

YOUR NEW FRIENDS

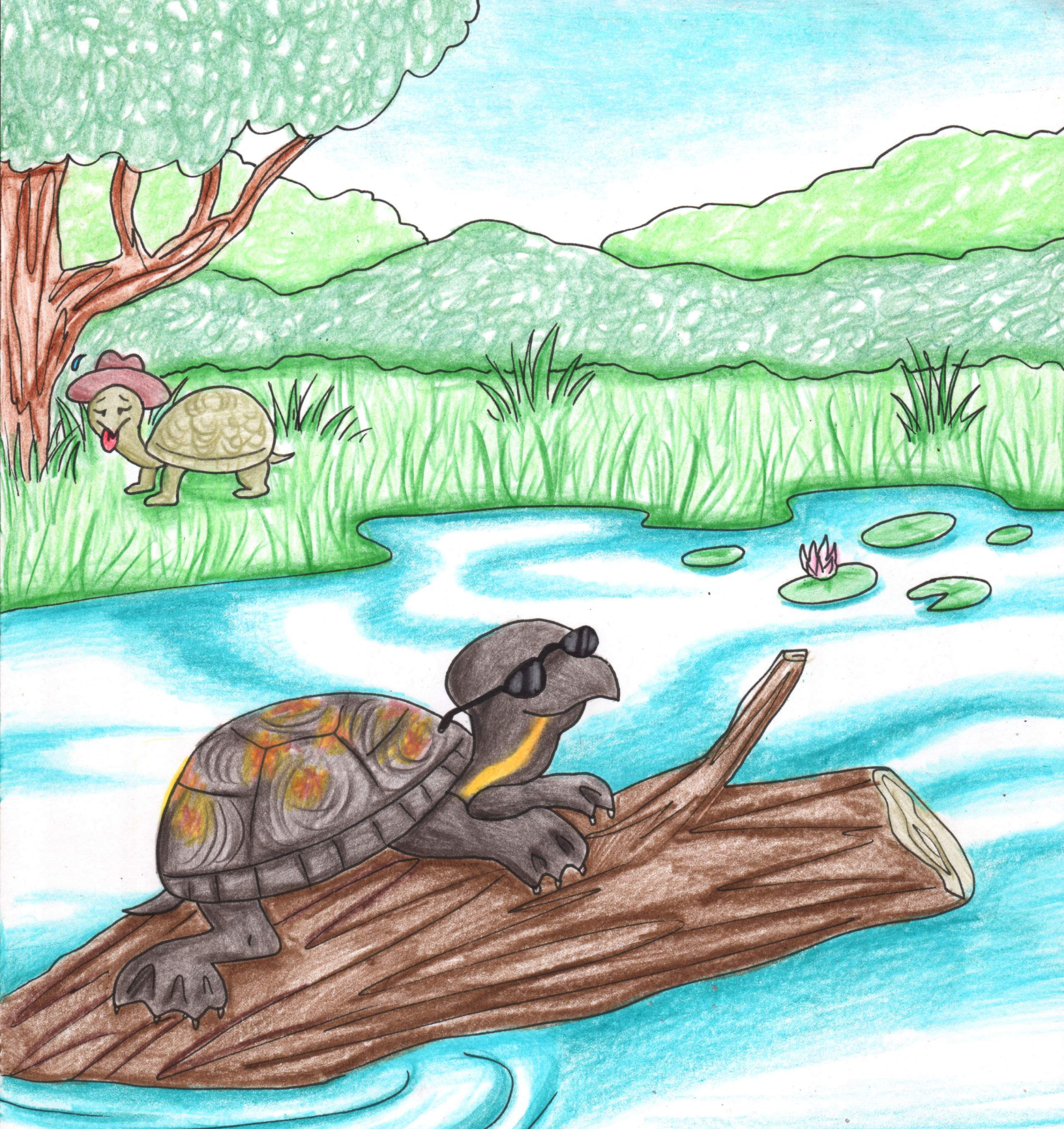
TURTLES



By Kai and Arianna Nakashima

Turtles are unique reptiles often seen at zoos, parks, and in the wild. Some species are kept as pets in aquariums or gardens.





