



REPTILES

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Alligator Snapping Turtle

Macrolemys temminckii

Peoria Zoo Exhibit Conservation Center

Habitat: Freshwater

Range: Found in the Mississippi River and its tributaries throughout the Southeastern United States. They are also found in the Missouri River as far north as South Dakota. It is also present in Indiana.

Activity Cycle: Diurnal-active during the day

Size: 26 inches long and up to 220 pounds

Social Structure: Solitary

Distinguishing Features: Identified by three large, ridges running from the front to the back of their shells. They have a snout that is pointed and their eyes are on the sides of their heads instead of the top like the common snapping turtle.

Diet: Fish, frogs

Life Span: 20-70 years

Did you know?

The alligator snapper has a unique method of hunting. It lures its prey in with its worm-shaped tongue.