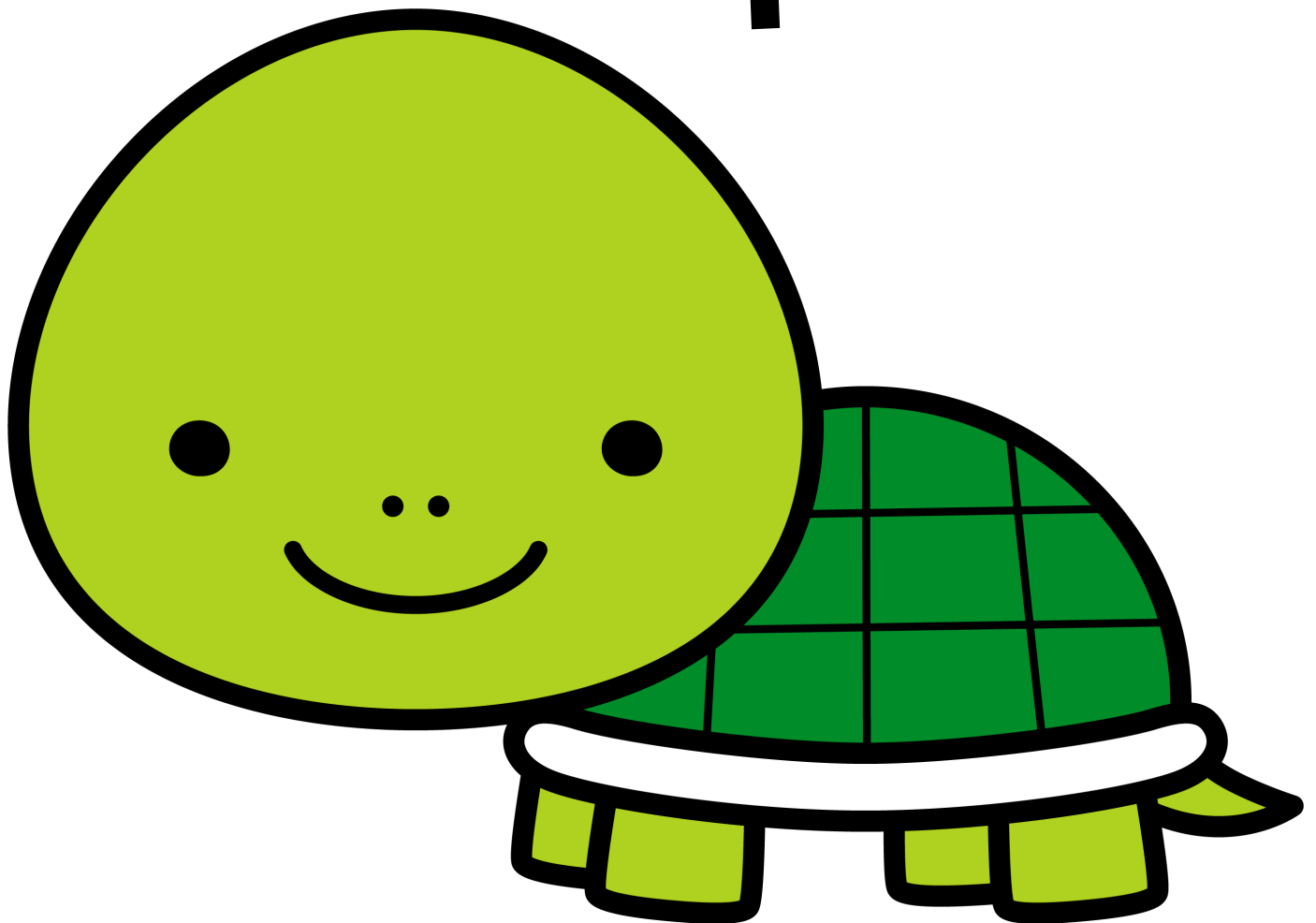


Freshwater TURTLE Lapbook



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Freshwater Turtle Research

What is a Turtle? (mammal, reptile, bird, fish, or amphibian)

Turtles are reptiles. Some characteristics they have in common with other reptiles include-- they have scales on their shells, they can breathe air, they have claws on their toes, and they lay eggs. They are also ectothermic; they cannot regulate their own body temperatures from within; they are cold-blooded. They warm themselves by moving to a sunlit spot. They cool themselves by finding shade or getting into water.

→ Complete What Is a Turtle? Book

Vocabulary Words

hatchling = a baby turtle or animal that hatches from an egg

tortoise = turtle that lives on land

egg tooth = baby turtles (hatchlings) have an sharp tooth which they use to open the soft shell of their egg as they come out

ectotherm = an animal that relies on its environment to warm and cool their body, (turtles move to the sun to warm up and find shade to cool down)

carapace = the top part of the turtle shell

plastron = the underside of the turtle shell

scutes = scales over both shells, made of keratin

keratin = a sulfur-containing protein that makes up hair and nails (such as fingernails)

hibernation = to pass the winter in a sleeping or resting state

→ Complete Vocabulary Word Turtles

Anatomy

Turtle Toes

Freshwater turtles have separate toes and claws, often with webbing between them which helps them swim. Webbing (also known as webbed feet) is when a foot has skin between the toes. The claws on freshwater turtles can be used for climbing on riverbanks and logs for sunbathing. Most turtles have five claws on each foot.