Because they are reptiles, turtles are cold-blooded and have to rely on an external heat source for warmth. They also must seek shade when they are too hot.

Turtles breathe air and lay eggs on land.

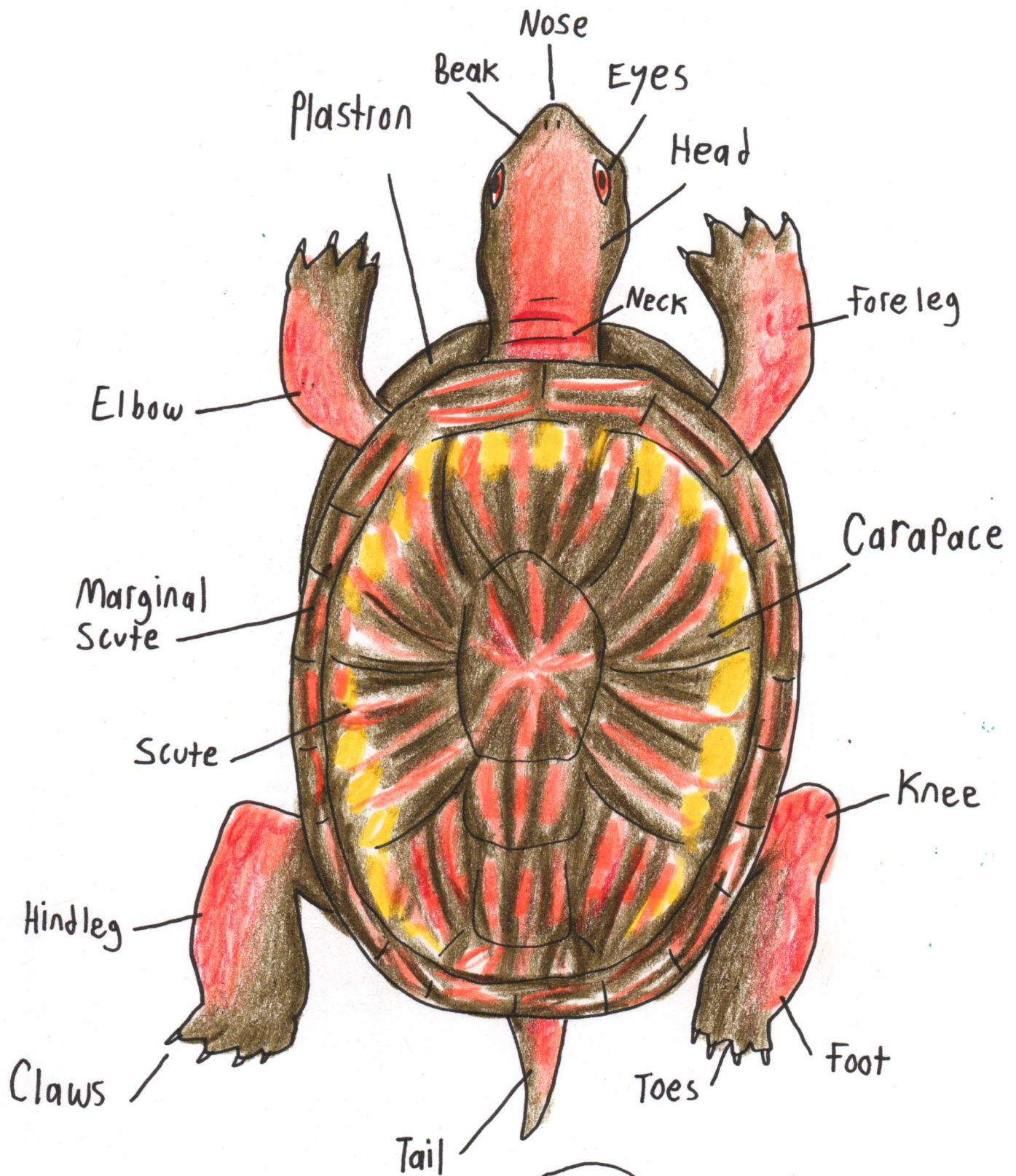


Turtles can have very peculiar behavior. Some migrate, some vocalize, and some even engage in play.



