



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

Galapagos Tortoise

Gechelone nigra

Peoria Zoo Exhibit

Habitat: Grass covered plains and mountain meadows

Range: Native to seven islands of the Galapagos archipelago

Activity Cycle: Diurnal-active during the day

Size: Full grown adults can measure 4 feet long and weigh over 600 pounds

Social Structure: Found in large herds

Distinguishing Features: When threatened, they can withdraw its head, neck and forelimbs into its shell for protection
The legs have hard scales that also provide armor when withdrawn
They keep a characteristic scute pattern on their shell throughout life

Diet: Herbivorous-with a diet comprising of cactus, grasses, leaves, vines and fruit

Life Span: 100+years

Did you know?

Galapagos tortoises are very vocal, making grunts and whistles to communicate.