



Turtle Activity Pack

May 2022



Turtle Facts

- Turtles are reptiles.
- The scales on turtle's shells are made of keratin like your fingernails.
- Not all turtles are tortoises.
- The largest turtle in the world is the leatherback sea turtle.
- The smallest turtle in North America is the bog turtle.
- Jonathan, a Seychelles giant tortoise (*Aldabrachelys gigantea hololissa*), is the oldest turtle in the world. He turned 190 in 2022.



Do You Like Turtles?



☐ Yes



☐ No

Explain why you do or do not like turtles:

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Know/Wonder/ Learned: Turtles

Fill out the chart below on what you know about turtles, what you wonder about them, and then read about turtles. Write what you have learned.

KNOW

WONDER

LEARNED

True or False?

1. Turtles don't have any teeth.
2. A turtle's shell is made of the same material as your hair (keratin).
3. Turtles can grow a new shell when they become adults.
4. Baby turtles (hatchlings) take care of themselves.
5. Turtles are cold-blooded.
6. Turtles can leave their shell.



True or False?

1. Turtles don't have any teeth. **TRUE**
2. A turtle's shell is made of the same material as your hair (keratin). **TRUE**
3. Turtles can grow a new shell when they become adults. **FALSE**
4. Baby turtles (hatchlings) take care of themselves. **TRUE**
5. Turtles are cold-blooded. **TRUE**
6. Turtles can leave their shell. **FALSE**



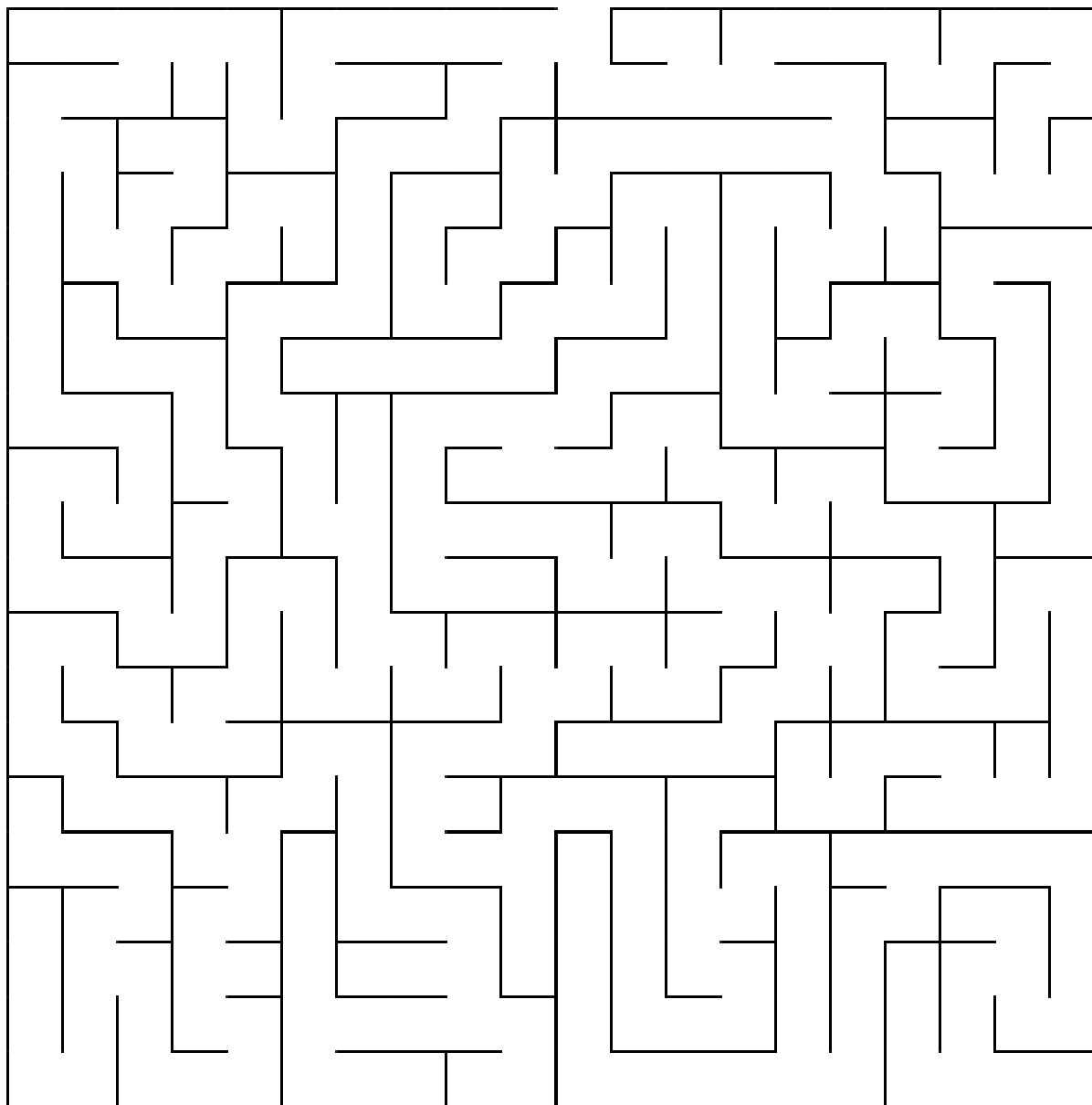
Help the Snapping Turtle Find Her Nest

Did you know?
Snapping turtles
nest on land.