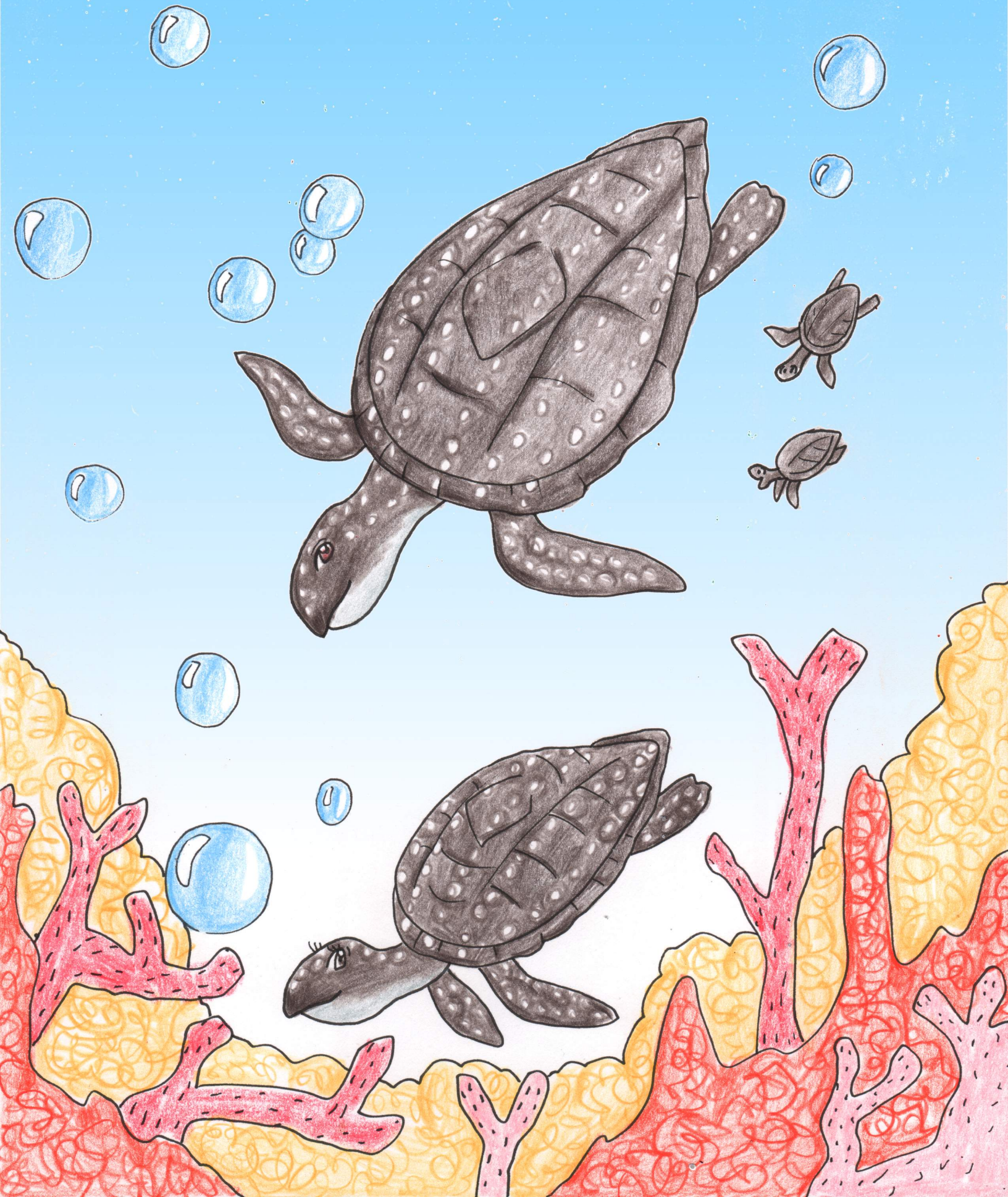
**Turtles have very interesting anatomy.
Their shells protect them from predators and
help to regulate body temperature.**

