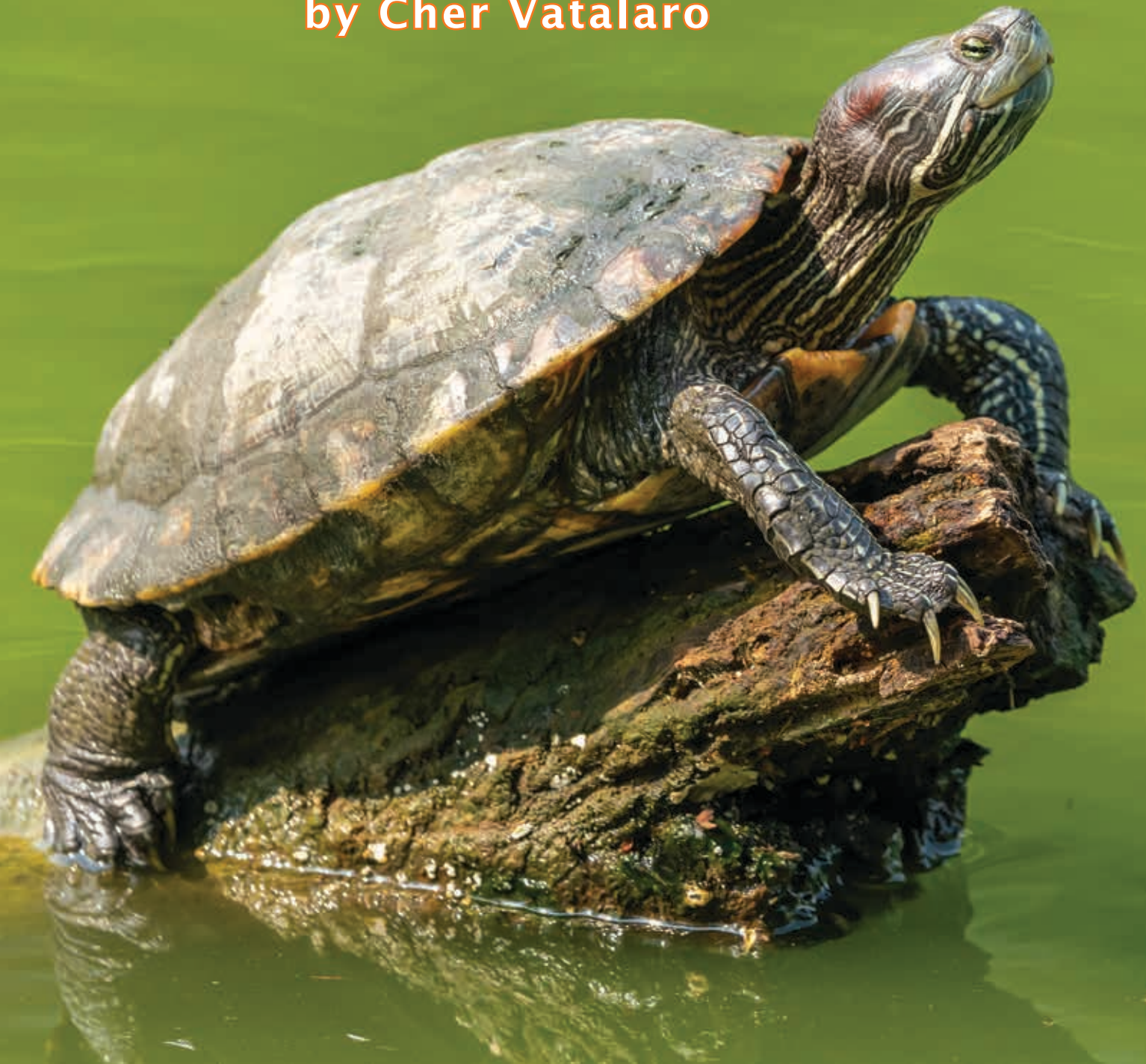


Turtles

A Compare and Contrast Book
by Cher Vatalaro



Turtles

A note for parents and caregivers

There are over 300 different species of turtles. They live in deep ocean waters to dry desert habitats and range in size from small box turtles to gigantic Galapagos tortoises. They all have shells as part of their skeleton but some shells are flat and others are large domes. Some turtles can pull heads into shells for protection but others cannot. Some are herbivores and others are omnivores but none have teeth. Learn more about what these reptiles have in common and how they are different through the latest edition of the Compare and Contrast Book series.

