

Arizona Wildlife Podcast Comprehension Activity

Episode 9: Desert Tortoise Survey

Part A: *Determine whether each statement below is true or false. If it is false, correct the statement so that it will be true.*

1. Desert tortoises have strong claws for catching their prey.
2. Desert tortoises will spend up to 95% of their time underground in their burrow.
3. Tortoises cannot typically turn themselves over if they are flipped on their back.
4. It takes about one year for a desert tortoise egg to hatch.

Part B: *Define each of the terms below.*

1. Ectothermic
2. Exudate
3. Occluded
4. Plastron
5. Scat

Part C: *Answer each question below in complete sentences. The answers are not necessarily included in the content. They may require some critical thinking.*

1. When desert tortoises are discovered with an upper respiratory infection, they are not treated. Why?
2. Physical adaptations are features of an animal's body structure that allow them to survive in their environment while behavioral adaptations are things an animal does to survive. List two physical and two behavioral adaptations of the desert tortoise and explain how each helps it survive.