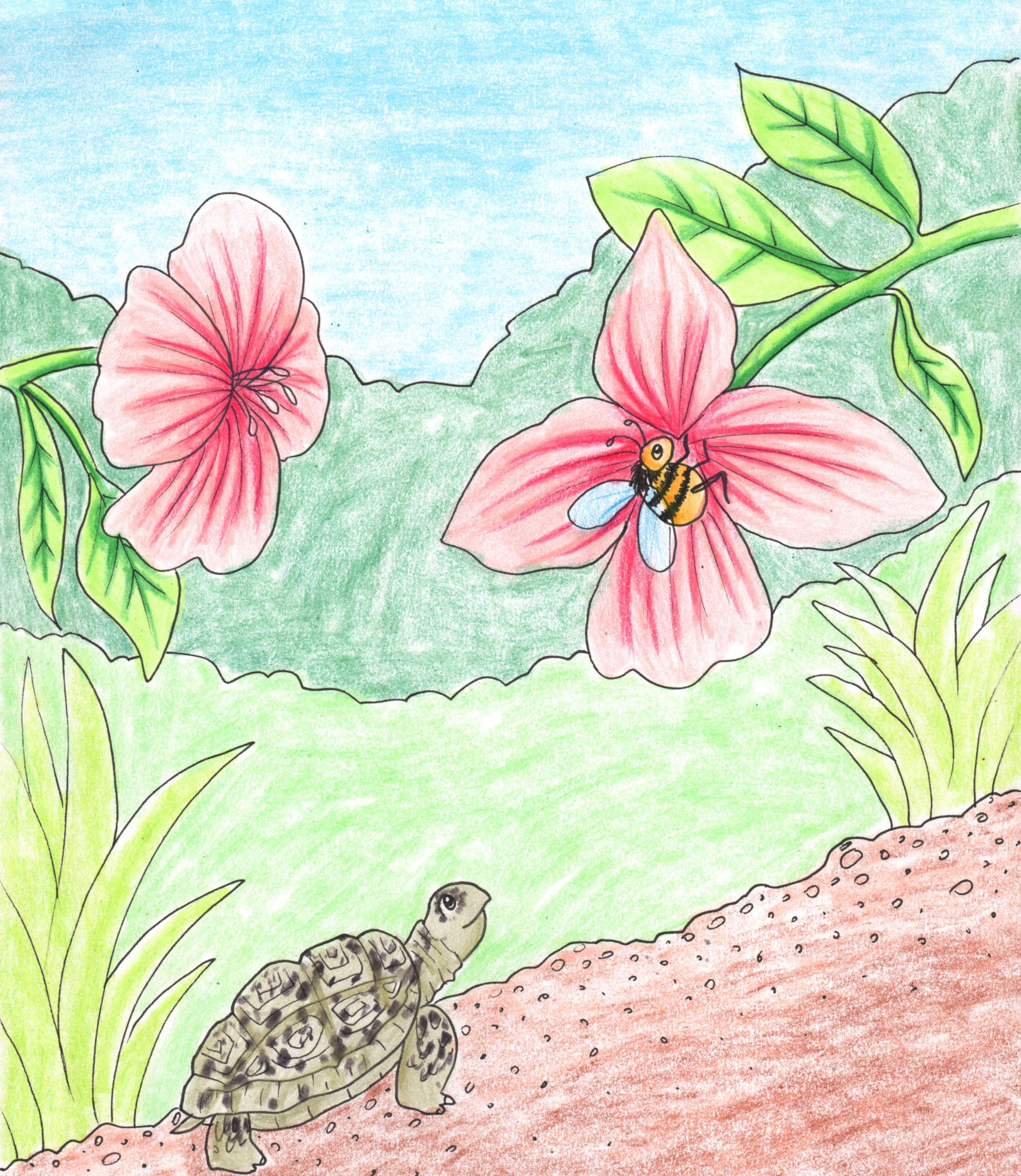
The shell is made of bone and keratin scales called scutes.