→ Complete Turtle Toes Flap Book

Turtle Senses

Turtles do not have ears on the outside of their heads like we do; this would slow them down while underwater. Instead, they have an inner eardrum which picks up sounds and vibrations from the ground and water.

Turtles have excellent eye sight, they can detect even the slightest movement in distant objects. Often they will see you before you see them.

Turtles have a great sense of smell, too.

How Does a Turtle Eat?

Turtles don't have teeth, but they do have sharp edges along their inner jaws cut and tear their food.

Shells

Why does the turtle have a shell?

- 1)the shell protects the turtle from the sun
- 2)the colors on the shell provide camouflage to protect them from their predators
- 3)the shell provides a place for the turtle to withdraw in times of danger.

→ Complete Turtle Shell Trifold Book

The upper shell is called the carapace, the lower shell is called the plastron, and the section of the shell joining the upper and lower halves is known as the bridge. Do you know what a turtle's shell is made out of? BONE! On top of that bone is a layer of horny scales called scutes. These scutes are made of keratin, which is the same material that is in your fingernails.

→ Complete Turtle Diagram

Eggs and Nesting

All turtles lay their eggs on land, They dig a hole (nest) and bury all their eggs. Then, they cover the eggs with sand and leave. Baby turtles are left to fend for themselves and to keep safe from predators which include raccoons, opossums, foxes, birds, snakes, skunks, and humans.

→ Complete Beware, Baby Turtle! Matchbook

Types of Freshwater Turtles

Fun with Nature does an excellent job giving you basic information about various kinds of freshwater turtles. It includes information for the following:

Snapping Turtle
Alligator Snapping Turtle
Western Painted Turtle
Wood Turtle
Spiny Softshell Turtle
Box Turtle
Map Turtle
Blanding's Turtle

The book (or another library book) will give you a description of the turtle as well as where to find it and what it eats. Let your student choose a turtle (or two) from this book to read about

and report on.

→ Complete Turtle Report

A Day in the Life of a Turtle

What do turtles do all day? They spend time in the water as well as time basking (and napping) in the sun while lying on a log, rock, or shore. They also spend their days finding food (varies from turtle to turtle, but usually includes plants and small animals).

→ Complete A Day in the Life Matchbook

Long Life

Turtles have long lives. Freshwater turtles may live to be 40 years old. Sea turtles live to be 80 years or more. Tortoises can live up to 150 years old!

→ Complete Lifetime Matchbook

We're Related!

Your older student will have to read some books about the turtle family in order to complete the shutterbook and add it to his or her lapbook.

All Over the World

Turtles live on every continent except Antarctica; Antarctica is too cold for a turtle!

→ Complete Finding Turtles Matchbook

Turtle Observations

If you have the opportunity, go to a pond or pet store and let your student spend some time observing turtles.

→ Complete What Is a Turtle? Book

Creative Writing and Copywork Ideas

Use the Turtle Stationery to write an original turtle story or to copy one of the following poems. Store your finished work in the pocket provided.

Here are some poems for copywork:

The Little Turtle

by Vachel Lindsay

There was a little turtle.
He lived in a box.
He swam in a puddle.
He climbed on the rocks.
He snapped at a mosquito.
He snapped at a flea.
He snapped at a minnow.
And he snapped at me.
He caught the mosquito.
He caught the flea.
He caught the minnow.
But he didn't catch me.

The Turtle

Jack Prelutsky

The turtle's always been inclined
to live within his shell.
But why he cares to be confined,
the turtle does not tell.

The turtle's always satisfied
to slowly creep and crawl,
and never wanders far outside
his living room or hall.

So if you wish to visit him
in his domestic dome,
just knock politely on his shell,
you'll find the turtle home.

True and False Answers

Turtles take good care of their eggs and babies. False. Female turtles leave their eggs unattended; the babies are left to fend for themselves.

Turtles don't have teeth. True. Turtles may not have teeth, but they do have sharp edges along their inner jaws cut and tear their food.

A Snapping turtle would make a fun pet. False. Snapping turtles can hurt you!

Turtles don't have ears. True. Turtles do not have ears on the outside of their heads like we do; this would slow them down while underwater. Instead, they have an inner eardrum which picks up sounds and vibrations from the ground and water.

→ True or False Books

Library List

Fun with Nature by Mel Boring (includes large section on Freshwater Turtles)

Note; If you can't locate *Fun With Nature*, see if your library has *Frogs, Toads, and Turtles* by Diane Burns; it is a small book that is part of *Fun With Nature*.

