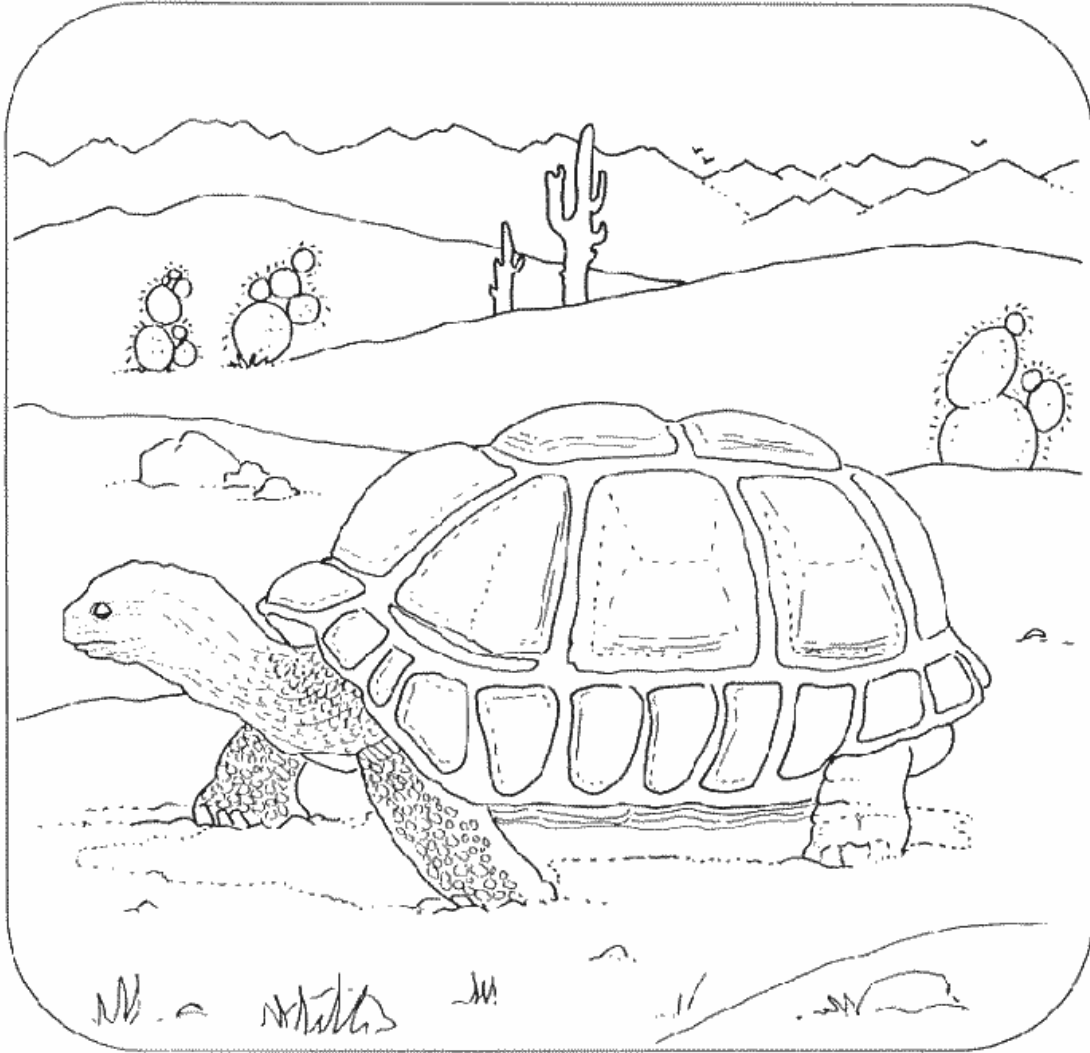


ARIZONA EDVENTURES

Desert Tortoise



This tortoise lives in the deserts of Arizona, southern Utah, Nevada, and California. Actually, it mostly lives under the desert! In summer, the tortoise digs tunnels to hide from the sun. All winter it sleeps, or “hibernates,” in deep holes. Desert tortoises get almost all the water they need from the plants they eat. An adult tortoise averages 6-15” in length.



Did You Know...? The desert tortoise is a threatened species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Numerous factors including upper respiratory tract disease, residential development, road construction, off-road vehicles, overgrazing, raven predation, and collection as pets have contributed to a major decline in the tortoise population. Desert tortoises should not be handled when encountered in the field. They are fully protected in Arizona and it is illegal to take one from the wild without a permit from the Arizona Game & Fish department.