Different types of Turtle eggs

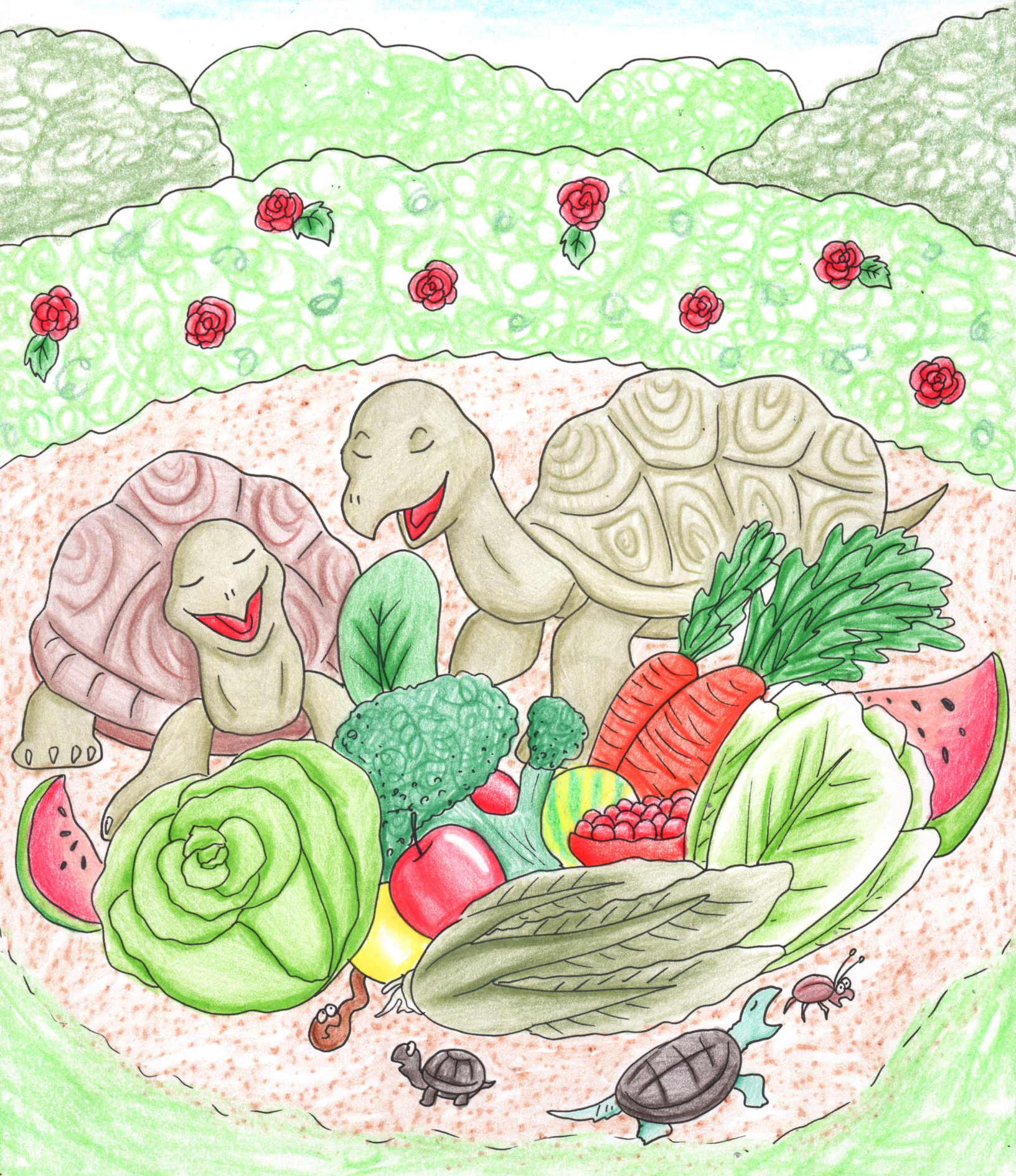
**The largest turtle in the world is the Leatherback Sea Turtle,
which can reach up to eight feet in length!**





