**Alligator Snapping Turtle**

**Vocabulary:** delete

**Native to:** Southeastern United States

**Predators:** juvenile snappers are hunted by fish, birds and raccoons, but its only natural predator as adults are humans

**Prey:** Literally anything they can catch: snakes, frogs, turtles, fish, crayfish, minnows, muskrats, ducks, worms, birds, raccoons,

**Facts:**

* Generally stay in water unless females are nesting
* Average male is 175 lbs, average female is 50 lbs
* Largest ever seen was 285 lbs
* We do not know how long they can truly live the oldest on record was estimated to be almost 200 years old
* Have a worm-like appendage on the end of their tongue used to lure in prey
* Have very powerful bite and very sharp bill when they bite down they produce about 600 lbs psi in their bite force.
* They can hold their breath for as long as almost an hour and sit so still most times their shells actually start to grow algae to help them blend in with the lakes and stream beds where they live.

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Camouflage
* Size
* Strong bite

**Reproduction:**

* clutches of 10-50 eggs laid a distance from the water to prevent drowning
* gender determined by temperature eggs are kept at

**Lifespan:** 80 to 150+ years

**Handling Tips:**

Razar is a 12 year old male. He is heavy, and should be picked up from behind his head, and the back of the shell. He cannot reach around to bite you.