

# Turtles, Tortoises, & Terrapins Lapbook



L-TTT

Written &  
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Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins Lapbook  
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ISBN #

Ebook: 978-1-61625-681-4  
CD: 978-1-61625-679-1  
Printed: 978-1-61625-680-7  
Assembled: 978-1-61625-682-1



Publisher: Knowledge Box Central  
<http://www.knowledgeboxcentral.com>

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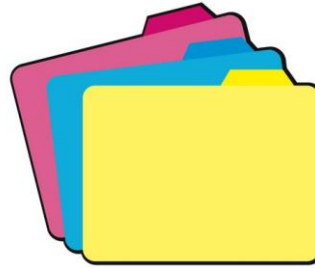
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Special thanks to Nicole D. Harless, MBA. She is the author of the Study Guide that is included in this product. The Study Guide is being used with her permission and is now owned by Knowledge Box Central.

# How do I get started?

First, you will want to gather your supplies.



## \*\*\* Assembly:

**\*Folders:** We use colored file folders, which can be found at Walmart, Sam's, Office Depot, Costco, etc. You will need between 1 and 4 file folders, depending on which product you have purchased. You may use manila folders if you prefer, but we have found that children respond better with the brightly colored folders. Don't worry about the tabs...they aren't important. Within this product, you will be given easy, step-by-step instructions for how to fold and assemble these folders. *If you prefer, you can purchase the assembled lapbook bases from our website.*

**\*Glue:** For the folder assembly, we use hot glue. For booklet assembly, we use glue sticks and sometimes hot glue, depending on the specific booklet. We have found that bottle glue stays wet for too long, so it's not a great choice for lapbooking. For gluing the folders together, we suggest using hot glue, but **ONLY** with adult supervision. These things get **SUPER** hot, and can cause **SEVERE** burns within seconds.



**\*Other Supplies:** Of course, you will need scissors. Many booklets require additional supplies. Some of these include metal brad fasteners, paper clips, ribbon, yarn, staples, hole puncher, etc.



You may want to add decorations of your own, including stickers, buttons, coloring pages, cut-out clipart, etc. Sometimes, we even use scrapbooking supplies. The most important thing is to use your imagination! Make it your own!!



## **Ok. I've gathered the supplies. Now how do I use this product?**

Inside, you will find several sections. They are as follows:

1. **Layout and Pictures:** This section gives instructions and diagrams that will tell the student exactly how to assemble the lapbook base and where to glue each booklet into the base. Depending on the student's age, he or she may need assistance with this process, especially if you choose to allow the student to use hot glue.

2. **Student Instruction Guide:** This section is written directly to the student, in language that he or she can understand. However, depending on the age of the child, there may be some parent/teacher assistance needed. This section will also tell the student exactly what should be written inside each booklet as he or she comes to it during the study, as well as telling the student which folder each booklet will be glued into.

3. **Booklet Templates:** This section includes ALL of the templates for the booklets. These have been printed on colors that will help to improve retention of the information presented, according to scientific research on color psychology.

# Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins Lapbook

## Layout & Pictures

You will need 2 folders of any color. For each folder, you will fold both sides toward the original middle fold and make firm creases on these folds (Figure 1). Then glue the folders together along one flap (Figure 2).