Some snapping
turtles will walk
over a mile to get
to their nest!



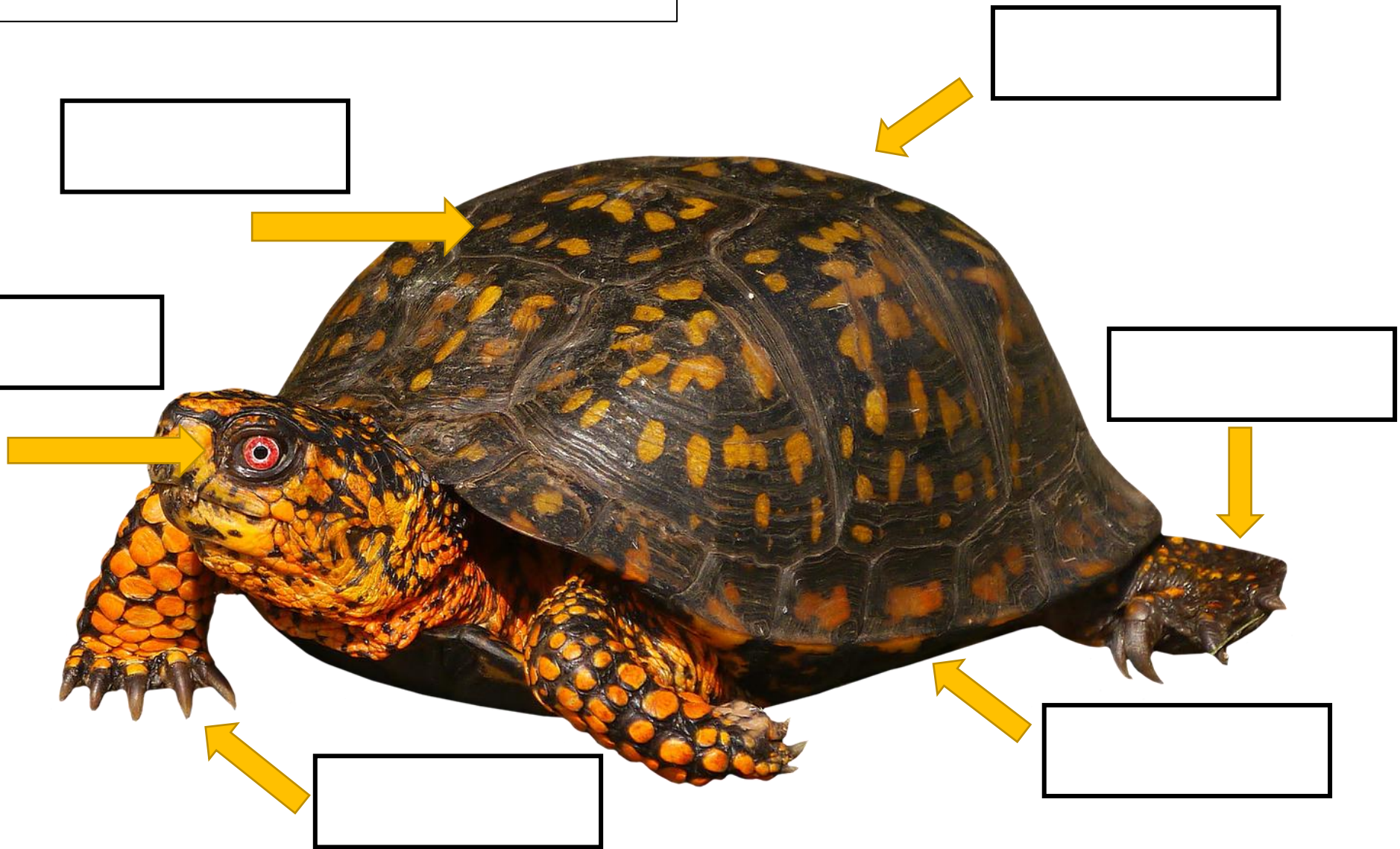
Start



End

By Sam Stukel, USFWS

Label the Parts of a Turtle



Eyes

Legs