All About Turtles by Jim Arnosky

Look Out for Turtles by Melvin Burger (contains evolutionary references)

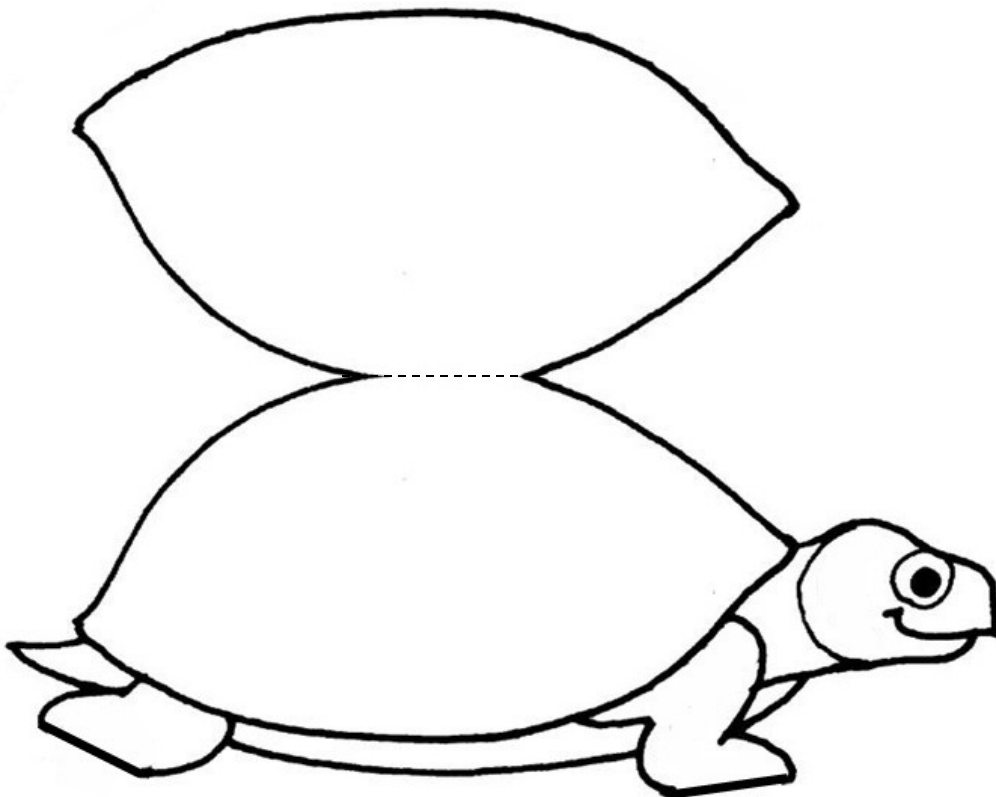
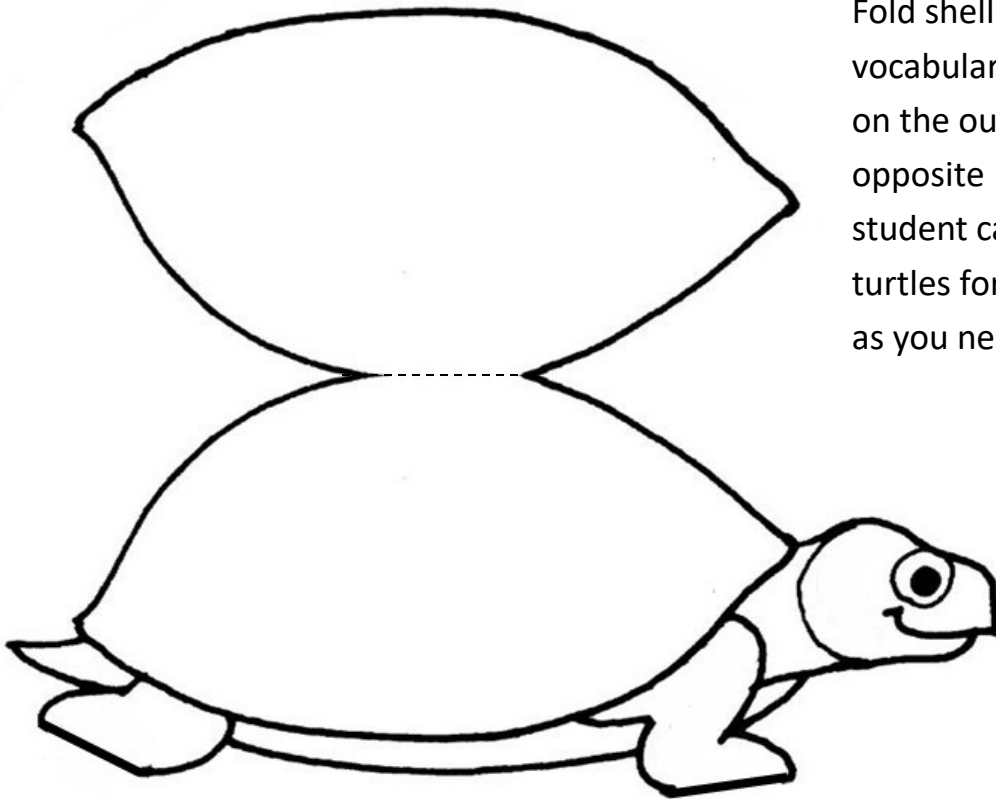
Box Turtle at Long Pond by Wililam T. George

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TURTLE VOCABULARY

Cut around entire turtle shape.
Fold shell flap down. Write
vocabulary definition (or word)
on the outside flap. Write the
opposite under the flap so your
student can use the vocabulary
turtles for review. Print as many
as you need.



Cut along solid lines. Fold top flap under. Fold bottom flap under. Unfold bottom and cut on solid line to form two flaps.