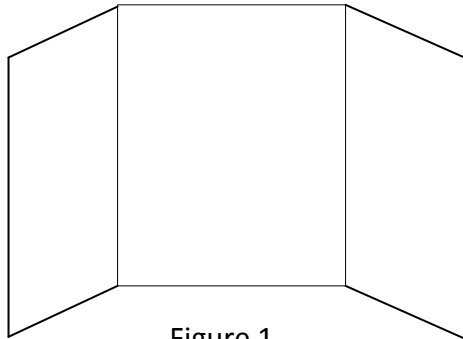


Figure 1

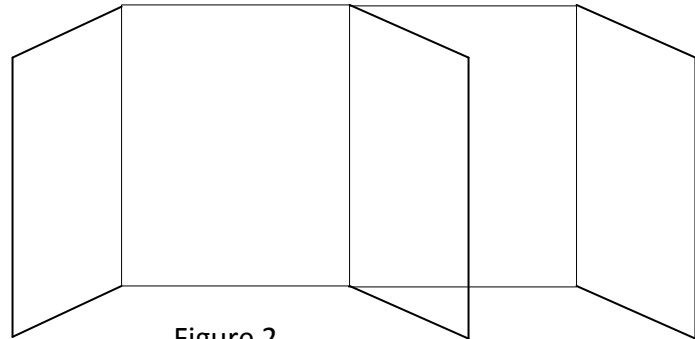
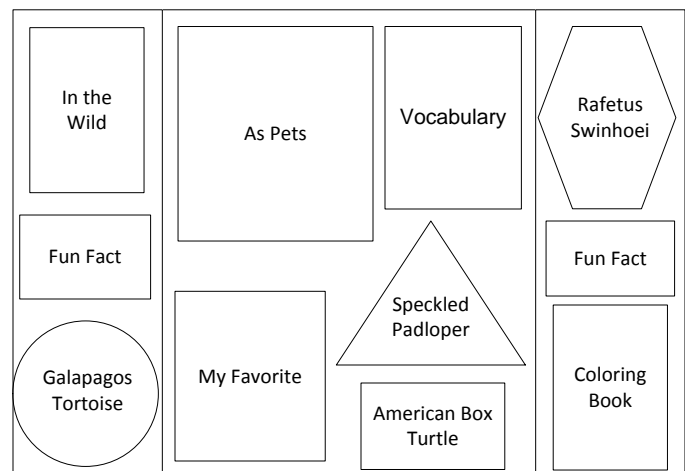
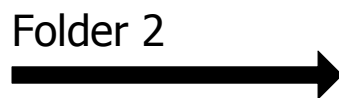
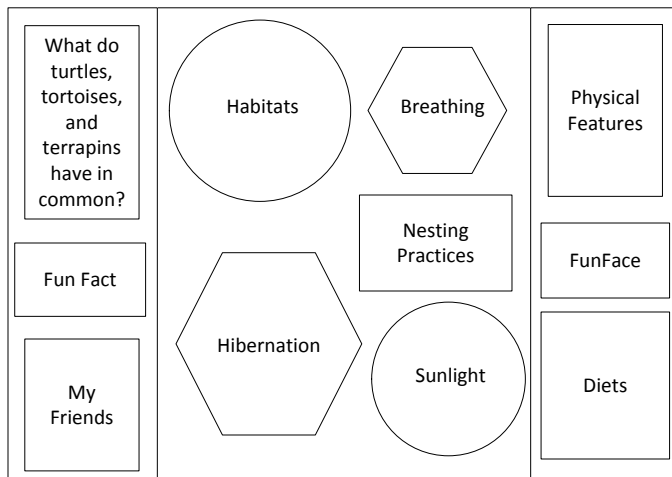
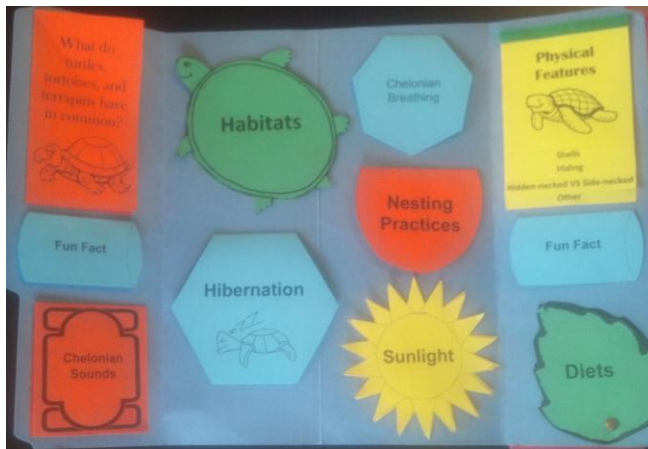
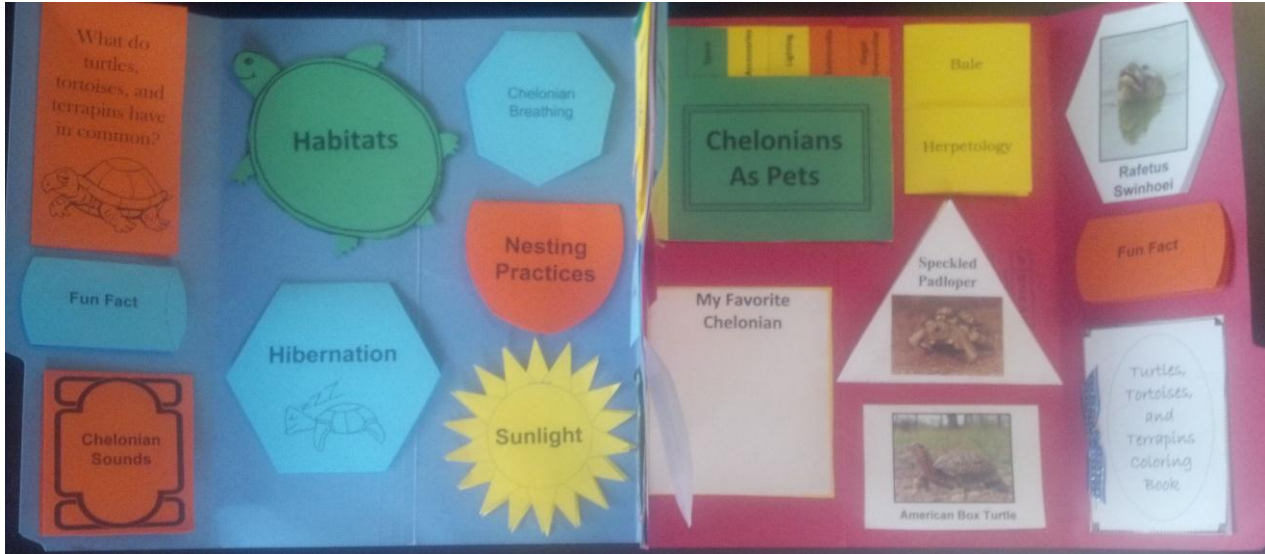