Arbordale Publishing offers so much more than a picture book. We open the door for children to explore the facts behind a story they love.

The *For Creative Minds* includes

- Turtle Feet & Legs: What Can You Tell?
- Match the Turtle to its Habitat
- Turtle True or False?
- Turtle Body Parts

Thanks to Kristi Dodds, Learning Coordinator at the Woodland Park Zoo for verifying the information in this book.

Arbordale's interactive ebooks read aloud in both English and Spanish with word-highlighting and adjustable audio speed. Available for purchase online.

Helping young children develop critical thinking skills is a gift they'll have for life. The book you are holding can help you to help them do just that.

Before reading the book, ask the child(ren) how they think these animals are alike or different. That helps you to understand what they already know or if they have any misconceptions.

After reading, go back through the book together looking at photos to find and discuss things. Ask verbal children to describe or explain what they see. Even young, non-verbal children can find and point to things. For example, have children find or point to:

- shapes & colors of shells (carapace & plastrons)
- scutes (colors & designs)
- beaks
- nostrils
- legs and feet
- heads in or out of shell

Ask children to describe one new thing they learned or found most interesting.

Do the "For Creative Minds" activities in the back of the book with them.

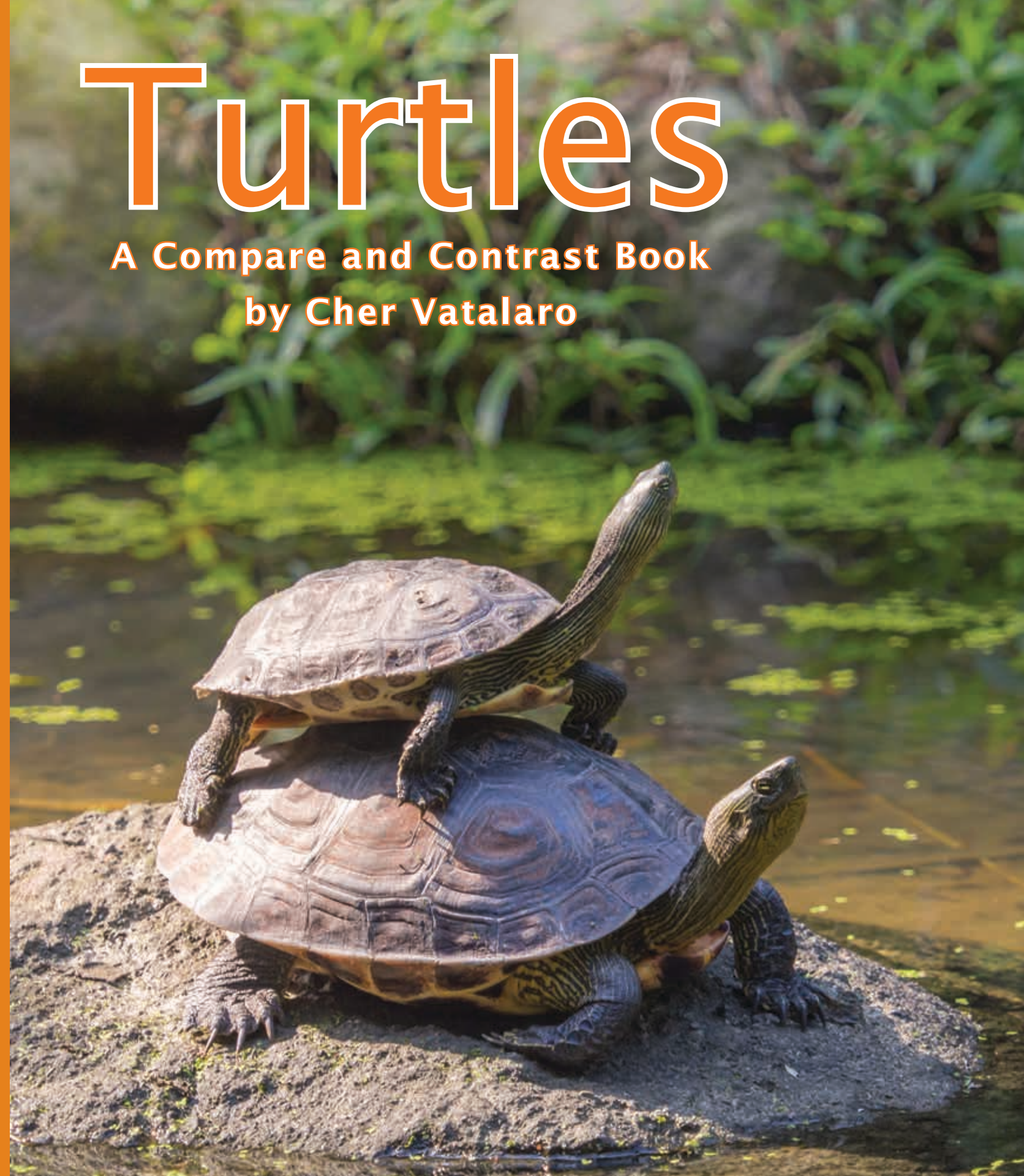
Cher Vataloro (Vat-a-lar-o) remembers visiting zoos and aquariums as a child and seeing the relationship the keepers and trainers had with the animals. That's when she decided to work with animals when she grew up. College studies and internships at nature centers and marine parks led to full time jobs. Cher is now the Director of the Conservation Education Department at the Lehigh Valley Zoo. She's passionate about sharing her knowledge and fondness of animals. In addition to her work at the zoo, Cher is also the African Penguin Species Survival Plan's Education Advisor for the Ambassador Animal Scientific Advisory Group. In addition to *Turtles: A Compare and Contrast Book*, Cher also authored *Penguins: A Compare and Contrast Book* for Arbordale Publishing. As if she doesn't get enough animal time at work, Cher and her family have 2 cats, a dog, and a parrot.