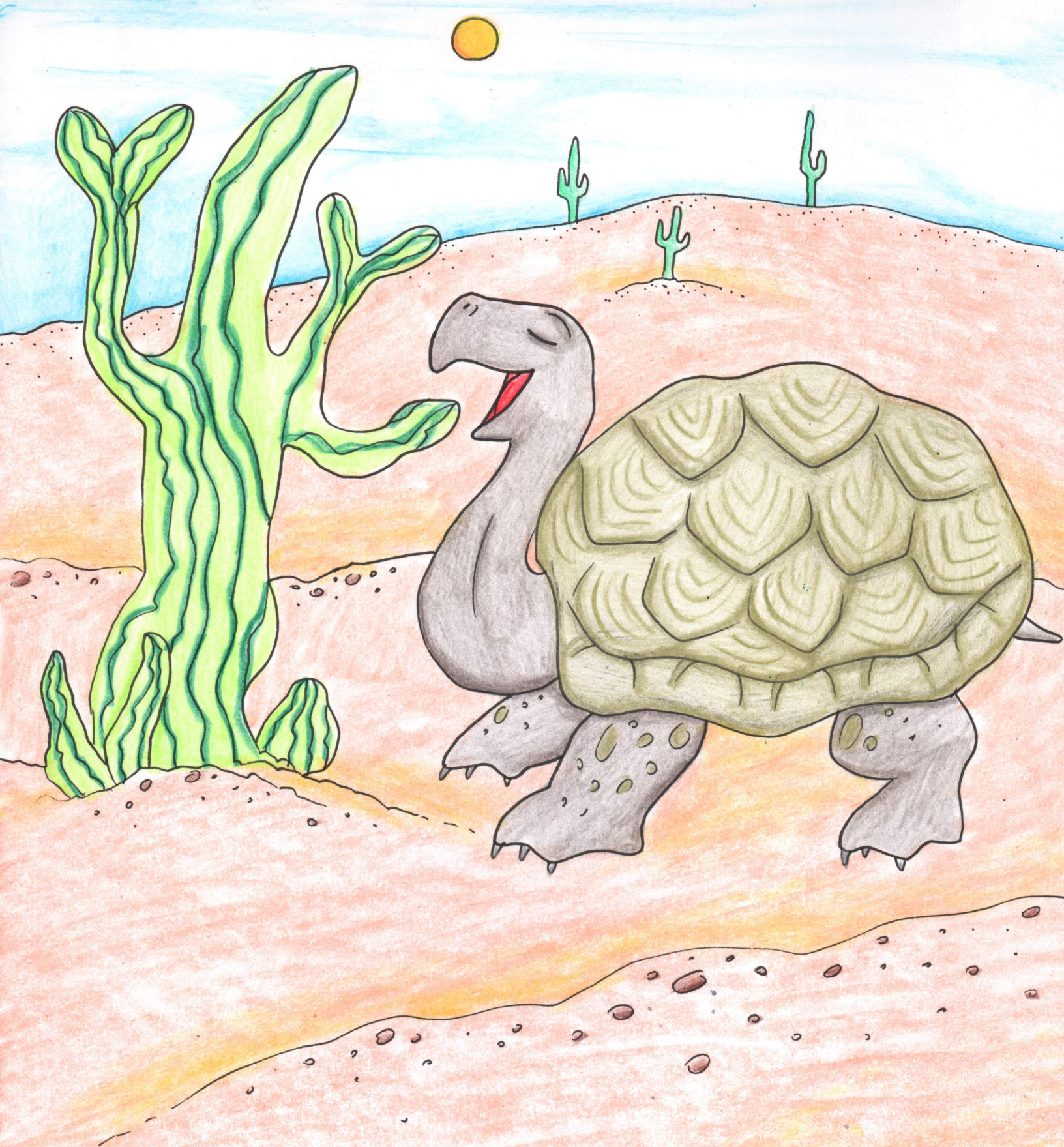
The smallest turtle is the **Speckled Tortoise**, which only grows to be **10** centimeters long!

Most turtles are opportunistic omnivores, meaning they will eat a variety of fruits, veggies, greens, meat, and insects when available to them.





