

Turtles and tortoises



A tortoise

Turtles and tortoises are reptiles. Reptiles have scales, breathe air and lay eggs. They are also cold-blooded, which means their body is the same temperature as the air or water around them. Turtles and tortoises are mostly found in warm to hot areas of the world.

Turtles and tortoises are the only reptiles to have a shell. Many of them can pull their head, legs and tail inside

their shell to protect themselves from enemies. Turtles usually have a flattish shell and tortoises a dome shaped one.

While turtles spend most of their life in water, tortoises spend their life on land. Turtles have long legs and webbed feet to help them swim. Tortoises have short, stumpy legs with toed feet.

Most turtles and tortoises eat both plants and meat. They do not have teeth, but they have a kind of beak for biting.

Female turtles as well as tortoises lay eggs on land and bury them in soil or sand. The females, however, only lay their eggs; they do not look after them. After some time their eggs hatch, and the tiny ones or hatchlings emerge.



A turtle

Questions:

Write "Yes" or "No" in the chart and use it to choose the correct answer the questions below.

	Dome-shaped shells	Flattish shells	Long legs	Short, stumpy legs	Live mostly in water	Live on land	Toed feet	Webbed feet
Most turtles								
Most tortoises								

1. Turtles live _____ and tortoises live _____
2. Turtles have _____ shells and tortoises have _____ shells.
3. Turtles have _____ legs and tortoises have _____ legs.
4. Turtles have _____ feet and tortoises have _____ feet.

