

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



desert tortoise



green sea turtle



# Preview

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**A**ll tortoises are turtles. But all turtles are not tortoises.

Tortoises live on land. Some lie in shallow water or mud to cool off. But they aren't built for swimming. They have thick legs. These legs help carry their weight as they walk.

Turtles that are not tortoises often spend time in water. They have flatter and thinner shells than tortoises. This makes it easier to swim. Some even have webbed feet.

Sea turtles live in the ocean. They have

flippers. The flippers help them swim great distances. They breathe air like other turtles. They can hold their breath for many hours. They can even sleep underwater!

Female sea turtles only leave the ocean to lay eggs. Male sea turtles do not leave the ocean.

Turtles can be big or small. The smallest can weigh less than a deck of cards. The largest tortoises can weigh as much as a male African lion. The largest turtle of all, however, is the leatherback sea turtle. Some weigh as much as a polar bear!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Tortoise or Turtle?

By Guy Belleranti

1. Why did the author write this article?
  - a. to teach readers that turtles and tortoises are the same
  - b. to teach readers some of the differences between tortoises and other turtles
  - c. to convince readers that tortoises are better than other turtles
  - d. to tell an interesting story about a sea turtle laying eggs
2. Which animal probably spends more time in water?
  - a. desert tortoise
  - b. musk turtle

How do you know?



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3. Imagine you are at the beach and see a sea turtle in the sand. Your friend says it is a male. Explain how you know they are wrong.

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4. Which of the following statements is *true*?
  - a. Tortoises are larger than all other turtles.
  - b. Most turtles weigh less than a deck of cards.
  - c. The largest type of turtle can weigh as much as a polar bear.
  - d. Most tortoises weigh more than a male African lion.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Tortoise or Turtle?

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. h l a s l w o \_\_\_\_\_

**clue:** not deep

2. b e w d b e \_\_\_\_\_

**clue:** Ducks have \_\_\_\_\_ feet.



## Preview

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5. i d s t n a c s e \_\_\_\_\_

**clue:** lengths

6. e r b a h t e \_\_\_\_\_

**clue:** to bring in and let out air

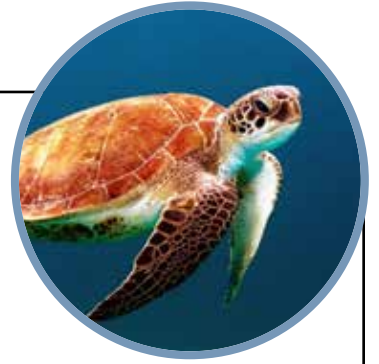
7. n u d r e a w t r e \_\_\_\_\_

**clue:** below the surface

8. r t t o o s i e s \_\_\_\_\_

**clue:** All \_\_\_\_\_ are turtles.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# Tortoise or Turtle?

In the article "Tortoise or Turtle?" you learned that sea turtles can hold their breath for many hours.

Imagine that you were magically given the ability to hold your breath and live underwater for 6 hours, or about as long as a school day. On the lines below, write a creative story about how you would spend that time.

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**Preview**  
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## ANSWER KEY

# Tortoise or Turtle?

By Guy Belleranti



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  - d. to tell an interesting story about a sea turtle laying eggs



4. Which of the following statements is *true*?
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  - b. Most turtles weigh less than a deck of cards.
  - c. The largest type of turtle can weigh as much as a polar bear.**
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# ANSWER KEY



## Tortoise or Turtle?

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. h l a s l w o

shallow

**clue:** not deep

2. h e w d h e

webbed



3. t t t o o s t e s

turtles

**clue:** All \_\_\_\_\_ are turtles.