Turtles



Can you imagine carrying your house around on your back? That is what the turtle does. Unlike you or me, turtles carry their homes with them everywhere. A scared turtle pulls its arms and legs, even its head, into its shell. This shell is tough and keeps the turtle safe. The shell also makes the turtle move very slowly. In fact, the shell has 60 bones. This includes the turtle's ribs and spine. The turtle cannot leave its home behind.

Some of the most famous types of turtles are sea turtles. Turtles like to live near water. Sometimes they live in an ocean, others like lakes or rivers. If you have gone swimming, you know that you feel lighter in the water. Water makes turtles feel lighter too. It also keeps them cool.

There are many different types of turtles. Some live on land, like the Eastern Box Turtle. Other turtles only live in the water, like the Alligator Snapping Turtle. Scientists say that is the difference between a turtle and a tortoise. The turtle lives in the water. A tortoise lives on land close to water. But people call most animals with a shell a turtle.

Turtles also come in many sizes. The biggest turtle is the Leatherback Sea Turtle. This turtle is the fourth biggest reptile in the world. Only three types of crocodiles are bigger than this huge turtle. The Leatherback Sea Turtle lives in the ocean. This turtle is not like the other turtles. The Leatherback Sea Turtle lives all over the world. This means that they swim through all of our oceans. Also, the shell on this huge turtle is not hard. That is why it is called a leatherback. The smallest turtle is the Speckled Padloper Tortoise. This tiny turtle is the size of a dollar bill. They live only in a small area of South Africa.

Turtles come in different shapes and sizes. They can be long or short. They can have hard shells or soft shells. They live in the water and on land. And they can live almost anywhere. Being a turtle must be fun.

Questions

1. Why did the author write "Turtles?"

   A to teach you about turtles
   B to convince the reader that the turtle is the best animal
   C to persuade the reader to save the turtle
   D to tell a story

2. The MAIN reason the author wrote paragraph 3 was

   A to describe the different bodies of water in which turtles can be found
   B to explain the difference between turtles and tortoises
   C to teach the reader about the Alligator Snapping Turtle
   D to inform the reader about tortoises

3. What is the smallest turtle?

   A The Alligator Snapping Turtle
   B The Speckled Padloper Tortoise
   C The Leatherback Sea Turtle
   D The Eastern Box Turtle

4. Which is the BEST summary for this article?

   A The tortoise is a land dwelling animal. The turtle lives in the water. Both of them have a shell they carry with them.
   B The turtle has a shell it carries with it. They live in different bodies of water. Unlike the turtle, the tortoise lives on land. Turtles come in many sizes.
   C The turtle's shell contains 60 bones. It protects the turtle and goes everywhere with it. There are many types of turtles.
   D Turtles can be found in many different places. Some live in water and others live on land. Tortoises live on land, but are often called turtles.

5. Why do you think a scared turtle pulls its arms, legs, and head into its shell?

   A to surprise its enemy
   B to warm itself
   C to protect itself
   D to pretend it is dead

6. How many bones does a turtle's shell contain?

A 60
B 50
C 4
D 45

7. Why does a turtle move so slowly?

A The shell is large and heavy.
B The turtle does not have lungs.
C The turtle does not have a spine.
D The turtle is lazy.

8. What is one way in which the Leatherback Sea Turtle is DIFFERENT from all other turtles?

A It can be found all over the world.
B It lays eggs on land.
C It swims in the ocean.
D It sleeps during the day and searches for food at night.

9. What is the DIFFERENCE between a turtle and a tortoise?

A Turtles are smaller than tortoises.
B Turtles are green and tortoises are brown.
C Turtles live in the ocean and tortoises live in lakes and rivers.
D Turtles live in the water and tortoises live on land near the water.

10. Read these sentences from the story. "A scared turtle pulls its arms and legs, even its head, into its shell. This shell is tough and keeps the turtle safe. " What does the word tough mean?

A huge
B strong
C weak
D large