Cher Vatalaro

Turtles

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loggerhead sea turtle



Diamondback terrapin



Mojave desert tortoise



Galapagos tortoise

“Turtle” is the term typically used for all turtles and tortoises.

Turtles are reptiles. There are over 300 different species of turtles that live all over the world except for Antarctica. They live in all kinds of habitats from the salty oceans to dry deserts.

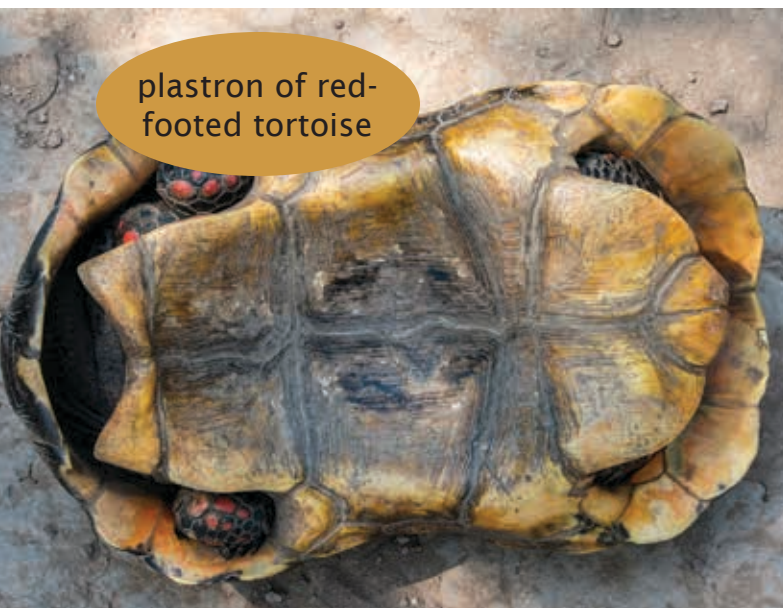
The defining feature of a turtle is its hard shell. The top of the shell is called the carapace and the bottom is called the plastron.