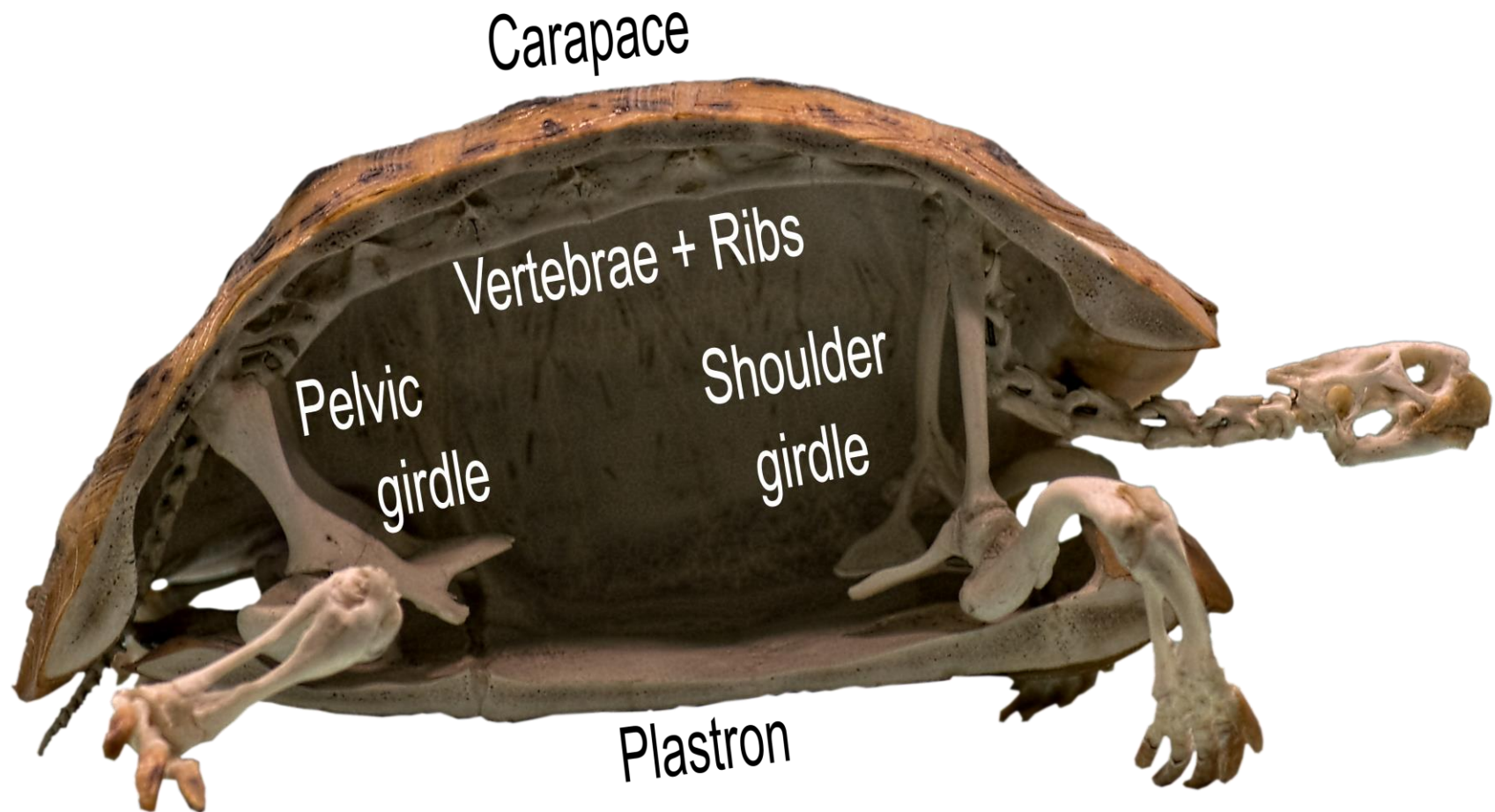
Claws

Carapace

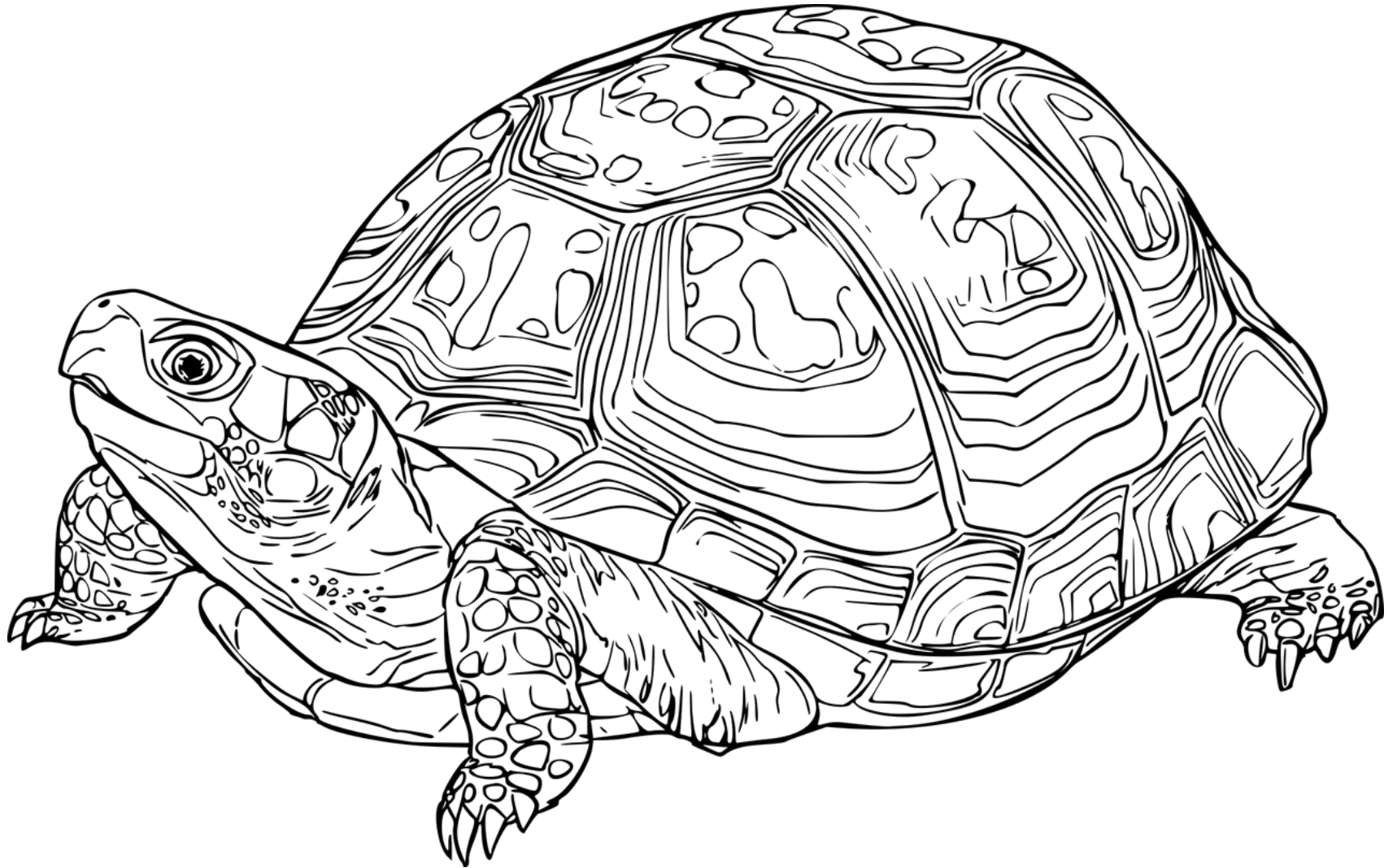
Plastron

Scute

Parts of a Turtle



Box Turtle Coloring Page



