

There if it is warm
outside they



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There is only one type of group in reptiles that have shells.

They are turtles. A turtle's shell is part of their skeleton. They do have a skeleton inside their body as well but they wear part on the outside. Turtles are cold blooded like all reptiles. That means if it is warm outside they are cold. And if it's cold outside they are cold. But if it gets too cold for them outside they might not be able to move.

Turtles can live anywhere as long as it's not cold all day. They can live in deserts, green forests, grasslands, mountains, marshes, swamps and much much more. They can also go into water. Turtles can go into fresh water like lakes, ponds and rivers. But sea turtles can only go into salt water. There is 7 species of turtles that live in the ocean. The sea turtle can only be found in the Gulf of Mexico, and sections of the Atlantic Ocean. A shell is made up of hard plates. It is so tough that a shark can't bite through it. A sea turtle has a shell on its stomach. It is called a plastron. And the shell on its back is called a carapace. On some turtles, there are scales that cover sections of a turtle's body. On the shell there are openings for a turtle to fit through. There are openings for its head, tail, and legs. Their feet are shaped like long paddles, they are called flippers. Sea turtles do not have teeth, but they do have sharp ridges and bumps to help them cut up food. Sea turtles eat meat and some plants. A sea turtle will most likely eat plants that have ridges that are pointy and sharp. Those types of plants help a turtle cut up its food. If some sea turtles eat meat, they will most likely feed on small animals. A sea turtle that does eat mostly plants has a jaw shaped like the edge of a saw. Their jaw helps them rip up plants. Turtles that eat mostly meat have jaws as sharp as knives. Those types of jaws are very strong. A sea turtle's senses are very strong. Their

strongest sense is their sense of smell Their sense of smell is so strong that it is better than a dogs Their good sense of smell is useful for finding meal They also have a really good sense of hearing too Their eardrums are covered by a layer of skin, so you cannot see them Their eardrums are so strong that, they can hear low sounds just as well as humans! Their eardrums can also detect movements/vibrations Around them And with their eyesight, they can see clearly when swimming Their eyes are useful when spotting a small prey Turtles are known for being slow. But surprisingly, in water they are very fast! In fact they can zip through the water at 20 miles per hour! To go this fast, they use their front legs. Their legs are long, as well as wide and flat at the end They use their paddle like feet to help them swiftly guide through the water A turtle's shell also has a effect on it's speed It's shell is flatter and smaller than most shells A problem with its shell is that they can't pull their head and legs inside their shell That's a problem when a predator comes! They have to rely on their speedness to get away Because they are cold blooded, they have to migrate They have to stay in warm waters all year so when the temperature goes down they migrate to warm waters They could have to travel 100's, and 1000's of miles to get to warm waters, it depends where they are located at Sea turtles can migrate for different reasons. Sometimes they leave their feeding grounds to go to a nesting ground A nesting ground is where they will eventually lay their eggs Once the females lay their eggs, they migrate back to the feeding ground When migrating, sea turtles use the sun, moon, and stars to tell where they are going Sea turtles like to lay their eggs on sandy beaches All turtles lay their eggs on land A lot have sea turtles have this thing called homing instinct That means they lay their eggs at the same exact beach that they were born at Sense turtles are

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much faster under water, it's hard to lay eggs when they have to drag themselves across the beach. When looking for a spot to lay eggs, the female looks for a safe place away from high tide. Next, she digs a hole with her back feet and lays her eggs. Then she covers her eggs with sand, and heads back out to the sea. A group of eggs is called a clutch. A sea turtle can lay over 100 eggs in a clutch! And she can lay 600 clutches in a season, but most females lay around 400. A sea turtle egg has the same measurements as a ping pong ball. The shell is not brittle, it is tough and springy. The more close to the bottom it is. Over time, the sand heats up the eggs. The warmth from the sand, helps the sea turtle develop more smoothly inside the egg. About 2 months after the eggs are laid, they begin to hatch! When it is time to hatch all of the turtles climb their way out of the egg shell at the same time. Each tiny turtle is about the same as a pencil. The baby turtles only leave their nests at night. But they must hurry to get back to the water because, they are the seagulls and crabs prey! When the baby turtles reach the water, they have a long trip ahead to get to safer waters! They remain in safer waters until they are young adults. Then they return to shallow waters along the coast. They live along the coast for the rest of their lives. The first 10 years of a sea turtle's life is the most dangerous. They are small and not very fast. If they survive the first 10 years, they will live a long and happy life. They can live to be 80 or older! Sea turtles can live longer than animals/people. Turtles have been around for a long time, even when dinosaurs were alive! They are some of the world's most ancient species. When sea turtles are on land, it looks like they're crying!