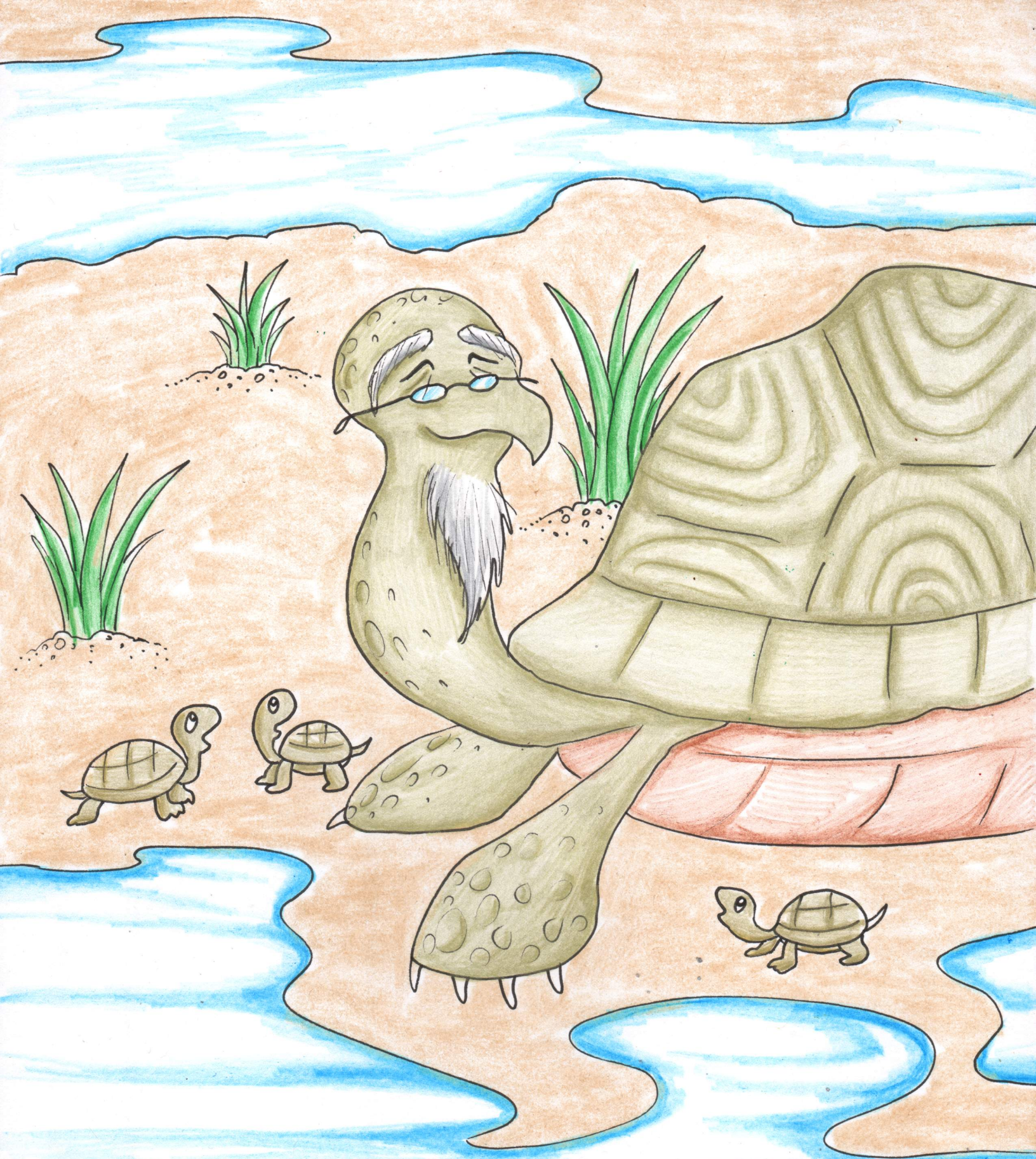
Turtles have highly developed vision and smell, which they use to navigate their environment to find food, mates, and sources of water.



Not all turtles live in the water. The closely related tortoise lives on land and drinks little water as long as it has plenty of juicy plants to eat.

