

Name _____

Date _____

The Gopher Tortoise: Ecosystem Engineer

Watch the short video that coincides with this quiz here:

<https://odysseyearth.org/videos/gopher-tortoise-ecosystem-engineer>

1. **Based on their diet, gopher tortoises are _____.**
 - a. carnivores
 - b. herbivores
 - c. omnivores
 - d. none of the above

2. **What kind of habitat do gopher tortoises prefer?**
 - a. wetlands with damp soil and access to water
 - b. temperate rainforests with a dense tree canopy
 - c. lowland areas with cool temperatures
 - d. upland habitats with dry sandy soil

3. **Species that are considered *ecosystem engineers* _____.**
 - a. live within an ecosystem without making any changes to their surroundings
 - b. modify their ecosystem in a significant way through their daily behaviors
 - c. are especially lazy
 - d. provide no benefit to the ecosystem they occupy

4. **Gopher tortoise burrows are also utilized by over 350 other species. Which of the following might you find hanging out inside one of these burrows? Choose all that apply.**
 - a. frogs
 - b. beetles
 - c. alligators
 - d. snakes

5. Where do gopher tortoises prefer to lay their eggs?

- a. inside the burrows they dig
- b. on top of rocky soils
- c. at the entrance of their burrows
- d. in bodies of water

6. Like other reptiles, gopher tortoises control their body temperatures through “thermoregulation.” Explain what “thermoregulation” means.

7. As seen in the video, how will a gopher tortoise respond to heavy rainfall?

8. Since so many species use tortoise burrows, what might happen if gopher tortoise populations started to dwindle? How will this affect the rest of the ecosystem?
