

A Shell is Great for Protection



All turtles have shells. Most turtles have hard shells.

Hard shells protect turtles. A predator cannot bite the hard shell. Some turtles can pull their legs inside their shells. They can pull in their heads and tails too.

Shells come in many different shapes. Some shells are tall and round. Other shells are flat.

Sometimes cartoons show turtles leaving their shells. But... that cannot really happen! A turtle cannot leave its shell. The shell is attached to the turtle. It is a permanent part of its body.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: For questions 1-4, circle the correct answer.

1. What do *all* turtles have?

- a) a hard shell
- b) a shell
- c) six legs

2. How does this passage describe turtle shells?

- a) soft and squishy
- b) green and brown
- c) tall and round or flat

3. "Some turtles can pull their legs inside their shells. They can pull in their heads and tails too."

What does this information tell us about how turtles use their shells to protect themselves?

- a) Turtles leave their shells to escape from a predator.
- b) Turtles use their soft body parts to hide their shells from predators.
- c) Turtles hide their soft body parts inside their shell.

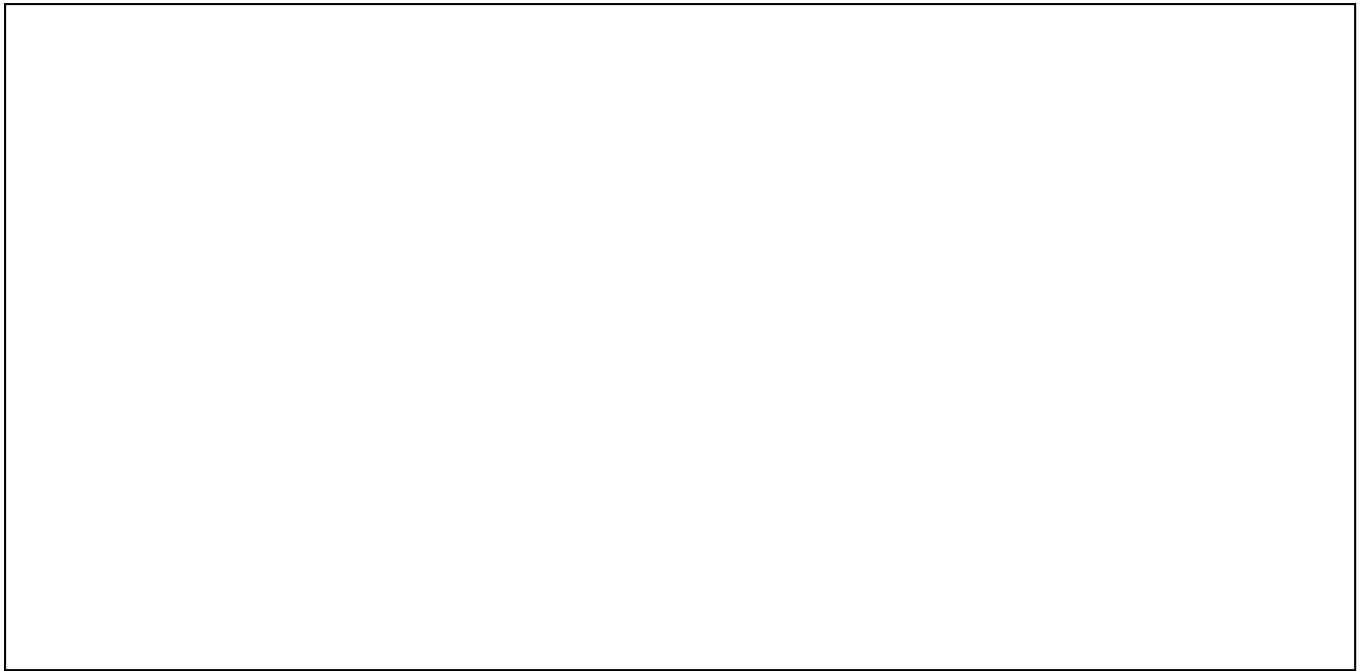
4. What is "A Shell is Great for Protection" mostly about?

- a) what turtle shells look like
- b) turtle cartoons
- c) turtle shells and how they protect turtles

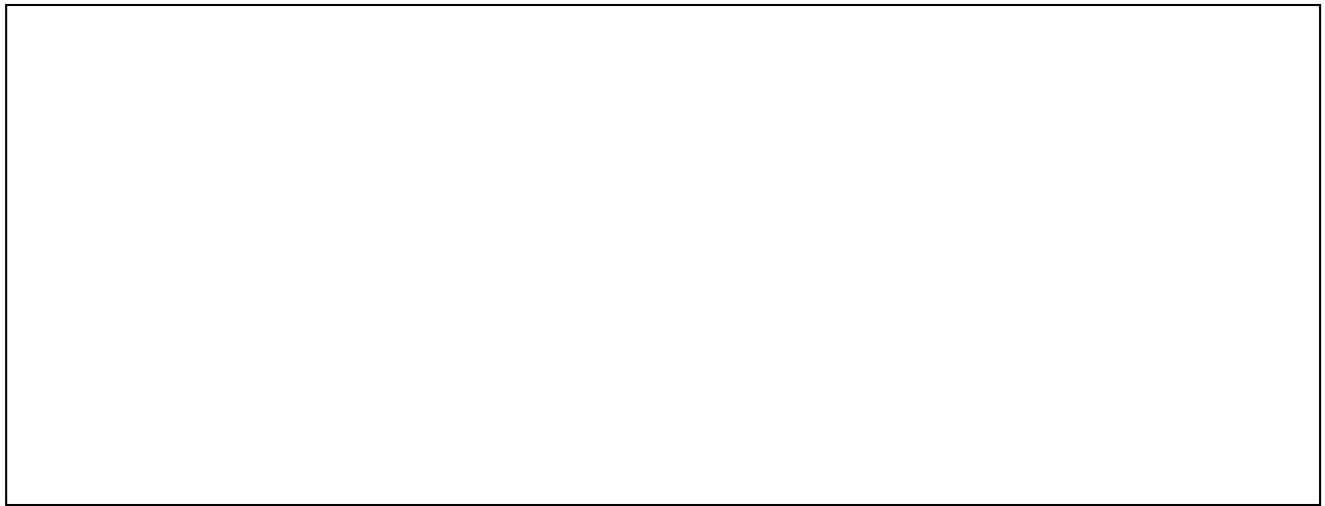
5. A) What can some cartoon turtles do that a real turtle could never do?

A cartoon turtle can

B) Draw a picture of a turtle.



6. What did you learn from “A Shell is Great for Protection”?



7. Class Discussion Question: Explain how a turtle’s hard shell protects it from predators.

Optional Extension Question: Discuss which turtles are best protected from predators. Specifically, compare and contrast turtles with hard and soft shells, or turtles that can pull their heads and tails inside their shells and turtles that can pull in their legs too.