Box turtles generally live for 25-35 years but have been known to survive to over 100 years old!

Turtle Anatomy Snacks

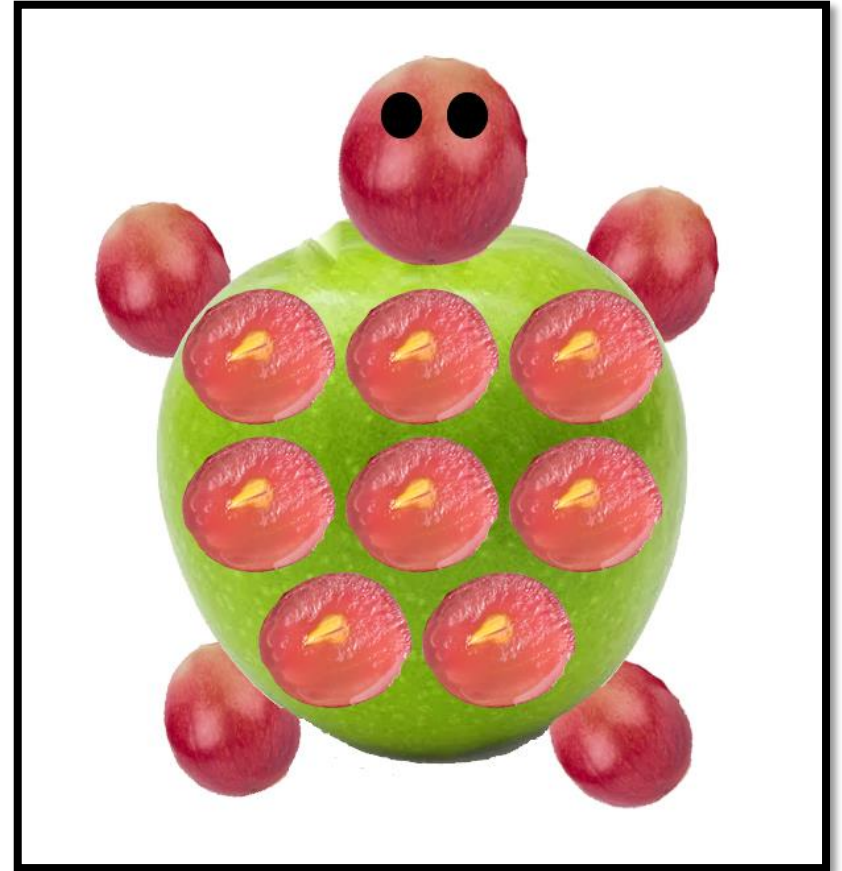
Learn about the parts of a turtle and have fun, too!

