



Dive into the world of Alligator Snapping Turtles, the river monsters with a prehistoric look! These guys are one of the heaviest freshwater turtles in the world, with rugged shells and powerful beaks that make them stand out from the crowd. Their eyes are tiny, and they have three distinct ridges on their shells that give them a dinosaur-like appearance. But don't be fooled, these slow walkers are exceptional swimmers in their watery homes.



Speaking of their homes, Alligator Snapping Turtles love to hang out in freshwater habitats. They're mainly found in the southeastern United States, especially in river systems like the Missouri, the Arkansas, and the Mississippi. They rest comfortably in the deep water, only coming up for air every 40 to 50 minutes. At night, they love to wander around on land, exploring their surroundings.

Exploring for these guys often means hunting for a yummy meal. Alligator Snapping Turtles are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and other animals. They love to snack on fish, frogs, snakes, worms, clams, and even other turtles. To catch their prey, they use a neat trick - their tongue looks like a wiggly worm that lures in unsuspecting fish!



With such a cool hunting trick, it's no wonder these turtles are the kings of their underwater world. Their strong jaws and sharp beaks can be a great defense against predators, but they usually prefer to hide or swim away. While they can be a bit scary, they're more afraid of us than we are of them, and they play an important role in controlling the populations of other animals. So, let's appreciate these fascinating creatures from a safe distance, and remember, the world of Alligator Snapping Turtles is a lot more than meets the eye!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What kind of habitats do Alligator Snapping Turtles prefer?
 - A. Dry, desert habitats.
 - B. High mountain habitats.
 - C. Freshwater habitats.
 - D. Salty ocean habitats.

- 2) Can Alligator Snapping Turtles eat other turtles?
 - A. No, they only eat plants
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- 3) What time do Alligator Snapping Turtles explore on land?
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 - A. Central Africa
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- 5) How often does an Alligator Snapping Turtle come up for air?
 - A. Every 10 minutes
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- 6) Are Alligator Snapping Turtles good swimmers?
 - A. No, they can't swim at all.
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 - C. They are average swimmers.
 - D. They can only float, not truly swim.

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 - A. No, they are herbivores.
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- 8) What does the tongue of an Alligator Snapping Turtle look like?
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- 9) What role do Alligator Snapping Turtles play in their ecosystem?
 - A. They are essential pollinators
 - B. They control the populations of other animals
 - C. They help plants disperse their seeds
 - D. They don't have a specific role in the ecosystem

- 10) What is the defense mechanism of Alligator Snapping Turtles?
 - A. They produce a loud sound to scare away predators.
 - B. Their strong jaws and sharp beaks.
 - C. They spray a foul smelling liquid.
 - D. They change color to blend in with their surroundings.

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

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- 11) "My strongest defense is my sharp beak, but I usually just swim away from danger."
- 12) "Our tongue looks like a leaf, floating in the water."
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Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 24) Alligator Snapping Turtles are the heaviest freshwater turtles in the world.
- 25) The way Alligator Snapping Turtles catch prey with their tongue trick is really clever.
- 26) Alligator Snapping Turtles eat both plants and animals.
- 27) It is impressive that Alligator Snapping Turtles can stay underwater for such a long time without coming up for air.
- 28) Alligator Snapping Turtles have three distinct ridges on their shells.
- 29) Their ability to swim quickly despite their size makes Alligator Snapping Turtles the scariest animal.
- 30) Alligator Snapping Turtles are mainly found in river systems such as the Missouri, the Arkansas, and the Mississippi.
- 31) Alligator Snapping Turtles rest in deep water and surface for air every 40 to 50 minutes.
- 32) Alligator Snapping Turtles, with their dinosaur-like appearance, are the coolest looking turtles in the world.
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Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 34) Alligator Snapping Turtles can be found in river systems like the Missouri, the Arkansas, and the Mississippi.
- 35) Alligator Snapping Turtles can stay underwater for 2-3 hours before needing air.
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- 44) Alligator snapping turtles have powerful jaws that can bite through bones.
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| 1. <u> C </u> | 26. <u> fact </u> |
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