

CRUNCH FACTS

- CRUNCH weighs 165 lbs.
- Age 150 to 200 years
- Crunch's head is 9.5 inch's wide.
- Body length over 4 feet
- Crunch eats 6 to 9 lbs. of food on 1 to 2 week intervals.

Crunch was captured around 1979. They believe he was originally captured in Mississippi, but that is not certain. We became his owners in 1989 after purchasing him from the only legal stock hold of them in southern Georgia. We used to have 60 of them and we sold them to zoos around the world. The age of an Alligator Snapping Turtle is estimated by dating artifacts that have been carved out of their shells and by their average rate of gain of one pound per year. They were trapping them commercially and butchering them for their meat back in the 60s and 70s and were finding flint spear heads imbedded in their shells. The unofficial world record of the Alligator Snapping Turtle was 316 lbs. and had flint spear heads in its shell that had been in it since it was a 150 lb. turtle (official world record 265 lbs.). They estimated that it has been at least 300 to 400 years since any person had used a flint spear. The Brookfield Zoo had one in captivity for a 45 year period. It was put in when it weighed 135lbs. and died 45 years later at 235lbs. It had gained 100lbs. in a 45 year period, an average of 2 lbs. per year, and died obese. It is estimated that the average Alligator Snapping Turtle in good health gains an average of 1 pound per year in the wild. This is a life time average. The world record female is 60lbs. There is a big size difference in the two sexes. Crunch has been written about world wide, published in papers around the world, been on CNN and is believed to be one of the largest left alive in the world. During his annual five week tour, Crunch travels around 10,000 miles and sees an average of 250,000 people. The giants are gone in the wild and to find one over 100 lbs. would be a very rare occurrence. They are listed as endangered and are protected in all states of their natural range. They still allow trapping for personal consumption in Louisiana.

Alligator Snapping Turtles have a worm like appendage on the tip of their tongue used to attract fish into their mouth. They fish patiently on the bottom with this lure, waiting for their food to come to them.

Alligator Snapping Turtles have *powerful* claws used to crawl on the bottom, dig for clams and tear large fish into small pieces making them easier to swallow.

Alligator Snapping Turtles breathe through a hole in their tongue. They draw air through their nose by pressing this hole against the nostril exit holes in the roof of their mouth.

Crunch eats approximately 6 to 9 lbs. of food on one and a half to two week intervals.

A large Alligator Snapping Turtle has no natural enemies but man.

❖ Since we began our shows in 2003, CRUNCH has been on exhibit in 18 different States and traveled over 56000 miles.

❖ CRUNCH has seen 1.3 million people since 2003.

More information at

www.crunchinfo.com