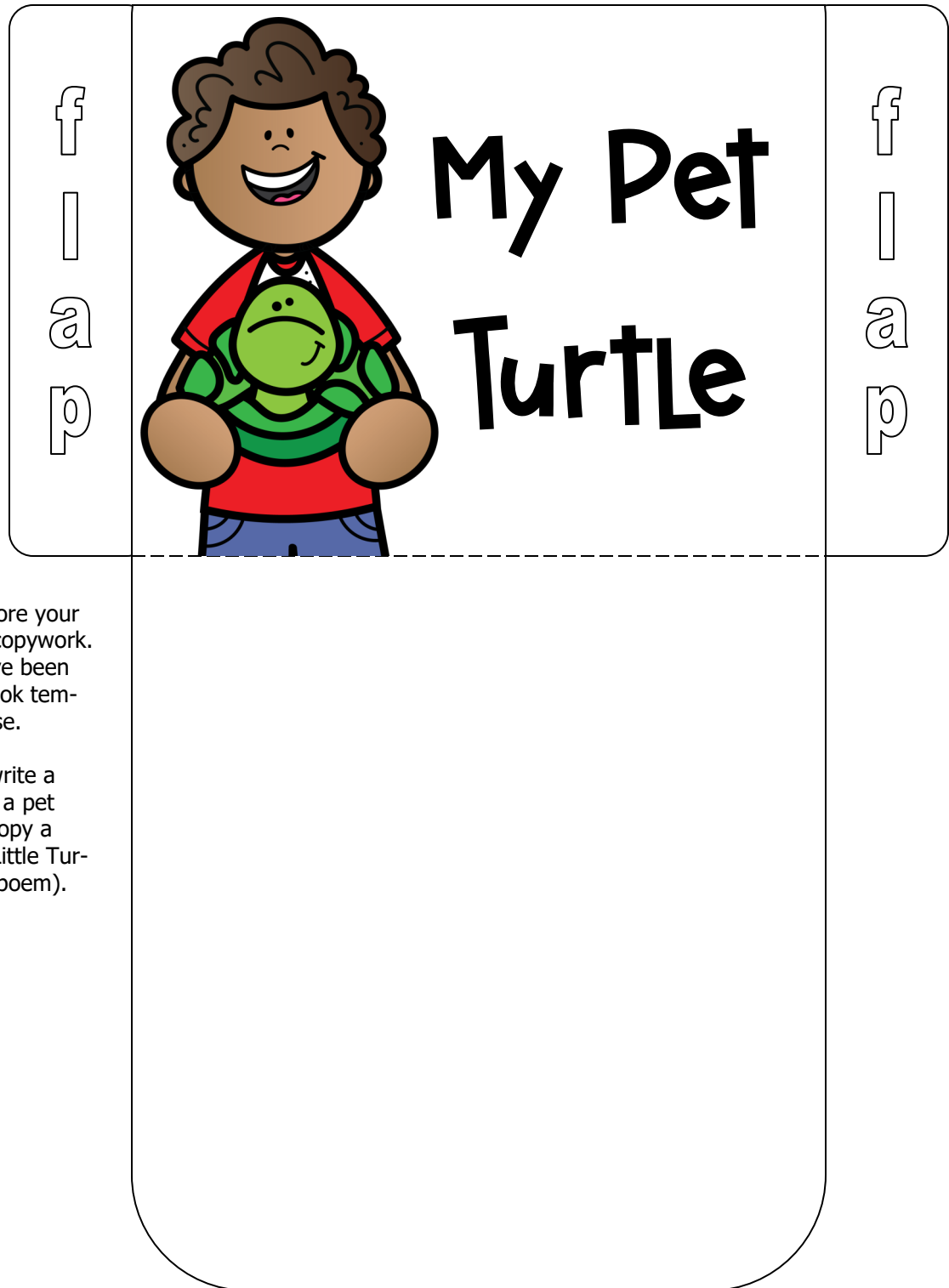
**What Is
a Turtle?**

**How Do
You Know?**

**Turtle
Classification**



Cut pocket out as one piece. Fold back up. Wrap flaps around the back and glue down.



Use this pocket to store your student's writing or copywork. Stationary pages have been included in the lapbook templates for this purpose.

Your student could write a story about "If I had a pet turtle," or he could copy a poem such as "The Little Turtle" (see lessons for poem).

Cut pocket out as one piece. Fold back up. Wrap flaps around the back and glue down.



Use this pocket to store your student's writing or copywork. Stationery pages have been included in the lapbook templates for this purpose.

Your student could write a story about a pet turtle, or he could copy a poem such as "The Little Turtle" (see lessons for poem).

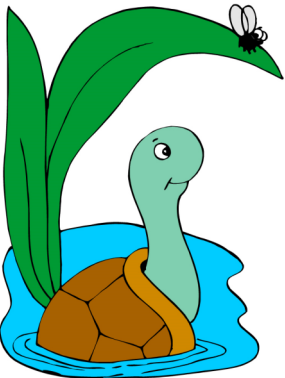


Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dotted midline. There are ten sets of these lines arranged vertically across the page.



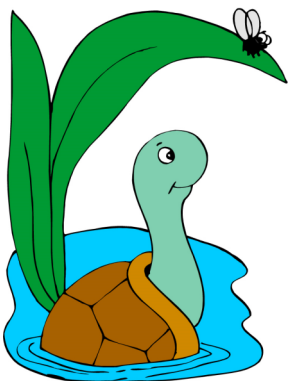
Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dotted midline, located to the right of the boy illustration.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dotted, bottom solid) for tracing and writing practice.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dotted, bottom solid) for tracing and writing practice.