Slice an apple into a circular slice. Remove core. This will be the “shell.”

Slice grapes or other round foods to make “scutes” on the apple slice.

Decorate with cream cheese, frosting, or other supplies.

Enjoy!



Cool Turtle Spotlight

Despite its name, the **wood turtle** splits its time between forests and streams.

The wood turtle's shell looks like it has carved wood pyramids on top.

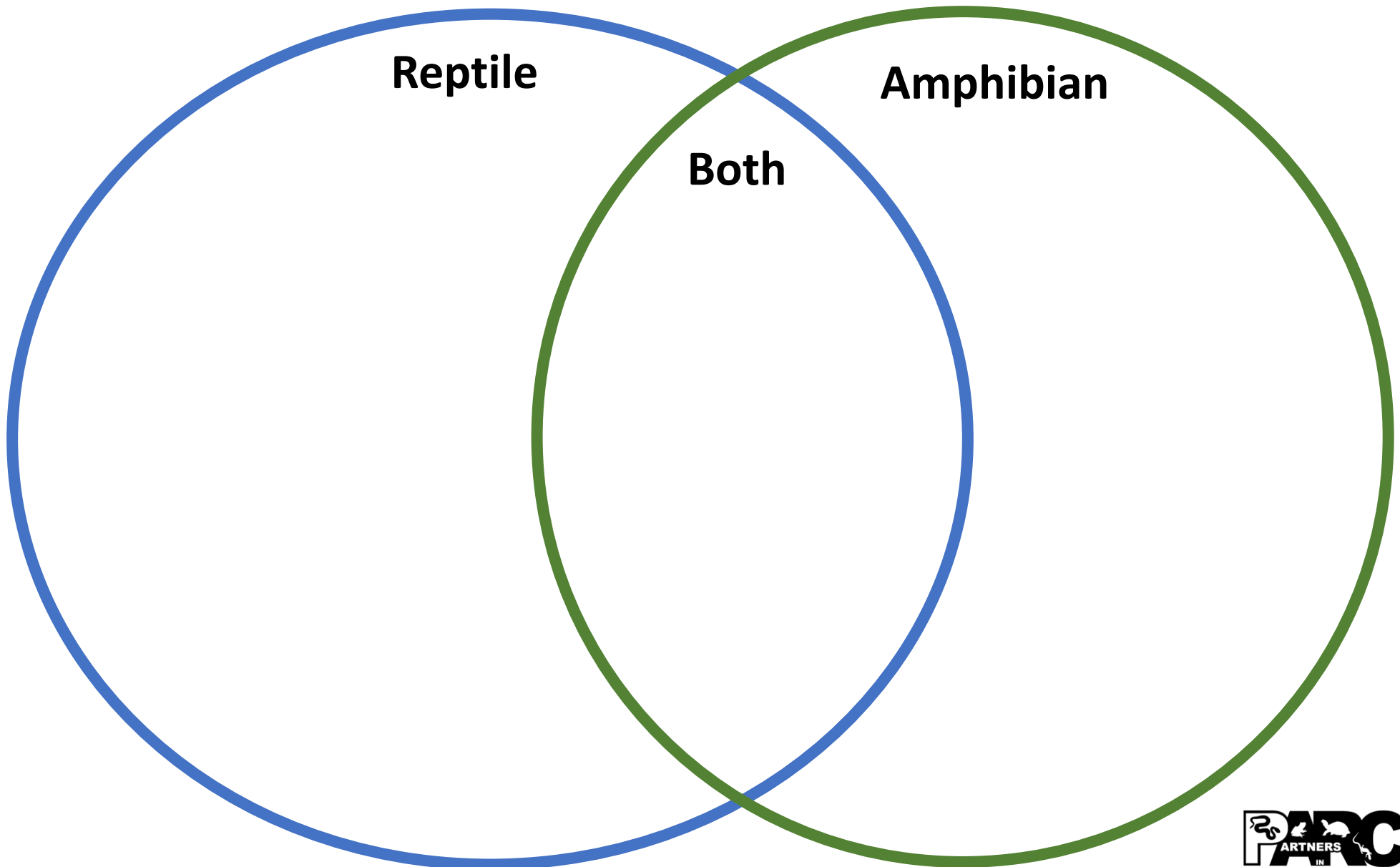
The wood turtle does a “worm stomp” after rain to get worms to come to the soil surface.

