

Turtles and Their Shells

Explore Environments—Earth



RESPOND to the designs you see on a turtle shell and consider the functions the shell serves. How do the shapes, colors, and patterns contribute to the turtle's survival? Why are turtle shells considered an integral part of their anatomy? Research how a turtle shell serves as armor against predators, makes these animals more buoyant, and helps regulate their temperature by absorbing and storing heat from the sun.



CREATE a sketch of a natural habitat where turtles are camouflaged as they warm their bodies on a log or crawl among reeds on the stream's bank. Add patterns and colors to the turtle shells to help them hide from predators.



CONNECT the information you learned about turtles to biomimicry, which describes how humans imitate nature's brilliant solutions. How have turtle shells inspired human-made innovations? What water sport devices and building innovations have been inspired by the warming and buoyancy characteristics of a turtle shell? What examples can you find of turtles' as well as other animals' camouflage abilities that serve as inspiration for human designers?



PRESENT your sketch to classmates and share information from your research about turtles, biomimicry, and camouflage.