

Parts of a turtle







This reptile has scaly skin, four thick limbs and a hard shell into which it may withdraw its head in defence.

It may be found on land or in the water but it always lays its eggs on land. This reptile has scaly skin, four thick limbs and a hard shell into which it may withdraw its head in defence.

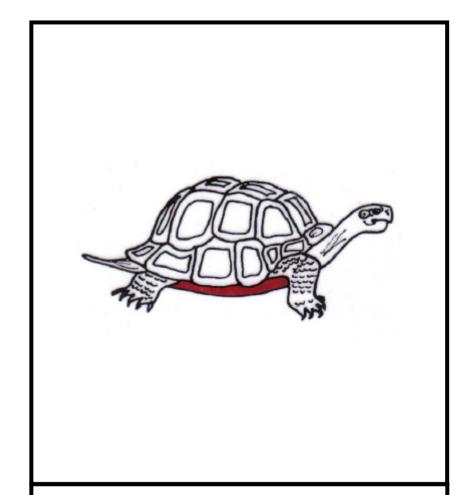
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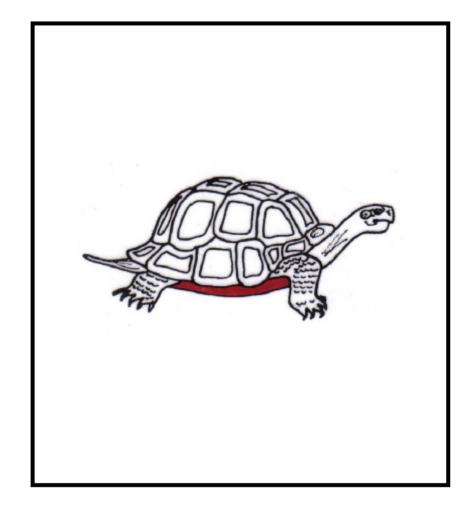
turtle











plastron







The underside of the body is softer than the upper shell.

It joins the carapace along the sides.

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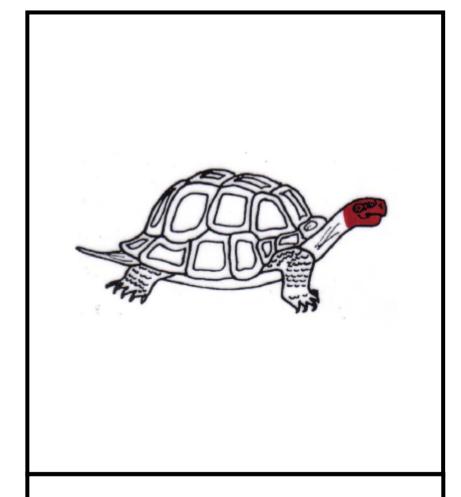
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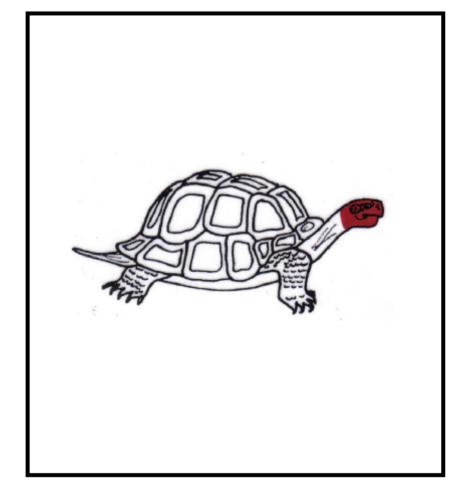
plastron





plastron





head

head





This has a slightly triangular shape, is covered with hard scales and contains the eyes, ears and mouth.