Figure 2

This is the "Layout" for your lapbook. The shapes are not exact on the layout, but you will get the idea of where each booklet should go inside your lapbook.



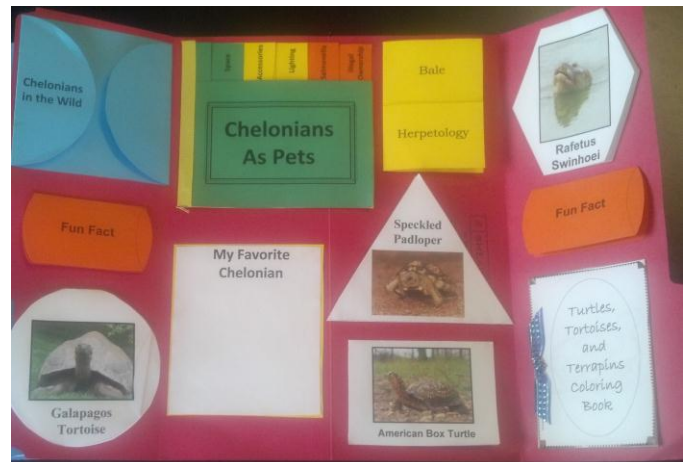
Below is a picture of a completed lapbook!!! This should help in figuring out how to assemble the booklets and then how to put it all together!



Folder 2



Folder 1



# Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins Lapbook

## Student Instruction Guide

### **Booklet 1: What Do Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins Have in Common?**

**Assembly Instructions:** Cut out along the outer black line edges of the booklet. Tri-fold like a brochure so that the title is on the front.

