

Species Fact Sheet



REPTILES <http://www.peoriazoo.org/reptiles.html>

Aldabra Tortoise

Geochelone gigantea

Peoria Zoo Exhibit Africa!

<http://www.peoriazoo.org/africa.html>

Habitat: Grasslands, low scrub, mangrove swamps, and coastal dunes

Range: The islands of Aldabra Atoll in the Seychelles, as well as Zanzibar

Activity Cycle: Active mostly in the morning when looking for food

Size: They show sexual dimorphism, with the males being larger than the females.

Males weigh around 550 pounds with a 47 inch shell, the females are around 330 pounds and 35 inches in length.

Social Structure: They can be found individually or in herds.

Distinguishing Features: Dark colored carapace with a high domed shape. Legs are stocky and heavily scaled to support its heavy body.

Diet: Primarily herbivore-eating grasses, leaves and woody plant stems. Occasionally eating small invertebrates and carrion

Life Span: Among the longest lived animals with specimens reaching over 100 years.

Did you know?

Aldabra tortoises are excellent swimmers-their shell makes them naturally buoyant.