



Range of the Alligator Snapping Turtle

(Reed *et al.* 3)

ENDANGERED HABITAT

The range of the Alligator Snapping Turtle includes the southeastern coniferous forests and coastal grasslands from Texas to Florida and is limited to the rivers and streams that empty into the Gulf of Mexico. Although it extends as far north as Illinois, very few individuals are still found in the northern extremes of its range.

Man has increasingly put pressure on this habitat. The World Wildlife Fund reported in 2001 that over 98% of the southeastern conifer forest has been converted to agricultural use or has been modified by urban development (Dinerstein).

Commercial and agricultural development of the turtle's native habitat as well as river and bankside modifications that reduce nesting areas are greatly contributing to the decline of the species (US F & W 74701).

The human population in this region is booming, and along with it comes additional pressures on this habitat. "Runoff, water supply issues, suburban sprawl, unchecked road construction, unsustainable agricultural and forestry practices, dams, mining, and pollution threaten the aquatic life that live beneath regions waters" (Dinerstein). The alligator snapping turtle is part of that mix.

The combined effect of the pressure that man has placed on the species through overexploitation and habitat loss is a recipe for the extinction of the species. We have the ability and the responsibility to control that threat.

The name of the specific biomes

The geographical location and/or description of those biomes

Challenges faced by this place.

Remember:

If habitat loss is a factor in why your animal is endangered, you need information on what is creating the problem for the habitat.

You won't likely find this on a website titled **Your Animal**.

Wild Finder is the easiest site to use that quickly accesses specific information on your animal's habitat.

Name: _____

The Habitat Self Assessment

Date: _____ Class: _____

If you had a friend that lived on a Florida beach, and you wanted to find out more information on what that beach was like, you probably wouldn't look for that information on his personal website. If you looked on his website, you might find out that he lives on a specific Florida beach, but you wouldn't likely find specific information about **the place** where he lives. Does he live on the Atlantic coast? Does he live on the Gulf coast? There will be some similarities, but there will also be some huge differences; and if you are preparing for a visit, you might want to find out more specific information about what that specific place is like, so you can adequately prepare.

Likewise, you will not find specific information about the habitat where **your animal** lives on a website titled "Your Animal." You may get the general information on it, but it will not be specific. **You need a site committed to that habitat if you are going to find the information you need for this section.**

***Read your habitat section and ask yourself, "Does this focus on the place or the animal?" If your content focuses on the animal, you need to revise. It doesn't necessarily mean you need to throw out what you've got, but you need to include some information that you don't likely have yet. If you need more information...find it...cite it...take the notes.**

What am I currently doing well?

What information do I still need to find?

How am I going to include this new information in my habitat section?