**Completion Instructions:** Turtle, tortoise, and terrapin are words that are often interchangeable. They all have several things in common. Explain this inside the booklet.

### **Booklet 2: Habitats**

**Assembly Instructions:** Cut out along the outer black line edges of each page of the booklet. Stack so that the title is on top. Secure along the top with a staple.

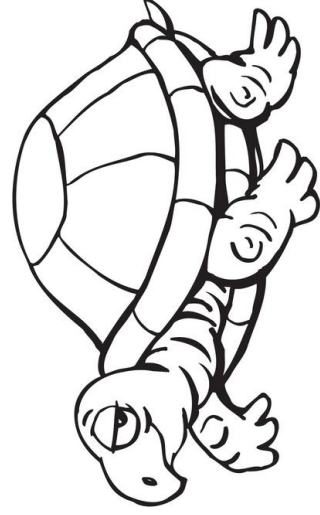
**Completion Instructions:** Inside this booklet, tell about the different habitats of each type of Chelonian.

### **Booklet 3: Physical Features**

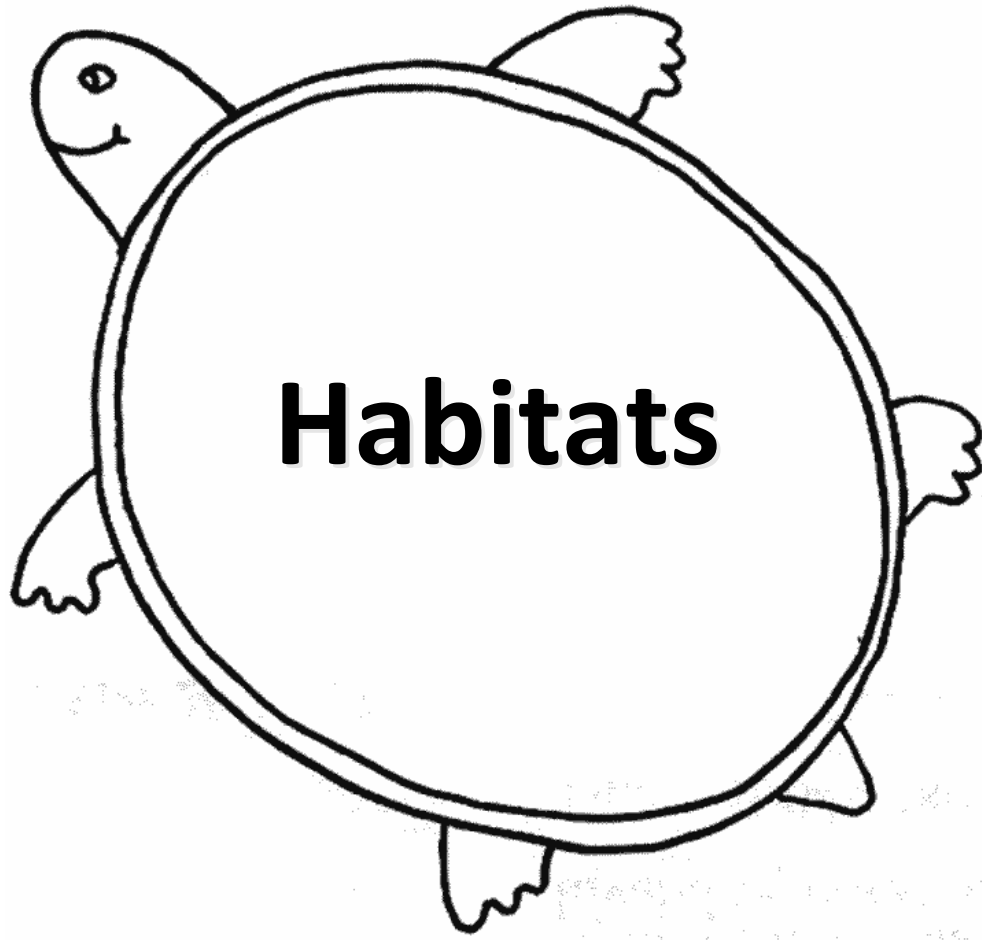
**Assembly Instructions:** Cut out along the outer black line edges of each page. Stack the pages so that the title is on top, and each page gets longer toward the back. Along the top of the stack, secure with staples. You may also choose to punch holes and secure with metal brad fasteners or ribbon.