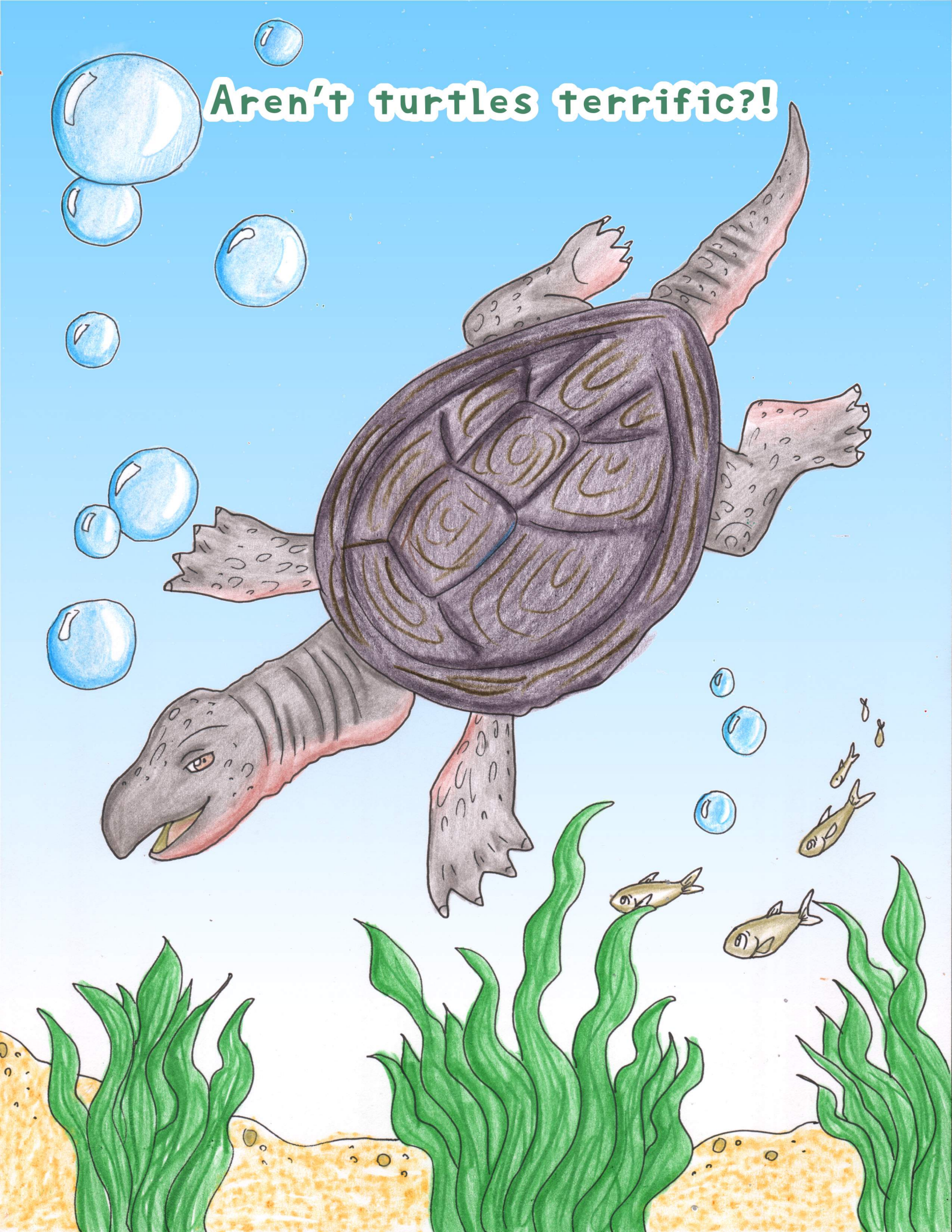


Some species hibernate through Winter, even sleeping beneath a blanket of snow if they have to. In warmer climates, turtles may only go through a mild form of hibernation, called brumation, making them a little sleepy after a long, active, Spring and Summer.



Turtles can live a very long life. The oldest turtle ever known, was a giant tortoise who lived to be the age of 187!

Aren't turtles terrific?!





For Parker, Autumn & Beatrice, the fascinatingly intelligent life forms that teleported into our existence.