It takes wood turtles up to 14 years to breed!



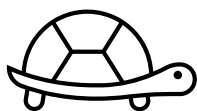
Reptile vs Amphibian Venn Diagram

Read up on reptiles and amphibians. What are some ways they are similar? How are they different? Add these comparisons to the diagram below:



Turtle Habitat Hunt

Look outside- at your yard, a park, or at a school to see if the habitat can support turtles. Turtles need food, shelter, water, and space!



Draw your habitat.

What can you find?

- ☐ **Berries** ☐ **Insects** ☐ **Fungi**
☐ **Worms** ☐ **Other** _____
☐ **Water** ☐ **Leaves on Ground**

Other observations:

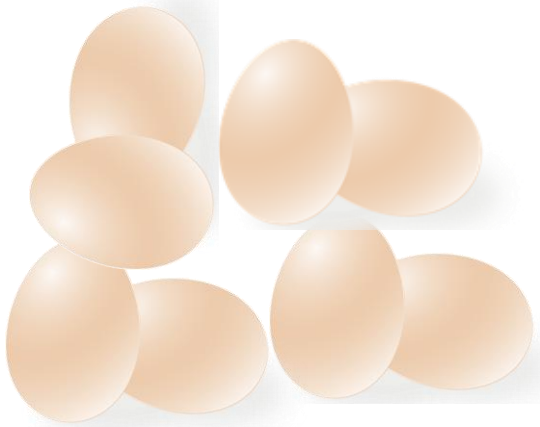


Cool Turtle Spotlight

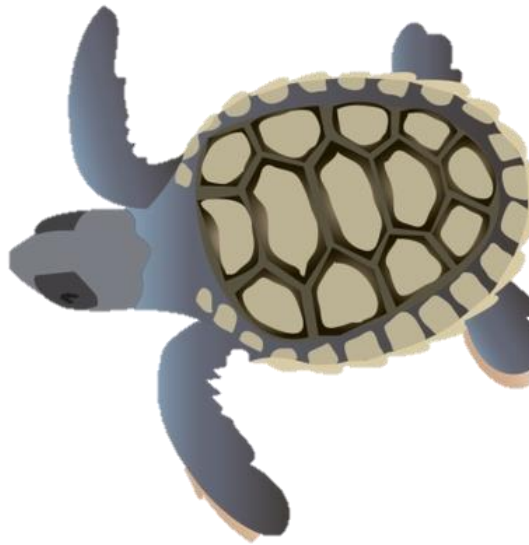
- The **snapping turtle** spends most of its time in water.
- This turtle typically weigh up to 35 lbs as an adult, but largest recorded snapping turtle was 86 lbs!
- Snapping turtles are mostly solitary, but they will communicate with leg movements as they face each other.

Turtle Life Cycle

Print the cards below and see if you can put them in order.



Eggs



Hatchling



Turtle

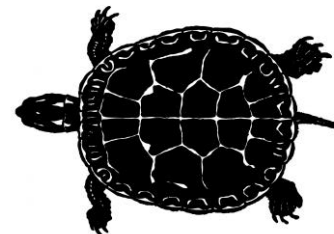
I'm a Little Turtle

I'm a little turtle,
in the sand.
I go slow on dry land.
When I'm in the ocean,
watch and see-
I'm so quick, you can't catch me!

(Tune: I'm a Little Teapot)



Make Your Own Turtle Tale!



Draw your turtle character.

Write your turtle story below:

Name:

Common Turtles

There are over 50 species of turtles in North America.