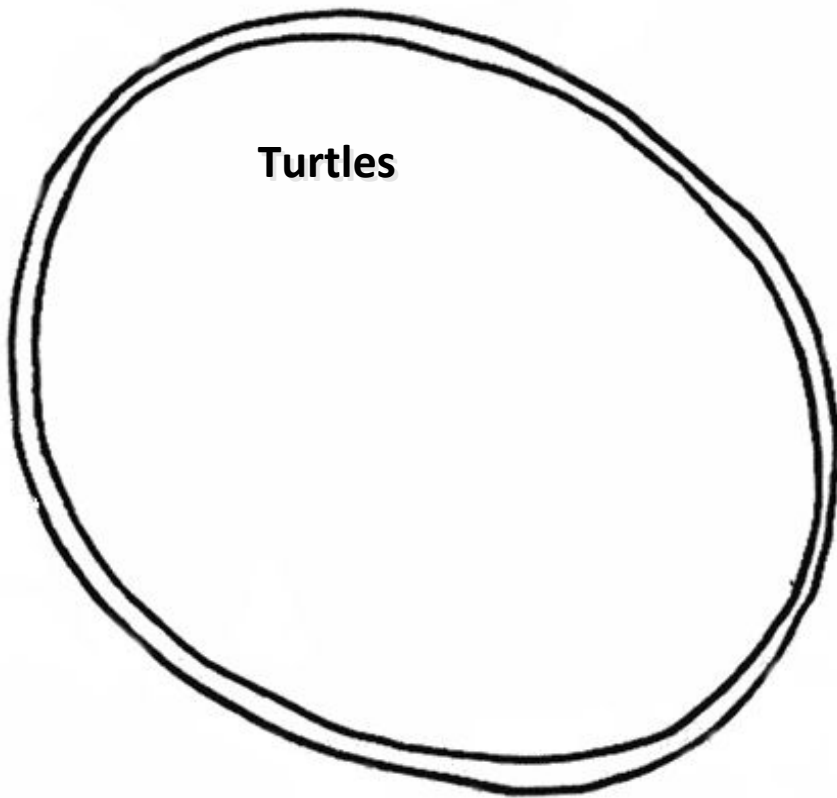
**Completion Instructions:** Inside this booklet, tell about the physical features that separate these Chelonians from one another. Tell about their shells, hiding, necks, and other characteristics.

What do  
turtles,  
tortoises, and  
terrapins have  
in common?