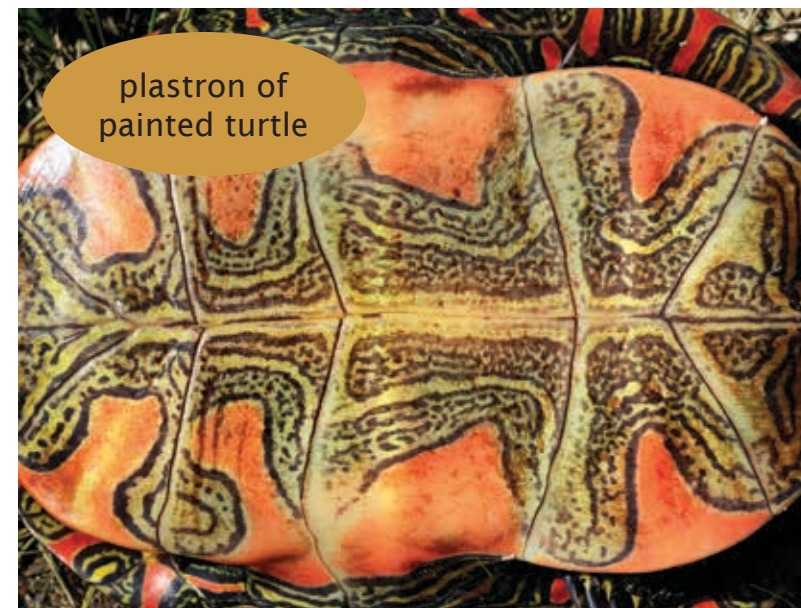
red-eared slider

The shell is part of its skeleton and is made from bone. Turtles cannot leave their shell. They are attached to it by their spine. As the animals grow, so do their shells, just like our bones grow as we grow.

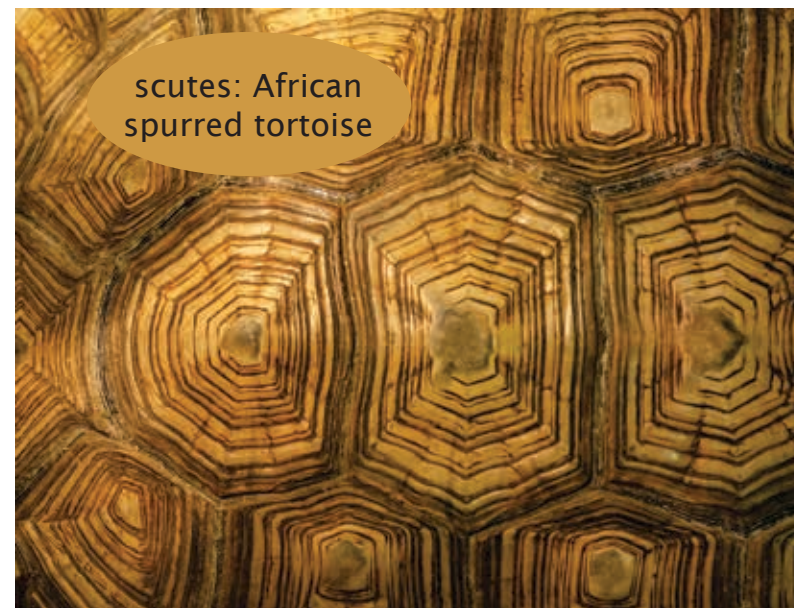
The bone is covered with scutes that are made from keratin, just like our hair and fingernails.



