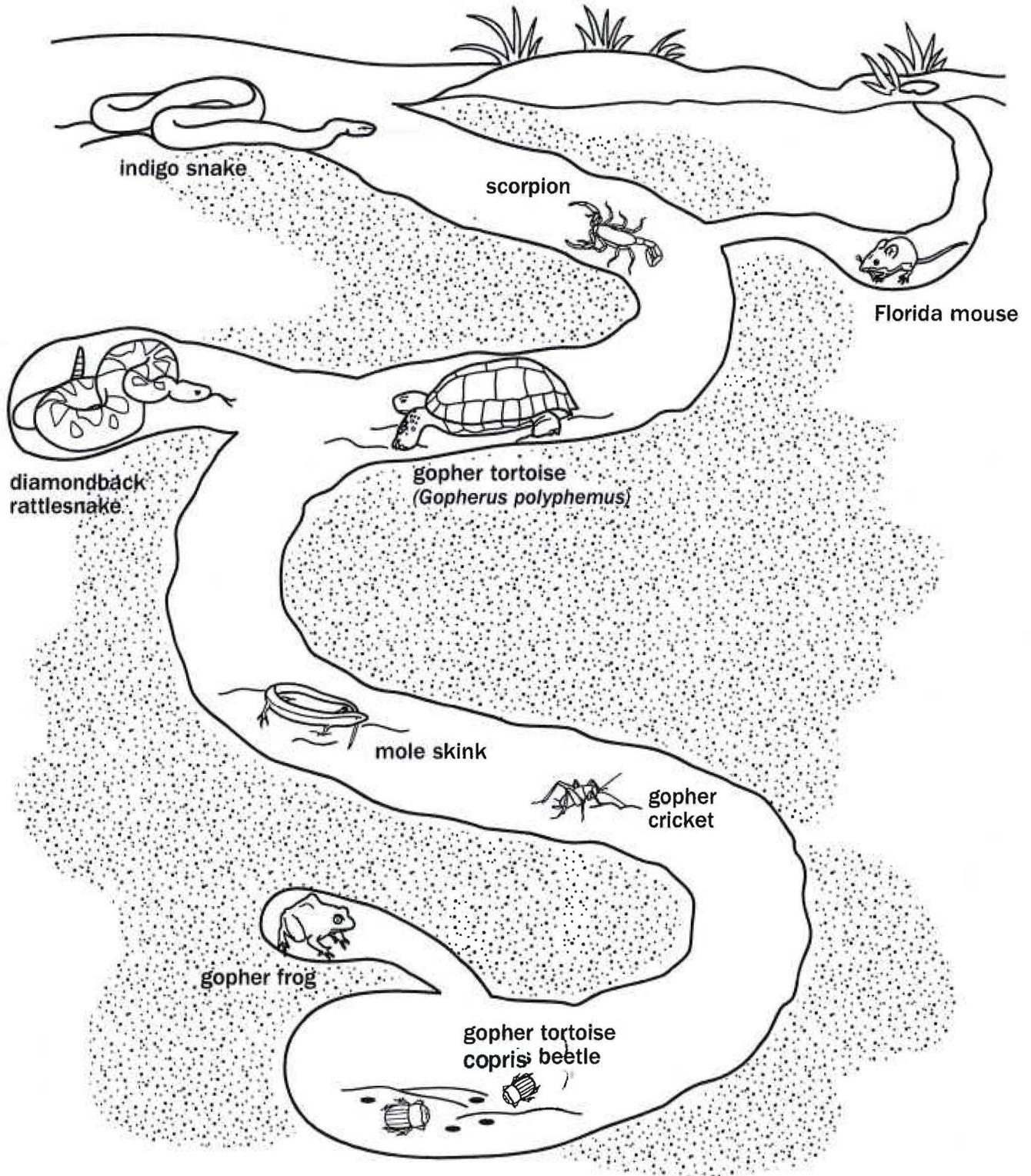


Gopher tortoise burrow



A gopher tortoise burrow may be a residence or temporary shelter for approximately 300-400 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates, but not all will live there at the same time. These burrows are important for wildlife biodiversity and are protected by law. The gopher tortoise is called a keystone species because its burrow is needed for many other species to stay healthy or survive.