Lesson 7: Worksheet B

Your challenge is to investigate the following topics related to the desert tortoise:

1. What is the *scientific name* for desert tortoise?
2. Identify the taxonomy of desert tortoise:
   a. Kingdom:
   b. Phylum:
   c. Class:
   d. Order:
   e. Family:
   f. Genus:
   g. Species:

3. If you were to observe the front limbs of a desert tortoise, what would you have noticed?

4. Where are the natural habitats for desert tortoises?

5. The shell is a defining feature in turtles and tortoises. Another name for the shell is ________________________________.

6. Why do desert tortoises dig burrows?
Lesson 7: Worksheet B – Answer Key

Your challenge is to investigate the following topics related to the desert tortoise:

7. What is the scientific name for desert tortoise? Gopherus agassizii
8. Identify the taxonomy of desert tortoise:
   a. Kingdom: Animalia
   b. Phylum: Chordata
   c. Class: Reptilia
   d. Order: Testudines
   e. Family: Testudinidae
   f. Genus: Gopherus

9. If you were to observe the front limbs of a desert tortoise, what would you have noticed?
   The front limbs are thick and shovel-like.

10. Where can you find desert tortoises in the U.S?
    Mojave Desert, Sonoran Desert, Colorado River/Grand Canyon

11. The shell is a defining feature in turtles and tortoises. Another name for the shell is _______Carapace__________________________.

12. Why do desert tortoises dig burrows?
    To escape the extreme heat in the desert. It also offers protection from predators.