



Yellow Footed Tortoise

Geochelone denticulata



Physical Characteristics:

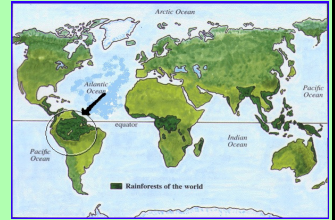
I have a thick heavy shell that has dark brown scales with patches of yellow. My head and legs are brown with orange scales and markings. I am a shy animal and a little more delicate than my relative the red footed tortoise. We make raspy cooing noises. Males identify other males by swift sideways movements of the head that the females don't make.

Habitat / Climate

Rainforest Tropical

Where am I from?

I live in the jungles of South America. I like the tropical, humid forest area. I hide in the thick forest undergrowth and avoid trails and clearings.



Other family members:

- Galapagos tortoise
- Red-footed tortoise
- Indian star tortoise
- Desert star tortoise

Who are my relatives?

I am a reptile from the order *Chelonia* and the *Testudinidae* family. My relatives are all other tortoises.



Breeding Potential

Clutch size? 6 - 10 eggs
Twice a year, 4 to 6 weeks apart
Number of offspring per year?

How am I born?

My mom lays a clutch of 6 to 10 elongated spherical eggs 3-6 cm in diameter and after about 105-202 days I hatch and start looking for food.

How long does it take me to grow up and how long do I live?

I will reach maturity at 8 - 10 years old. If I am a male I will grow to around 16 inches but if I am a female I will grow to around 24 to 30 inches. My life span may be as long as 50 to 60 years.

Breeding Season

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	E	A	P	A	A	U	L	E	C	O	E
N	B	R	R	Y	N	L	G	P	T	V	C

What kind of family life do I have?

My parents will not care for me at all. I am precocial and will fend for myself by instinct, starting by eating calcium rich vegetables.

Names for:

Adult male: Male
Adult female: Female
Young: Hatchlings
Group: Creep

What do I eat and when do I eat?

I am an omnivore, eating both plants and animals. Grasses, succulent fruit, and carrion. I am too slow to capture any fast animals. I will eat snails, worms, bones, and mushrooms.



Who are my predators?

As a hatchling I am a tempting bite for a larger carnivore, but as an adult I have few predators other than man.

What is the history of my relationship to man?

In South America I was offered, along with the Red footed tortoise, as part of a bride's dowry at the weddings of some indigenous tribes. Every portion of me is utilized from the meat to my beautifully colored shells which are turned into bowls, combs, jewelry and inlay material. The number of tortoises offered at a feast signified the wealth of the host.