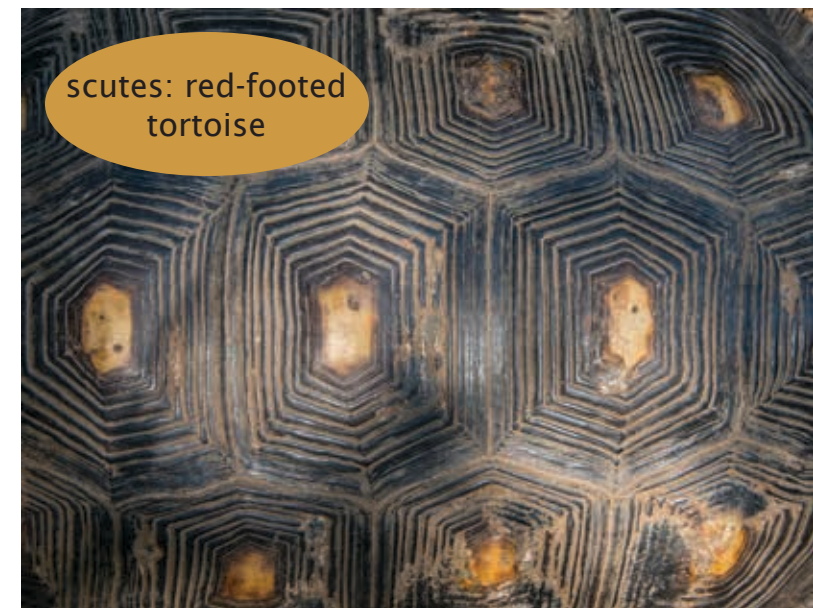
plastron of red-footed tortoise



plastron of painted turtle



scutes: African spurred tortoise



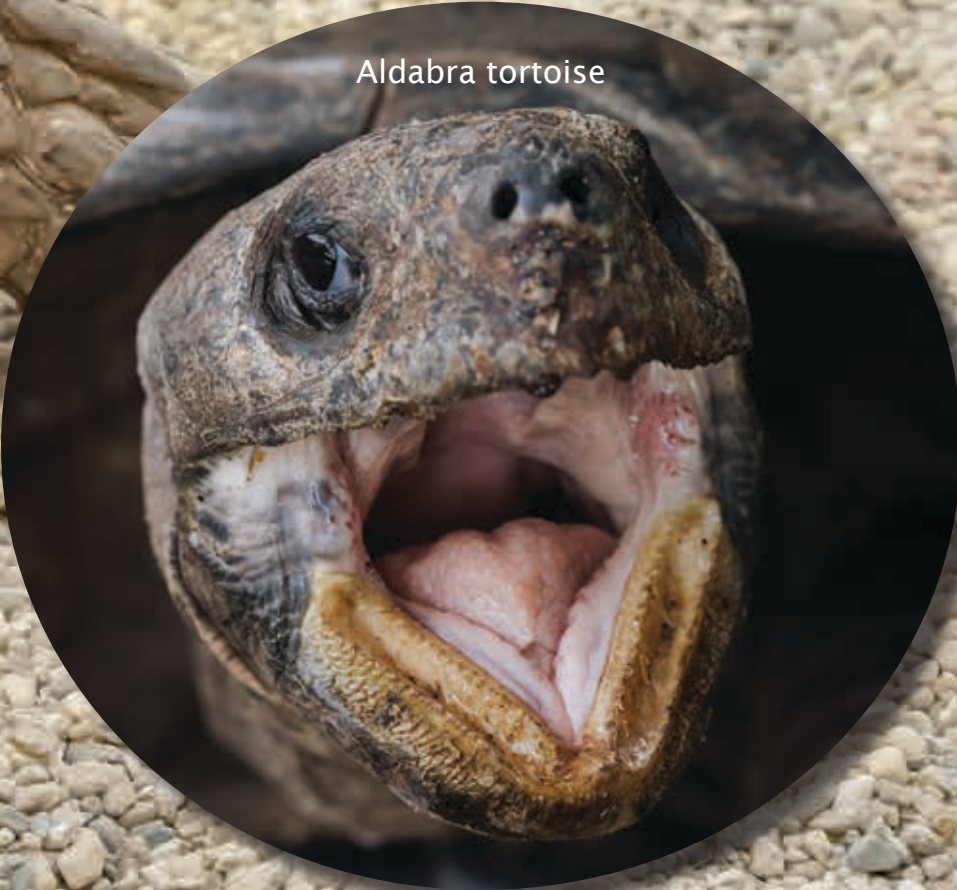
scutes: red-footed tortoise

They do not have teeth
but use strong beaks
to eat their food.

African spurred tortoise



Hawksbill sea turtle



Aldabra tortoise

Galapagos tortoise



Tortoises are herbivores, meaning they only eat plants. True turtles are omnivores. They eat both plants and meat.



eastern box turtle



Seychelles tortoise



Hermann tortoise



Hawksbill sea turtle

For Creative Minds

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Turtle Feet and Legs: What Can You Tell?

What can you tell by a turtle's feet and legs?

1a



1b



1c



Answers: 1a: webs with claws tells us that the turtle lives in both water and on land, 1b: columnar legs (like an elephant's) with claws for digging tells us the turtle (tortoise) lives only on land, 1c: legs that are flippers for swimming tells us it's a sea turtle.

Match the Turtle to its Habitat

1



2



3



4

A



B



C



D



Answers: 1-C: ocean, 2-D: desert, 3-A: pond, 4-B: woods near water

Turtle True or False?

Can you tell which statements are true and which are false? Answers are below.