Box Turtle



**Diamondback
Terrapin**

Ryan Hagerty/USFWS



Snapping Turtle

Sam Stukel/USFWS



Painted Turtle

Kerry Wixted



Redear Slider

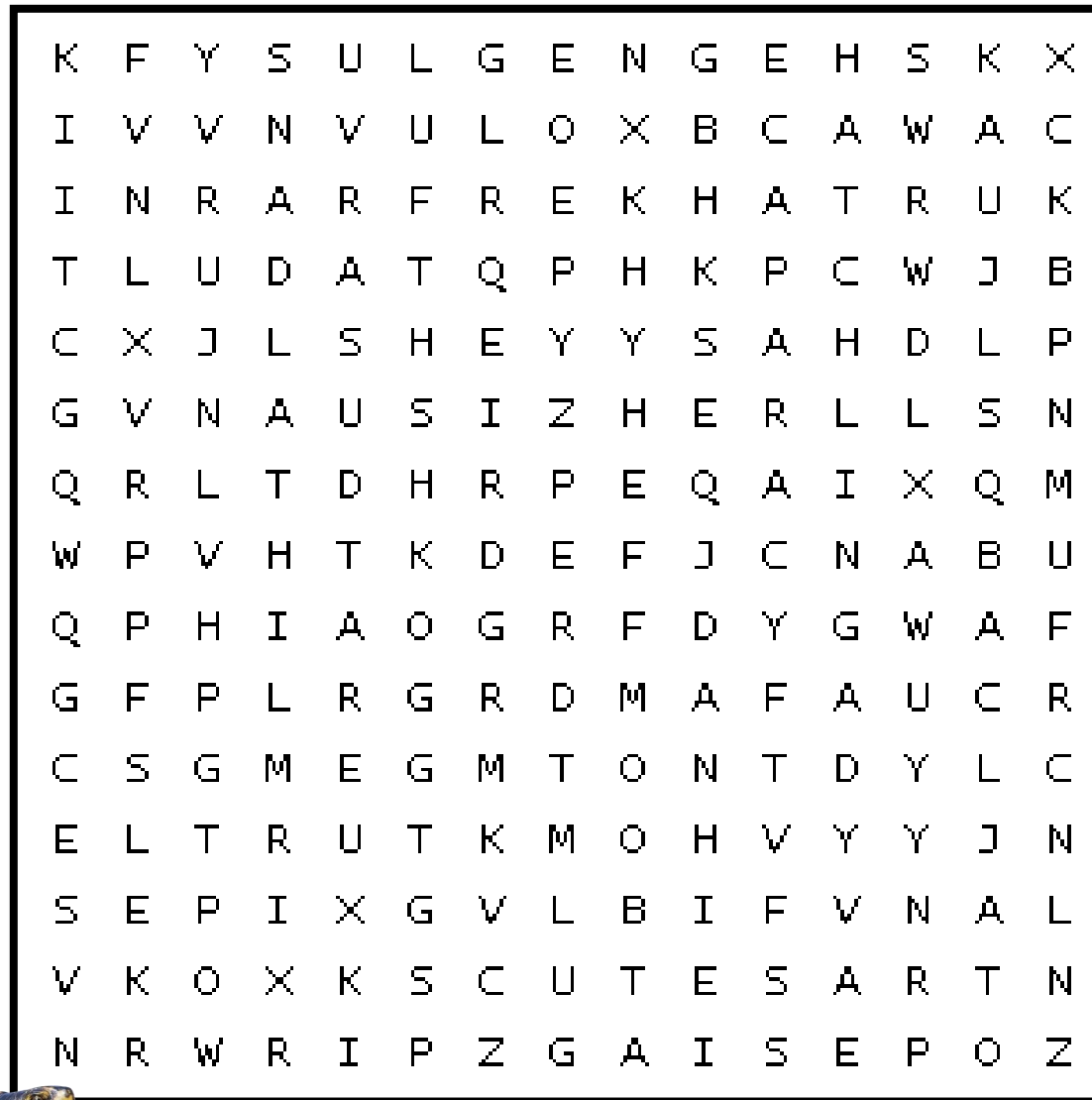


Mud Turtle

Kerry Wixted

Turtle Word Search

Can you find all the words? Circle the ones you can find!