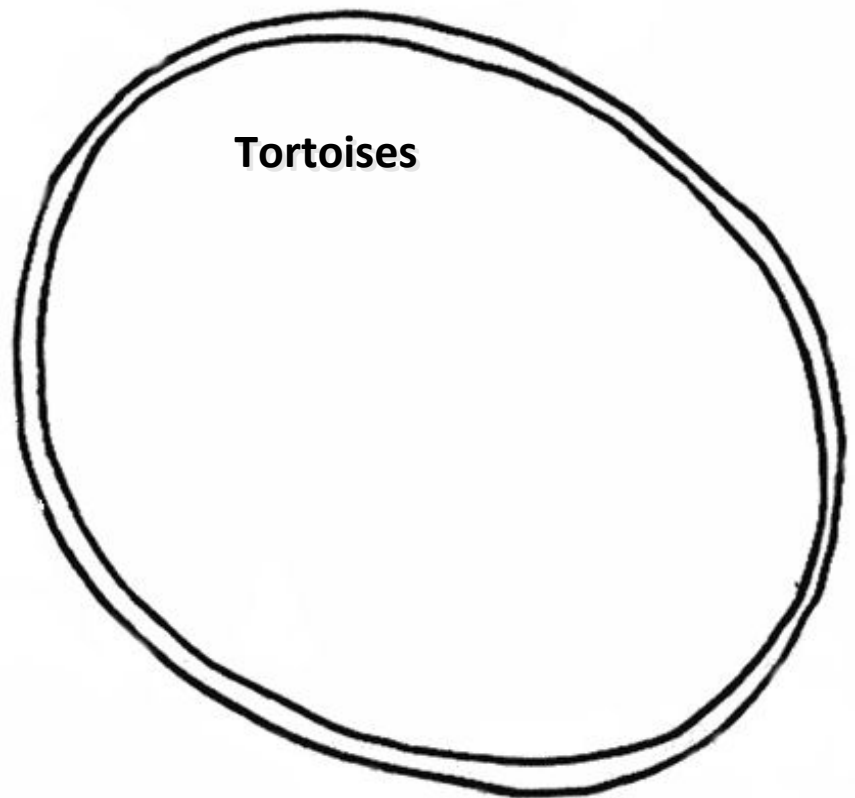




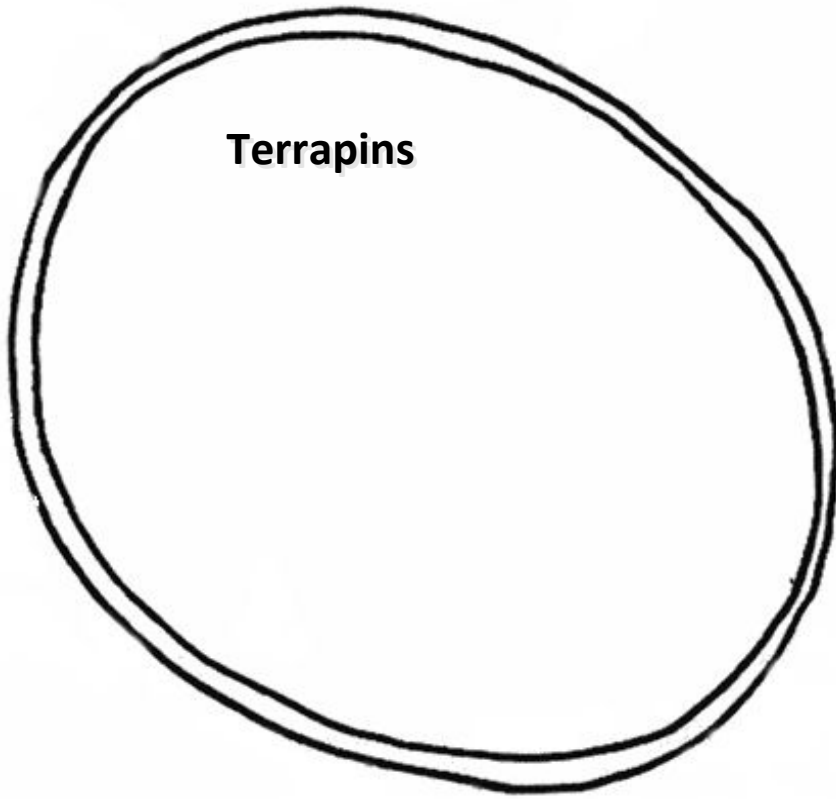




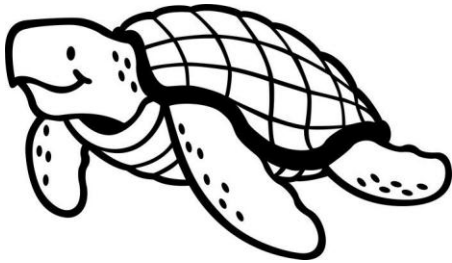
**Turtles**



**Tortoises**



# Physical Features



**Shells**

**Hiding**

**Hidden-necked VS Side-necked**

**Other**



# Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins Lapbook Study Guide

Turtles, tortoises, and terrapins are words that are often utilized interchangeably. They do have a lot in common. First, they are all reptiles. This means that they are all “cold-blooded”, or ectothermic. What this means is that they cannot regulate their own body heat and must depend upon their environment to stay at the correct temperature that their bodies require. Also, since they are reptiles, they have scales and lay eggs. Turtles, tortoises, and terrapins all require oxygen to breathe. Some can remain under water for longer periods than others before coming up for another breath.

Scientists often refer to turtles, tortoises, and terrapins as Chelonians. This is derived from their being in the taxonomic order of the Chelonia (kə'lōnēə); which is Greek for tortoise. There are almost 300 different Chelonian species in existence today.

*So, why are there three different names for Chelonians? What separates a turtle from a tortoise from a terrapin?*

Well, let's start with their habitats and corresponding physical characteristics that help them to survive. Keep in mind that, with the extensive number of Chelonians in existence, there are exceptions to these characteristics.

## **Habitats**

### **Turtles**

Turtles are what most people think of when they discuss Chelonians. They spend a lot of time in the water, and they have webbed feet to help them do the hours of swimming that they conduct during their lifetimes. Turtles live in both fresh water and salt water. Some turtles, such as sea turtles, never leave the water other than when the females lay eggs on the shore. Turtles can live on land, in fresh water, or salt water.

### **Tortoises**

Tortoises are different than turtles. They do not spend hours in the water, nor do they have webbed feet. Their feet are actually stumpy, perfect for walking on land. Most tortoises do not live in wet climates, but instead they live in hot, dry habitats. Since they do not stay in the water and must live somewhere, they burrow. Their stumpy feet actually come in handy for digging these burrows. The burrows work to protect them from when their habitat becomes too hot. They can stay cool underground.