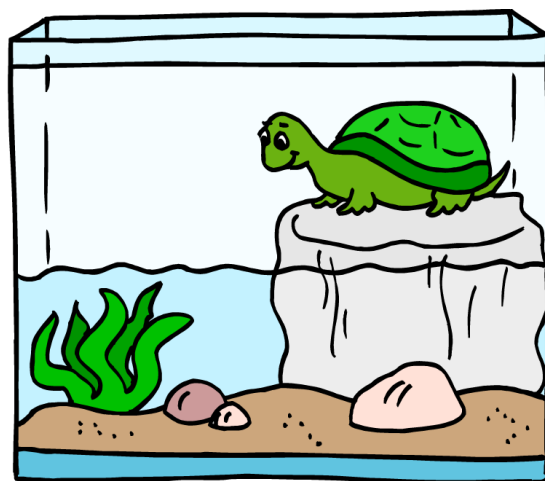
Handwriting practice lines consisting of 10 sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, and bottom lines) for writing practice.

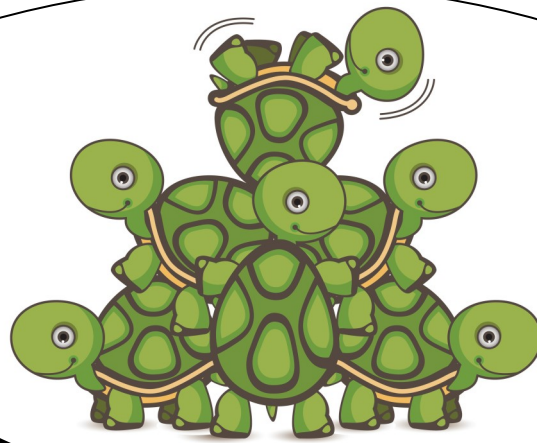


Handwriting practice lines consisting of 4 sets of three horizontal lines (top, middle, and bottom lines) for writing practice.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dotted midline. There are ten sets of these lines arranged vertically across the page.





Turtle Tracking

Date: _____ Place: _____

Type of Turtle: _____

My Observations:

Date: _____ Place: _____

Type of Turtle: _____

My Observations:

Cut shapes out. Complete information. Stack together with cover on top and secure with brad as indicated on cover.

Date: _____ Place: _____

Type of Turtle: _____

My Observations:

Date: _____ Place: _____

Type of Turtle: _____

My Observations:

Date: _____ Place: _____

Type of Turtle: _____

My Observations:

Cut shapes out. Complete information. Stack together with cover on top and secure with brad as indicated on cover.

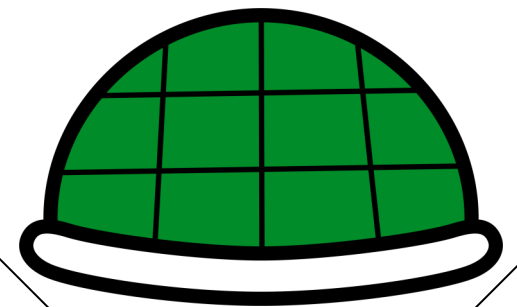
Cut out book as one piece. Fold on dotted lines (in thirds with cover on front). Let your student write in the three reasons why turtles have shells. A younger student can cut and paste the information if writing is too burdensome.

The shell protects the turtle from the sun.

The colors on the shell provide camouflage to protect from predators.

The shell provides a place for the turtle to hide in times of danger.

**Why
Do Turtles
Have Shells?**

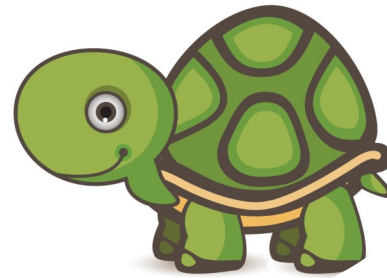


Cut out book as one piece. Fold right side under. Fold left side under. Fold book in half ("We are Family!" is your cover). Write facts about sea turtles and tortoises under the flaps. Your older student may want to write information that compares and contrasts with what he knows about fresh water turtles.