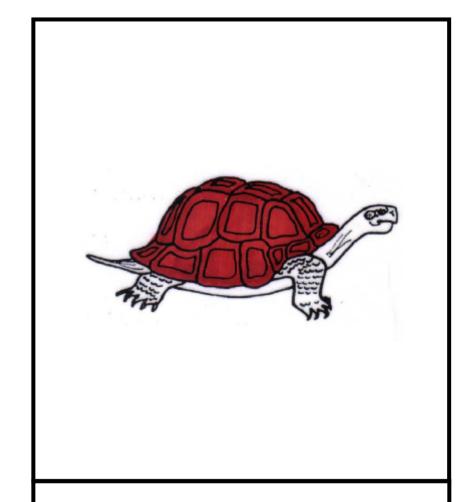
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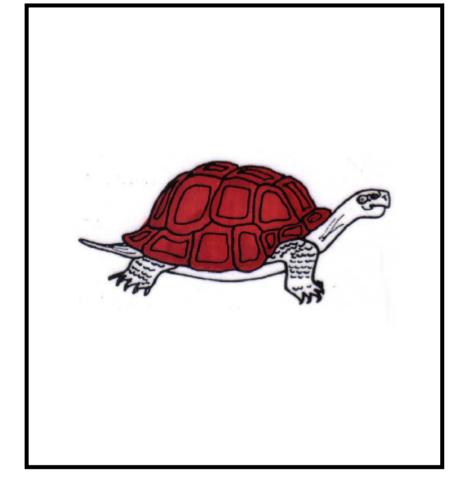
head

head









carapace

carapace





This is the hard plated shell covering the upper body.

Depending on the species it will display a distinct arrangement of symmetrical shields.

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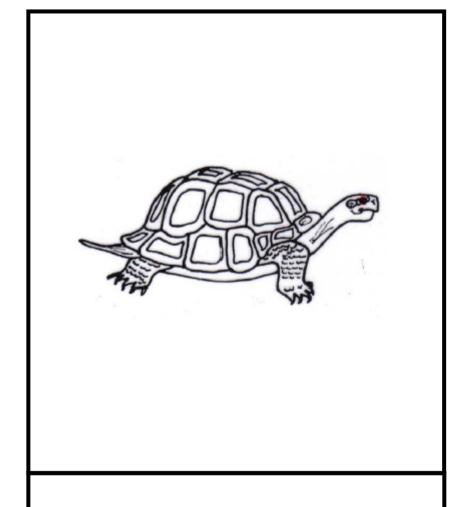
carapace

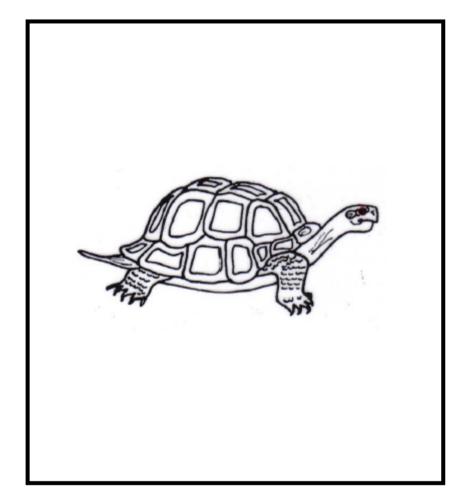


carapace









eyes

eyes





Three eyelids protect these well developed sight organs.

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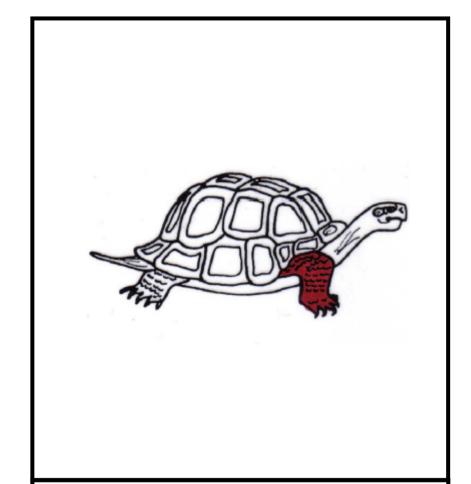
eyes

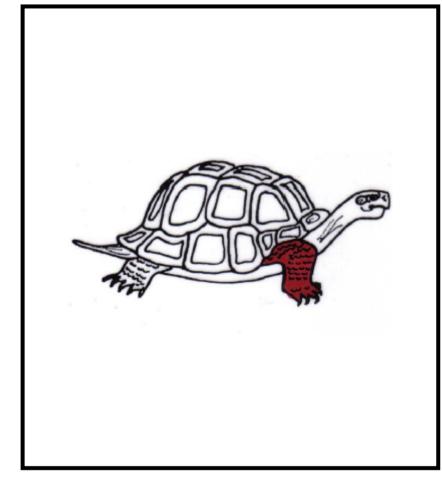
eyes











fore legs

fore legs





These short, scaly front limbs enable the turtle to move.