### **Terrapins**

Terrapins are in between turtles and tortoises in their characteristics. They like swimming, but they also like being on land. You will always find them near a water source, such as a river, lake, and often a swampy area. A majority of household pet Chelonians are actually terrapins. Terrapins live in fresh water or brackish water, which is a term used for semi-salty waterways.

## **Physical Characteristics**

Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins have different habitat requirements and respective physical characteristics.

## **Shells**

A Chelonian's shell is actually two separate sections: upper and lower. The upper, or top, shell is also called a carapace. The lower, or bottom, shell is called a plastron. The plates that make up the shell are referred to as scutee and are made up of keratin. Keratin is the fundamental component of our hair and nails.

There are two layers of skeleton for a Chelonian. The first is an outer layer, an exoskeleton, the shell. The second is an inner layer, an endoskeleton. This layer includes the reptile's bones, such as backbone and ribs. The exoskeleton and endoskeleton are fused together. A turtle cannot leave its shell during its lifetime. There are nerve endings throughout a Chelonian's shell; therefore they can feel pain even if they cannot vocalize it.

## **Hiding**

There are many Chelonians that can hide in their shells, pulling in all four legs their head. This is a move that is conducted to hide from predators. Some Chelonians are even equipped with a hinge across their shell so that when they curl up inside for protection, their shell actually closes more securely. The most popular examples of these are the box turtle and the hinge-back tortoise.

## **Hidden-necked versus Side-necked**

The ability for a Chelonian to retract its head into its shell is divided into two categories: hidden-necked and side-necked.

The hidden-necked turtles (Cryptodira) account for over 200 species. They retract their neck inwardly, curving in an S shape along the spine. This also causes the skin around their necks to bunch up, leading to the term "turtle neck".

Additionally, their carapace and plastron are rounded.

The side-necked turtles (Pleurodira) include approximately 75 species. Instead of retracting their heads inside their shells, these turtles merely slide their neck to the side, holding under the edge of the shell and bending along the axis of the spine.