Tortoises

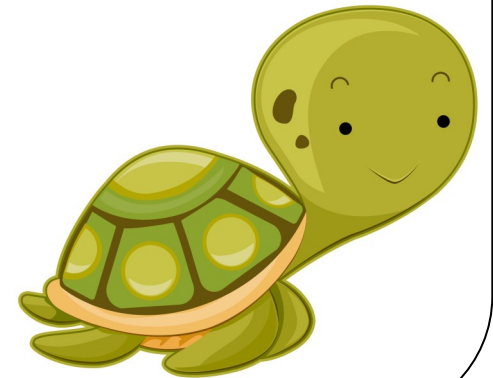


We Are Family



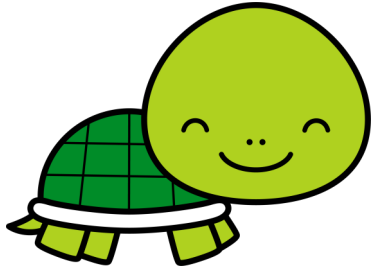
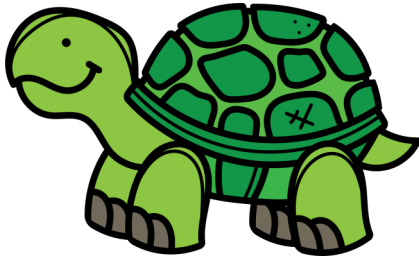
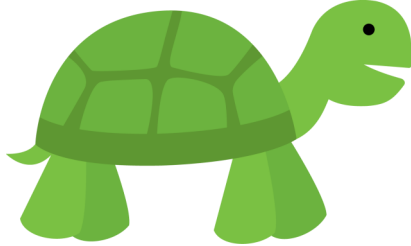
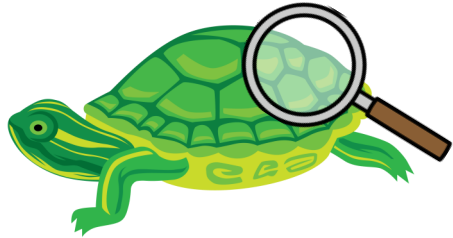
**Turtle
Relatives**

Sea Turtles



Cut out book as one piece. Fold left side under. Fold right side under (it is the cover).
Unfold book. Cut on the two lines between the names to form three flaps.

What is a webbed foot?		<h1>Turtle Toes</h1> 
Why do turtles have webbed feet?		
Do all freshwater turtles have webbed feet?		

Baby Turtle, Beware!	Life Span	A Day in the Life	Finding Turtles
			

Cut on solid black lines. Fold books (four total) matchbook style.

Baby Turtle, Beware!: write names of predators inside

Life Span: write how long a freshwater turtle lives inside

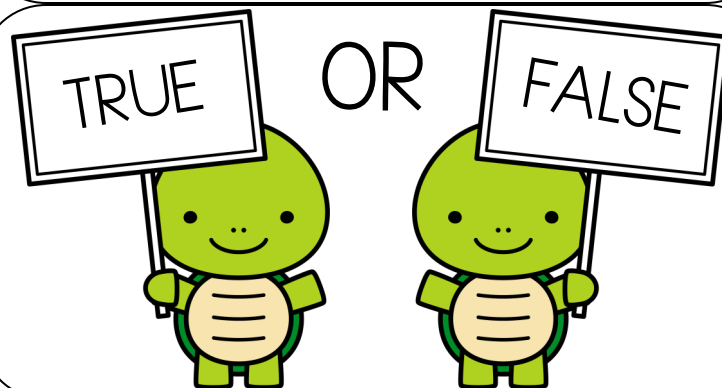
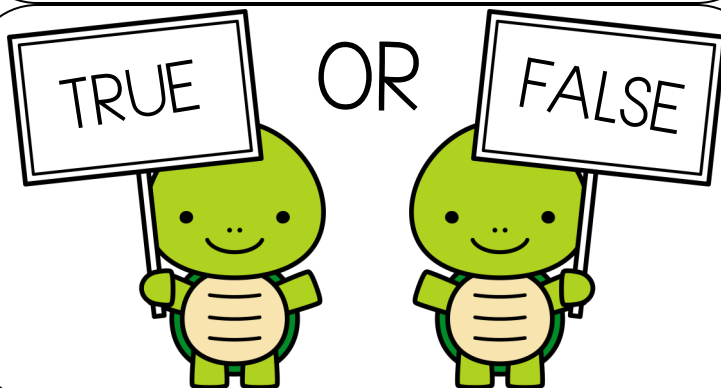
A Day in the Life of a Turtle: write about what freshwater turtles do all day long :)

Finding Turtles: write about where freshwater turtles can be found

Cut each book out as one piece (two total). Fold tri-fold style. Write the truth under the flap with the statement.

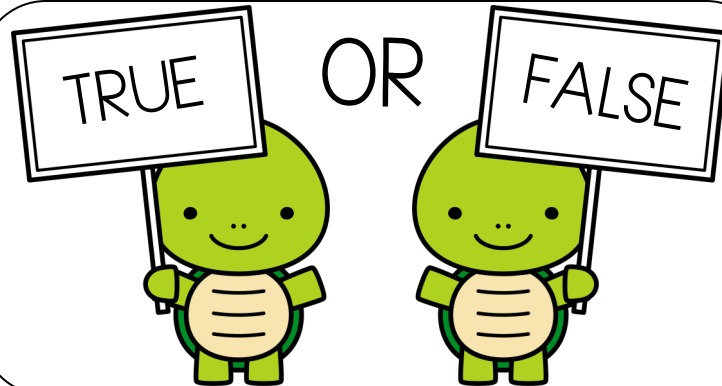
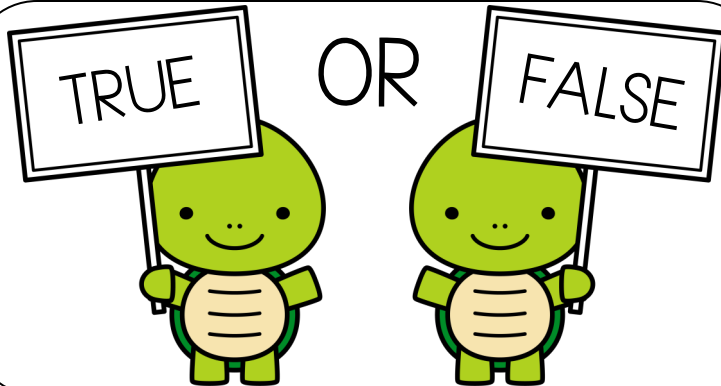
Turtles take good care
of their eggs and babies.