They have evolved into flippers in tortoises that live in a marine environment.

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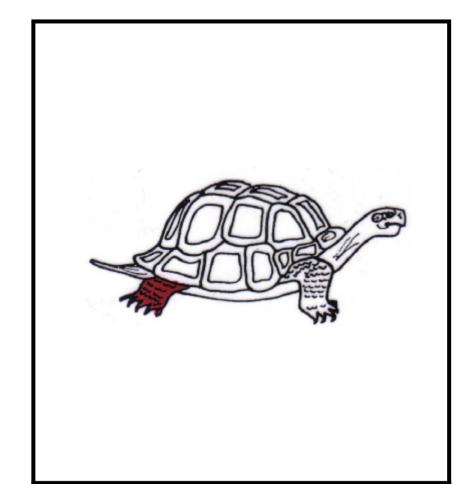
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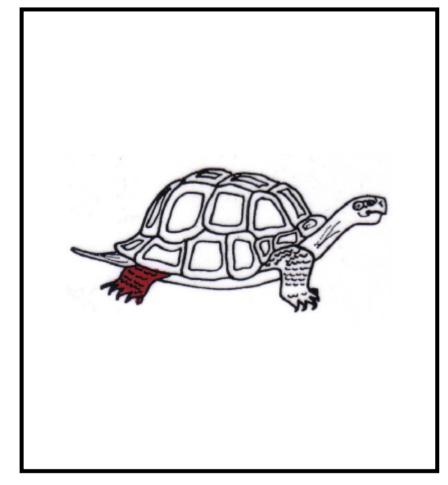
fore legs





fore legs





hind legs

hind legs





These short, scaly rear limbs enable the turtle to move.

They have evolved into flippers in tortoises that live in a marine environment.

These short, scaly rear limbs enable the turtle to move.

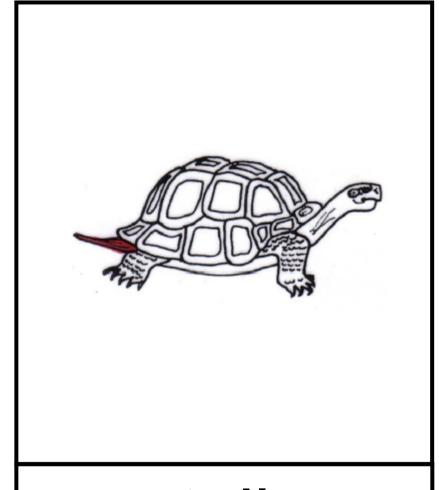
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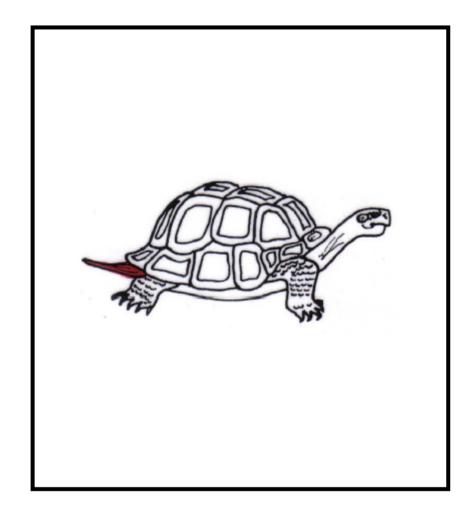
hind legs





hind legs





tail

tail





This rear body part can tuck away into the shell.

It tends to be longer in Males than in Females.

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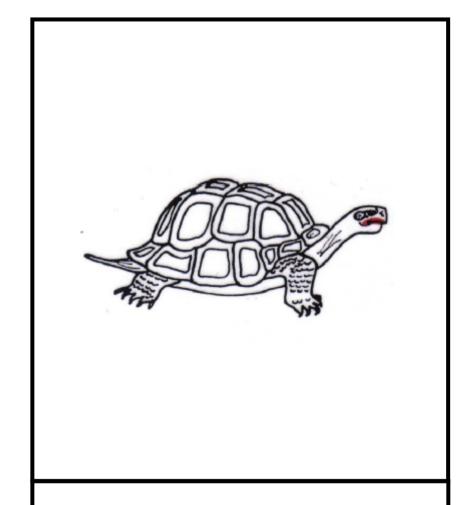
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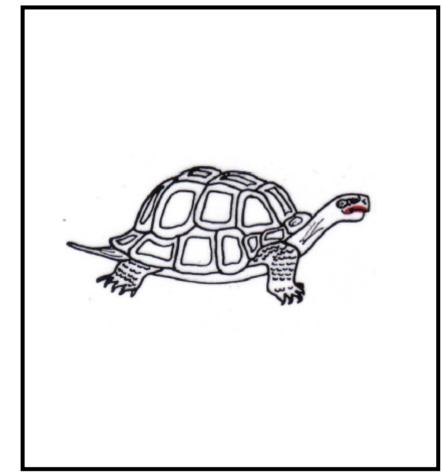
tail