adult
hatchling
shell

carapace
plastron
tortoise

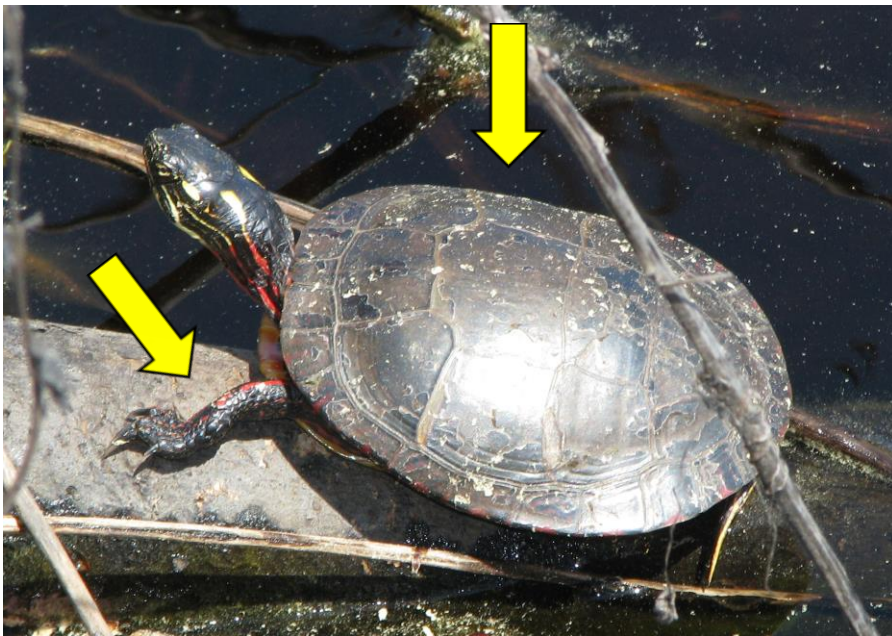
egg
scute
turtle

Turtle or a Tortoise?!

Did you know? Tortoises are turtles, but *not* all turtles are tortoises. tortoises spend most of their time on land and turtles spend most of their time in water.

Turtle

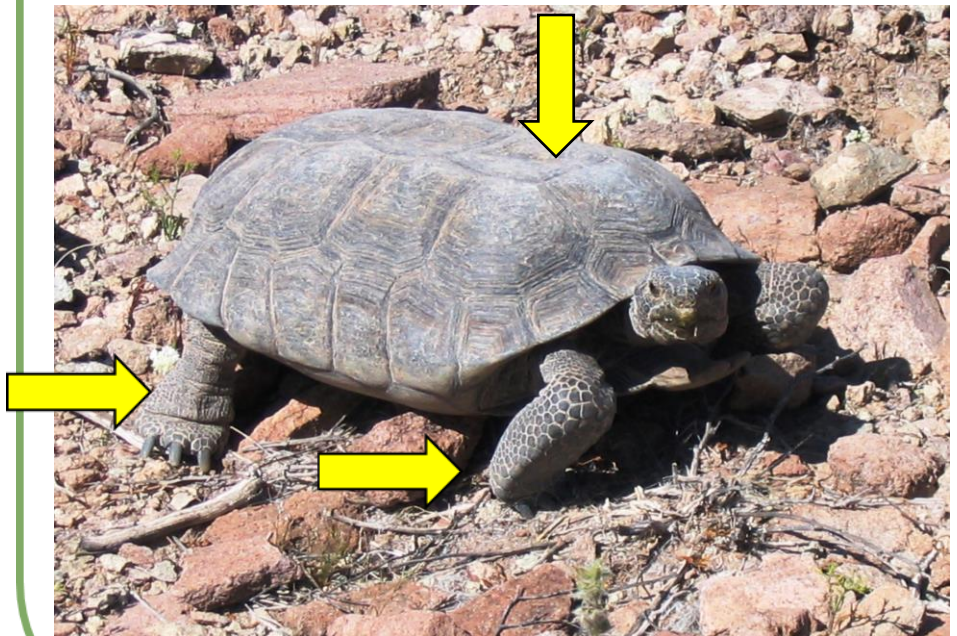
- Streamlined shell
- Often have webbed feet and flipper-like legs



Painted Turtle by Kerry Wixted

Tortoise

- Domed shell
- Have club-like front legs and elephant-like back legs.



Desert tortoise by Roy C. Averill-Murray USFWS



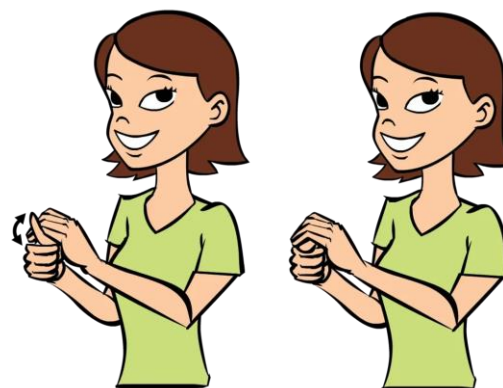
Cool Turtle Spotlight



- **Desert Tortoises** can escape the heat by burrowing underground.
- They can go long periods of time without water and can store water in their bladder!
- Desert Tortoises eat plants like grasses, flowers, some cacti, and fruit.
- They are only found in the Mojave Desert in California, Nevada, Arizona, and Utah

How to Say 'Turtle' in Sign Language

turtle



 Baby Sign Language.com

Courtesy of: <https://babysignlanguage.com/dictionary/turtle/>



Turtle-Friendly Backyards

Follow these steps to make your backyard welcoming to turtles:

- Plant native plants.
- Hold off on the pesticides.
- Leave the leaves in the fall.
- Make habitat- create log piles and rock piles for cover.

Be a #TurtleHero & Take the Pledge!

I pledge to:

1. Keep turtles wild & leave them at home in nature.
2. Help turtles cross the road when it is safe.
3. Make responsible decisions about buying turtles as pets.
4. Create habitat for turtles.



Books About Turtles