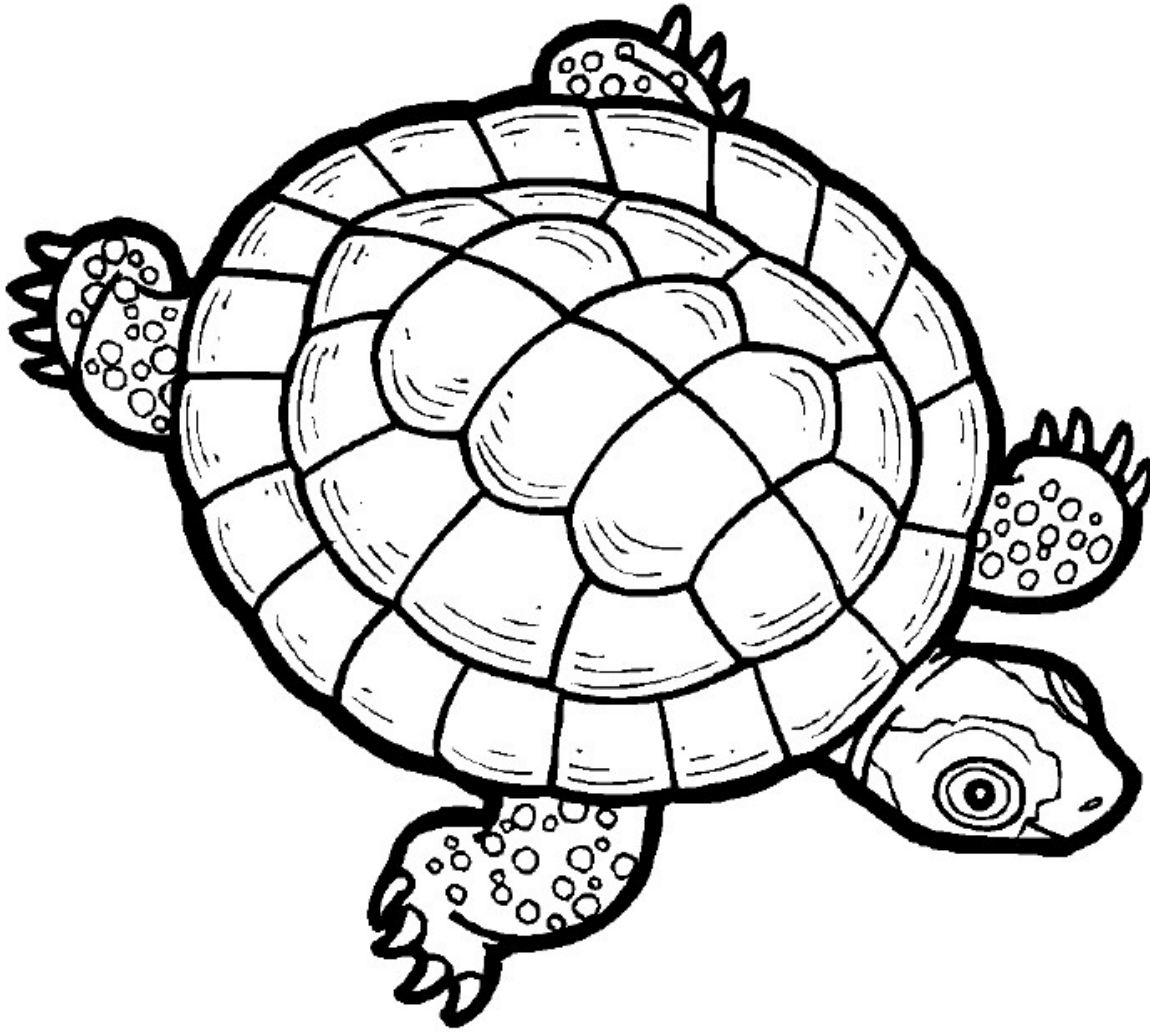
Turtles don't have teeth.



A snapping turtle would
make a fun pet.

Turtles don't have ears.





Let your student choose a freshwater turtle to report on.

Color turtle if desired (or print on colored paper).

Cut out turtle shape (this is your front cover). Cut out shapes on next page. On the "Turtle Report" page, have your student write the name of the species he has chosen to report on. Paste a photo of the turtle on that page.

Fill out information. Cut out turtle shape on last page and fill out (this is your back cover). Stack shapes and covers together and staple.

