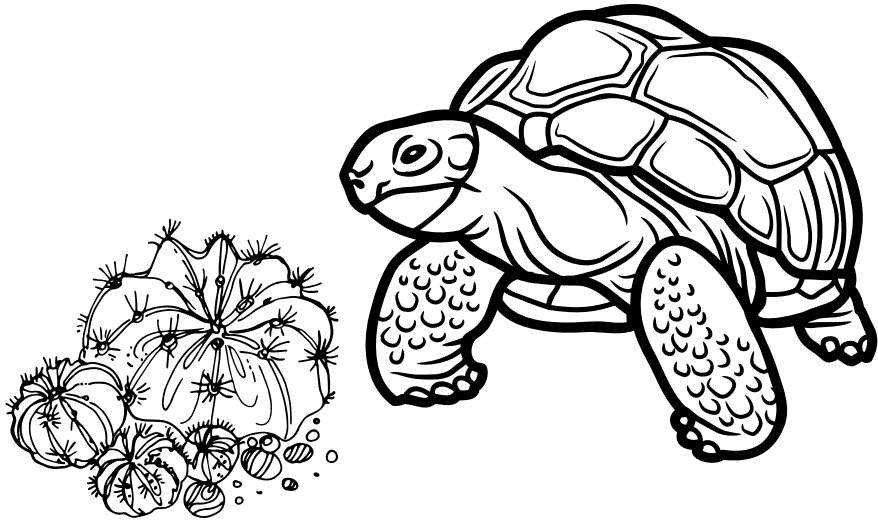


Desert Tortoise: Spot the Difference

Can you find all ten (10) differences between these two pictures?

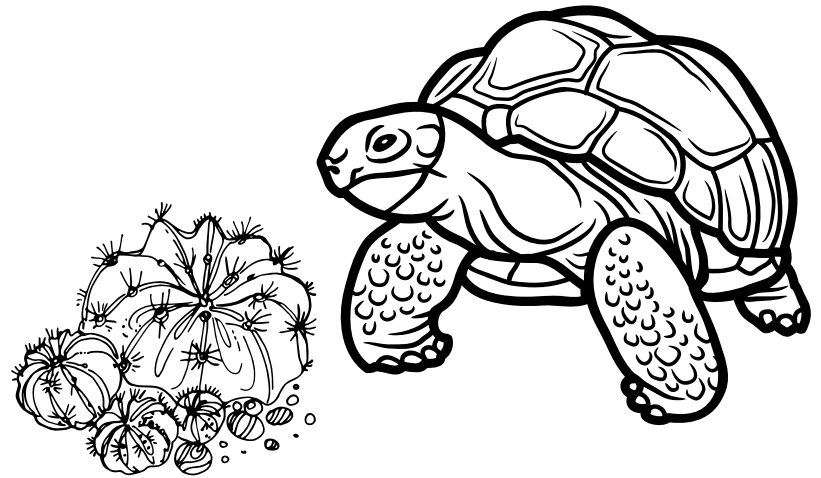


DESERT TORTOISE

Coloring and Activity Book

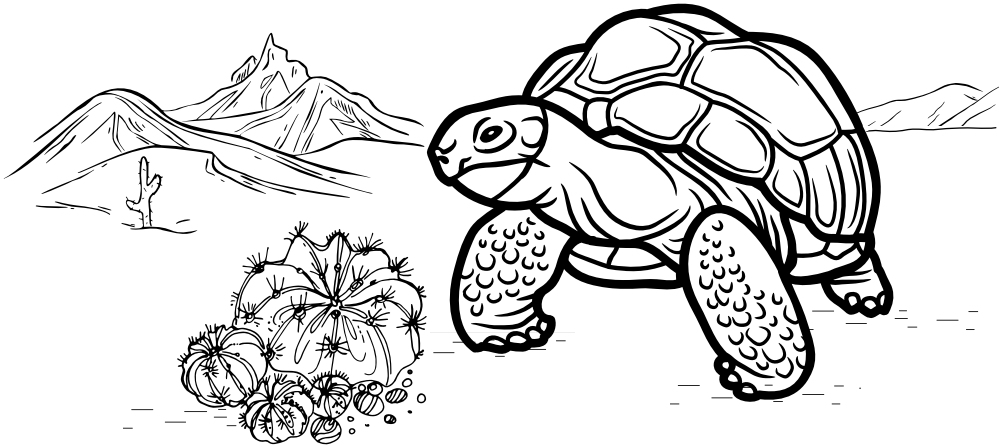
This book belongs to:

.....



Desert Tortoise

Desert tortoises spend most of their lives in burrows that they dig with their strong forearms and tough nails. They store water in their bladder and can survive a year without drinking. When threatened, desert tortoises retract their head and legs into their shell for protection. These fascinating reptiles can live for 80 years or more!



Desert tortoises are herbivores. They eat grass, flowers, and cactus. They use their sharp beaks to tear off parts of plants.

If you see a desert tortoise in the wild, do not pick it up! When frightened, it can empty its bladder and lose its water supply.

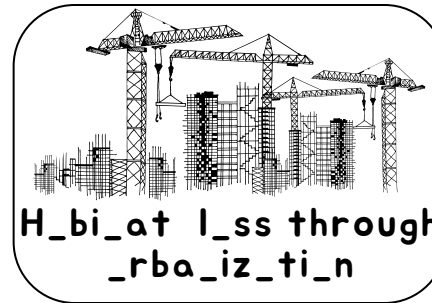
Habitat: Mojave and Sonoran Deserts of southwestern North America



2 What are two desert adaptations of the desert tortoise?

Threats to the Desert Tortoise

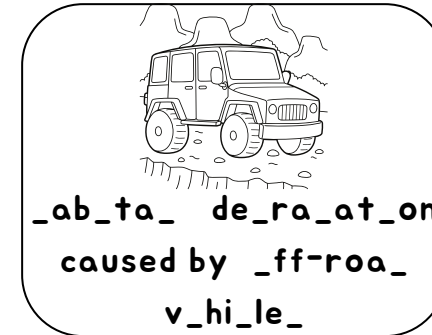
Unfortunately, desert tortoises face some major threats, including habitat loss through urbanization, raven predation, and habitat degradation caused by off-road vehicles. Label each picture, then draw a line to the way it impacts desert tortoises.



These pose a major threat to baby tortoises, whose soft shell makes them vulnerable to predation. Their numbers are increasing because all the uncovered trash attracts them to our desert.



These cause habitat degradation because they destroy the habitat of desert tortoises. They run over their burrows and the plants they eat. They can even crush and kill tortoises.



When humans construct more buildings (urbanization), we expand into areas where desert tortoises live. This causes habitat loss, because tortoises and many other animals lose their homes.



3 What can you do to help protect desert tortoises?