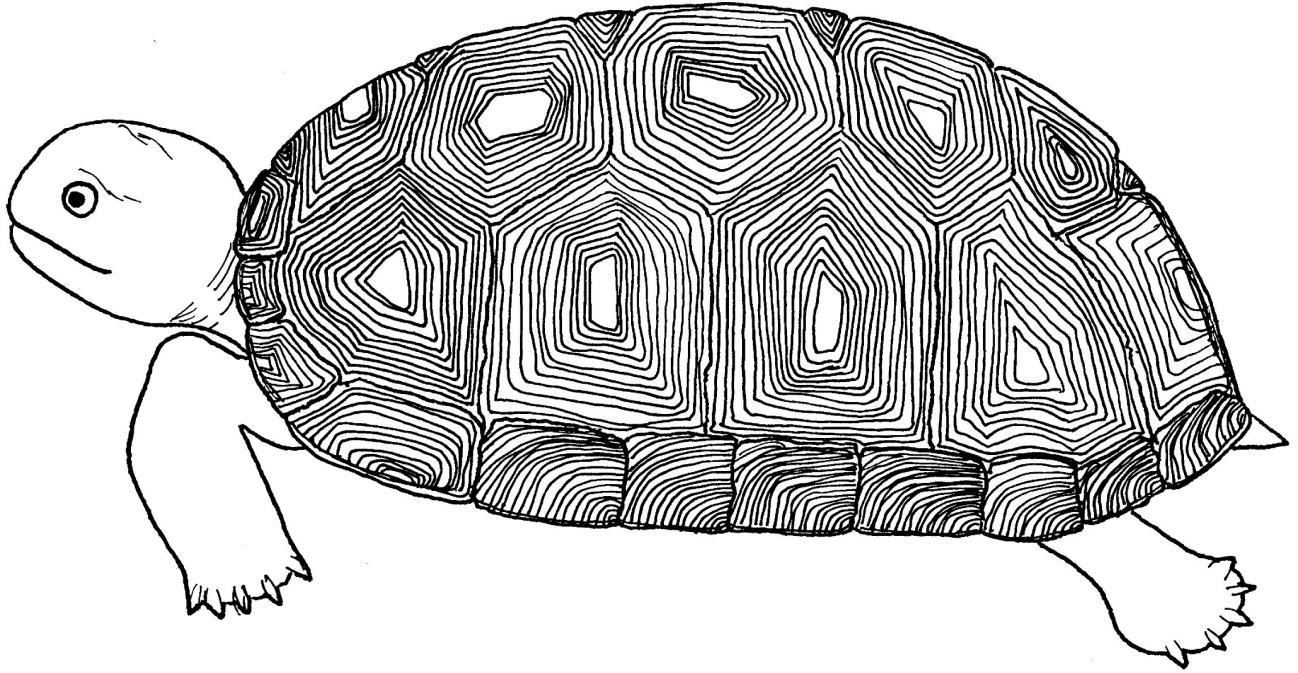


# Gopher Tortoise



**Coloring Instructions:** Color the shell a light brownish-green. The outer edge of each shell scale should be dark while the innermost part of each scale should be light. Color the turtle's head, legs, and tail dark brownish-green.

**Interesting Fact:** Gopher tortoises live in burrows (long underground tunnels that they dig with their front legs). Other animals often share these burrows, including snakes, gopher frogs, and burrowing owls. During forest fires, many other small animals will hide underground in the tortoise's burrow until the flames pass. The tortoise is called a "keystone species" because it provides home for so many other animals. It is the "key" to their survival.