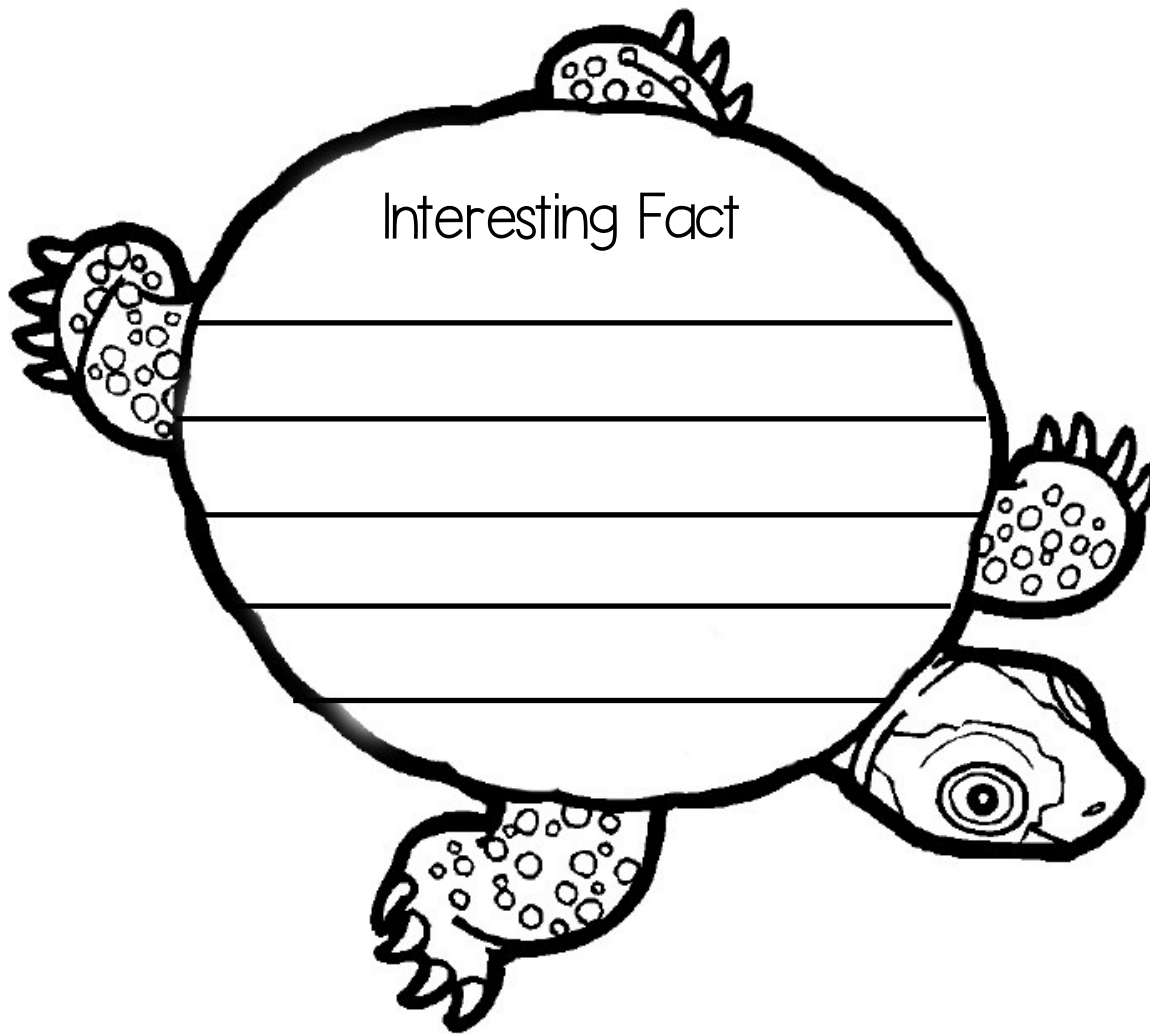
TURTLE REPORT

Paste
Photo
Here

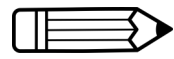
What It Looks Like

Where to Find It

What It Eats



Label the following on the turtle.



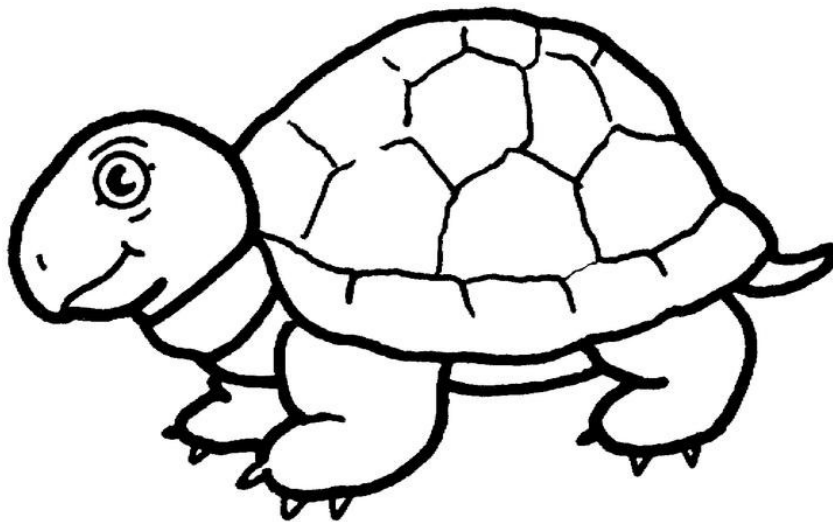
Carapace

Plastron

Scute

Pointed Tail

Claws



Cut book out as one piece. Label turtle. Fold in half. Cut and paste cover piece to the front of the book, if desired (or have your student create their own cover).

Turtle Diagram

