



Turtle or tortoise?

- If you came across a turtle or a tortoise, would you be able to tell the difference? They both have a shell on their back and look very similar. So how would you know?

	TURTLE	TORTOISE
Illustration		
What type of animal is it?	A turtle is a reptile. It has scales, breathes air and lays eggs. It is also cold-blooded which means its body is the same temperature as the air around it.	A tortoise is a reptile. It has scales, breathes air and lays eggs. It is also cold-blooded which means its body is the same temperature as the air around it.
Habitat	A turtle lives mostly in warm to hot areas of the world. It spends most of its life in the water—some live in the ocean and others live in water on land; e.g. lake, pond.	A tortoise lives mostly in warm to hot areas of the world. It spends all its life on land.
Characteristics	A turtle has a flattish shell. Many turtles can pull their head, legs and tail inside their shell to protect themselves from enemies. A turtle has long legs and webbed feet to help it swim quickly and smoothly. A turtle that lives in the ocean can also have flippers.	A tortoise usually has a large, heavy dome-shaped shell. Many tortoises can pull their head, legs and tail inside their shell to protect themselves from enemies. A tortoise has short, stumpy, bent legs with toed feet that help it move steadily across the land.
What and how does it eat?	Most adult turtles eat both plants and meat. A turtle does not have teeth, but has a kind of beak it uses for biting.	Most adult tortoises eat only plants. A tortoise does not have teeth, but sticks its tongue out to grab food.
Facts about its young	A female turtle lays eggs on land and buries them in soil or sand. When the female has laid her eggs, she doesn't look after them. After the eggs hatch, the tiny turtles, called hatchlings, must look after themselves.	A female tortoise lays eggs on land and buries them in soil or sand. When the female has laid her eggs, she doesn't look after them. After the eggs hatch, the tiny tortoises, called hatchlings, must look after themselves.
Life span	Generally live between 20 and 40 years	Generally live between 70 and 150 years

Comprehension

1. The word **steadily** under **Tortoise** in the **Characteristics** section of the table means:
- (a) slowly and carefully
 - (b) quickly and loudly
 - (c) swiftly and lightly
2. This text was written to give:
- (a) instructions
 - (b) information
 - (c) an opinion
3. The main idea of the **Characteristics** section is to explain:
- (a) how turtles and tortoises move.
 - (b) some features of turtles and tortoises.
 - (c) the differences between their shells.
4. One way turtles and tortoises are the same is because they:
- (a) have stumpy legs
 - (b) don't have teeth
 - (c) live in the ocean
5. Which body feature would tell you an animal was a turtle and not a tortoise?
- (a) flippers
 - (b) toed feet
 - (c) dome-shaped shell
6. You can conclude that a tortoise moves slower than a turtle because it:
- (a) has a heavy shell.
 - (b) lives on land.
 - (c) has short, stumpy legs and moves steadily.
7. Which sentence best summarises what this text is about?
- (a) Turtles and tortoises are reptiles that have shells.
 - (b) There are similarities and differences between turtles and tortoises.
 - (c) Turtles live in water and tortoises live on land.
8. If you had a turtle and a tortoise as pets, you would most probably find that:
- (a) they would both live the same amount of time.
 - (b) the turtle would live longer.
 - (c) the tortoise would live longer.
9. The effect of having flippers means a turtle can more easily ...
- (a) swim
 - (b) eat
 - (c) breathe
10. What happens first?
- Female turtles and tortoises:
- (a) leave their hatchlings to look after themselves
 - (b) bury their eggs in sand or soil
 - (c) lay their eggs



All about words

1. The word **Characteristics** in bold print in the table means:

- (a) features
- (b) changes
- (c) facts

2. Which word has two syllables?

- (a) enemies
- (b) usually
- (c) smoothly

3. The word **webbed** follows the spelling rule: double the consonant to keep the vowel sound short. Which word also follows this rule?

- (a) look
- (b) flippers
- (c) smoothly

4. Which homophone will make this sentence correct?

A shell helps protect turtles and tortoises from enemies.

- (a) there
- (b) they're
- (c) their

5. Which word is an antonym (opposite) for **straight**?

- (a) bent
- (b) flattish
- (c) smoothly

6. Which word does not belong in this group of words?

legs flippers head tail beak

- (a) eggs
- (b) teeth
- (c) feet

7. Which sentence is spelt correctly?

- (a) A reptile has scales, lays eggs, is cold-blooded and breathes air.
- (b) A reptille has skales, lays eggs, is cold-blooded and breaths air.
- (c) A reptile has scales, lays eggs, is cold-blooded and breaths air.

8. Say all these words to work out which one does not belong in the group.

mostly ocean toed

- (a) dome
- (b) know
- (c) body

9. Which letter has been missed out in the contraction **doesn't**?

- (a) o
- (b) i
- (c) e

10. The word **stumpy** means:

- (a) long and bent
- (b) thick and short
- (c) short and smooth

