

Giant tortoise thought extinct is found on Galapagos

1. Based on the title, it is possible to infer that:
 - a. The giant tortoise lives in an island.
 - b. The giant tortoise was found with other species
 - c. The giant tortoise is a new discovery
 - d. The giant tortoise was modified genetically to bring it to life.

Conservationists in the Galapagos Islands have found a giant tortoise from a species thought to have become extinct more than a century ago.

The adult female tortoise was found on the island of Fernandina in the west of the Pacific archipelago, and is believed to be a Fernandina Giant Tortoise, also known as *Chelonoidis phantasticus*, a species last sighted in 1906.

The tortoise is believed to be about 100 years old. It was taken by boat to the main Galapagos conservation center on Santa Cruz island.

The animal "exceeds 100 years" in age and is "a very old tortoise," said Washington Tapia of Galapagos Conservancy, a US non-profit dedicated to conserving the Galapagos.

The islands are best known for their unique flora and fauna, which inspired naturalist Charles Darwin to write his landmark 1859 study on evolution, *The Origin of Species*.

Ecuador's Environment Minister Marcelo Mata announced on Twitter the discovery of a specimen "of the tortoise species *Chelonoidis phantasticus*, which was believed to have gone extinct more than 100 years ago."

2. Complete the following paragraph using some of the words given in the text above.

The Chelonoidis phantasticus is a _____ species recently found in _____, one of the islands that conform the Galapagos.

The last time that this species was seen was a _____ ago, for this reason, it was thought that the tortoise was _____.

It is calculated that the female turtle is about _____ years old. Now it is at the Galapagos conservation center on Santa Cruz island.

3. Read the sentences and replace the word underlined by one of the options given.

"A ministry statement said conservationists were hopeful other members of the species were on the island, judging by tracks and spores they found."

- a. Ministry
- b. Tortoises
- c. Conservationists
- d. Other members of the species

The Chelonoidis phantasticus species is native to Fernandina, which is uninhabited, topped by an active volcano, and one of the youngest islands in the chain. It is one of 15 known species of giant tortoises in the Galapagos, at least two of which have already vanished.

- a. Fernandina
- b. Active volcano
- c. Chelonoidis phantasticus
- d. chain

Scientists tried to save George's species by breeding him with females from a related species, but their eggs failed to hatch. After his death, his body was stuffed and is currently displayed at the Charles Darwin Research Center in the Galapagos.

- a. lay
- b. Incubate
- c. Window
- d. shade

Their numbers were decimated in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by sailors who took advantage of their ability to endure long periods without food or water to use them as easily stored fresh meat on Pacific voyages.

- a. increased
- b. comma
- c. reduced
- d. massacre