

FOR THIRD GRADERS**THE TURTLES**

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There are many kinds of turtles. Turtles live in the sea and in the mud of ponds, streams, puddies, and brooks.

The turtles have shells.

The shells are very hard and are made into combs.

Turtles, especially those living in the sea, grow very large.

People eat them.

The turtles lay eggs.

They lay hundreds of eggs at a time.

They lay eggs in the sand or in the ground.

The mother turtle digs a hole with her tail and feet.

The turtle eggs are white.

The mother turtle covers the eggs with sand or dirt.

Then she goes away.

The sun hatches the eggs.

Baby turtles are very small.

Their mother does not take care of them.

Oftentimes the mother turtle eats the young turtles.

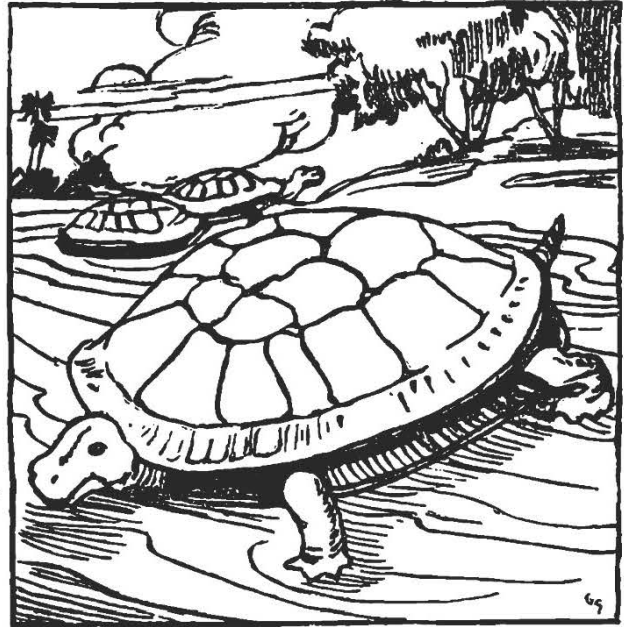
Soon the young turtles crawl to the water.

The turtles live very long.

Sometimes they live for more than one hundred years.

SOMETHING TO DO AND THINK ABOUT

1. Draw a turtle.
2. Tell all you know about the turtle.

**CHOOSING THE CORRECT ANSWER**

1. There (are, is) one big mother turtle in the picture.
2. There (are, is) two other turtles in the picture.
3. The mother turtle lays (her, his) eggs in the sand.
4. The baby turtles crawl to the water with (his, her, its, their) four legs.
5. The turtle (has, have) shells.
6. Baby turtles (are, is) eaten by the mother turtles.
7. I (eat, eats) turtle eggs.
8. Father (like, likes) to eat the meat of the turtle.

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