tail









mouth

mouth



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This is a also called a beak and has sharp edges for cutting food.

Most turtles have strong jaws, which they use to tear food and capture prey.

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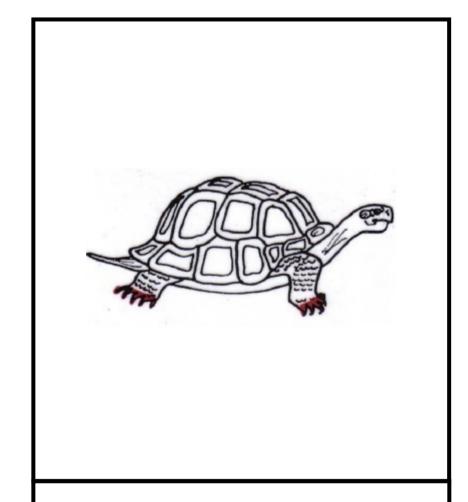
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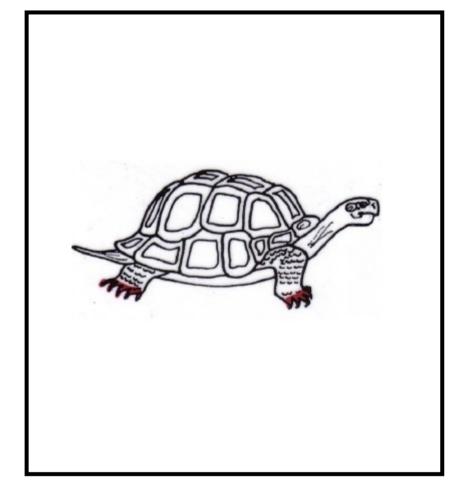
mouth

mouth









claws

claws





These body parts are like talons.

The front ones tend to be longer in Males than in Females.

These body parts are like talons.

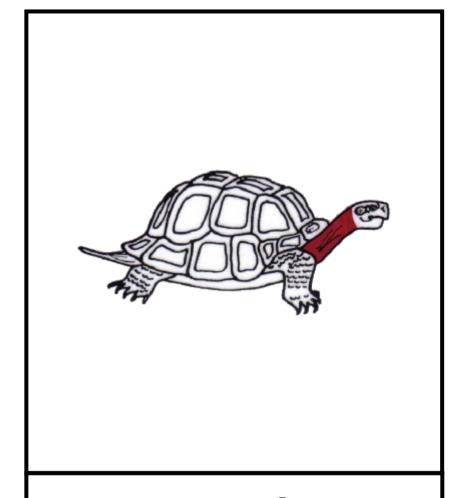
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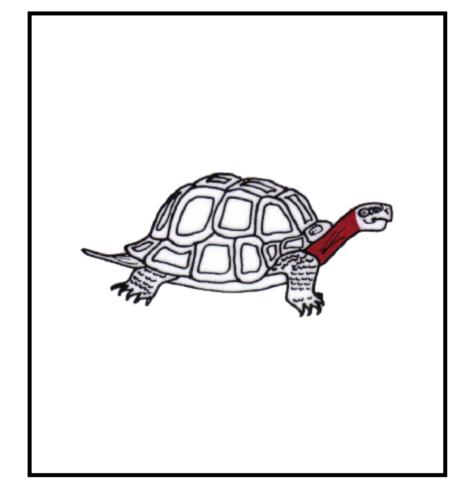
claws

claws









neck







This body part is covered by hard scales.

It can be fully retracted into the shell of the turtle.

This body part is covered by hard scales.

It can be fully retracted into the shell of the turtle.

neck