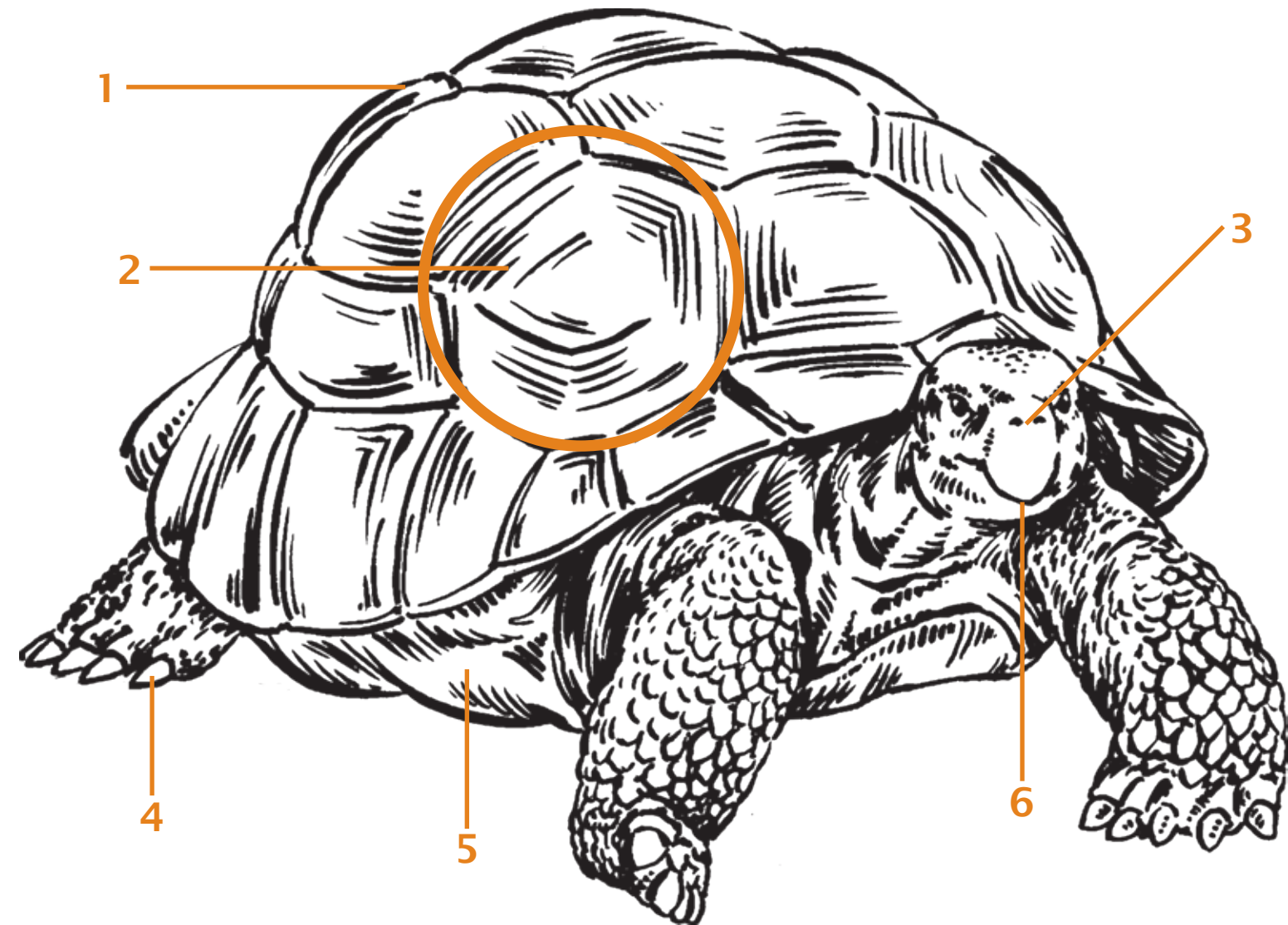
- 1 Sea turtles lay their eggs in the ocean.
- 2 Turtles, tortoises, and terrapins are all considered turtles. They are reptiles.
- 3 Most, but not all, turtles live in water and on land.
- 4 Turtles have very sharp teeth.
- 5 Turtles live in all kinds of habitats all over the world except for Antarctica.
- 6 Turtles crawl out of their shells and get new ones as they grow.
- 7 Turtle scutes and human fingernails are both made of keratin.
- 8 Turtles only eat plants (herbivore).
- 9 Turtles are cold-blooded.
- 10 Tortoises only live on land.

Answers: 1: False-all turtles lay eggs on land. 2: True. 3: True. 4: False-turtles have beaks and no teeth. 5: True. 6: False: turtle shells are part of their skeleton. 7: True. 8: False-some turtles eat plants and others eat meat or both plants and meat. 9: True. 10: True

Turtle Body Parts

Identify the turtle body parts using the vocabulary list. Answers are below.

beak	the hard, curved part of an animal's mouth
carapace (care-a-pace)	the top of a turtle's shell
claws	the sharp, curved end of toes
nostrils	the openings into a nose
plastron (pla-stron)	the bottom part of a turtle's shell
scutes (skoots)	the large bony plates on a turtle's carapace



Answers: 1: carapace, 2: scutes, 3: nostrils, 4: claws, 5: plastron, 6: beak

Thanks to Kristi Dodds, Learning Coordinator at the Woodland Park Zoo for verifying the information in this book.

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