

OXBOW AT HOME

Saving Species: Earth Day Special! Wildlife Wednesday Reflection Questions

Facebook Live Event on Wednesday, April 22nd at Noon (EST)

How are Gopher Tortoises an important species in their ecosystem?

Gopher tortoises are ecosystem engineers. An engineer is someone or something who builds things. A Gopher Tortoise will build, or dig, a burrow up to 30 feet deep. This massive burrow then becomes a habitat for lots of other species, including frogs, mice, snakes, and so many more!

A Gopher Tortoise can dig burrows up to 16 feet deep. How many inches deep can they dig their burrows?

(Hint: 1 foot = 12 inches)

16 feet x 12 inches = 192 inches

If a Gopher Tortoise can dig their burrow twice as long as it is deep, how long can a Gopher Tortoise burrow be?

16
x 2
32

Gopher tortoises burrows are about 30 feet long!

How could Eastern Indigo Snake populations be affected by Gopher Tortoise populations?

Eastern Indigo snakes depend on Gopher Tortoise burrows for their habitat. All animals need a place to live to survive. Without as many Gopher Tortoise burrows, there are not enough homes for Eastern Indigo snakes. If Eastern Indigo Snakes do not have a home they may not be able to survive. Therefore, Gopher Tortoises are important for Eastern Indigo Snakes.

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What is one species that is protected, threatened, or endangered? What are some threats that this species (or another) may face that may affect their population(s).

What are some ways that you can help protect species?

Write a note about or draw how you will save species: