

Turtles

Turtles are reptiles. They are cold-blooded, so they need sunlight to keep them warm and active.

Turtles have a hard shell on their back. This protects them from their enemies. Some turtles can even hide their heads inside their shells if they are being attacked!

Turtles lay their eggs on land. Some turtles lay their eggs in sand, then leave the eggs to hatch on their own. When they hatch, the baby turtles scramble down into the water. They have to be quick so that they don't get eaten by larger animals.

Most turtles eat plants that grow in the water. Some turtles also like to eat meat. These turtles eat small insects, snails and worms.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Finding the Main Idea

The main idea of a paragraph or text is the most important point that the author is making about a topic or subject.

1. Read the title of the text. Look at the illustration around the text.

Using these clues, what might the main idea of this text be?

What makes you think this?

2. Carefully read each paragraph of the text.

Underline any words which are repeated, or seem important.

Write them into the table below.

First Paragraph	Second Paragraph
Third Paragraph	Fourth Paragraph

Finding the Main Idea

3. Look at the words you wrote down in your table.

Use these to identify the main idea of each paragraph.

The first paragraph is about: _____

The second paragraph is about: _____

The third paragraph is about: _____

The fourth paragraph is about: _____

4. Which of the following could also be used as a title for this text?

a) Mr. Turtle's Fabulous Adventure

b) Amazing Underwater Plants

c) All About Turtles

d) I Love Turtles

5. Which of these **could not** be included as a paragraph in this text?

a) Good names for a pet turtle

b) Where turtles live

c) How turtles survive underwater

d) How long turtles live for

6. What other main ideas could you include in this text about turtles?

List some ideas. Compare your list with one of your classmates.

Answers

1. The main idea of this text is turtles. This is implied by the one-word title, 'Turtles', and the illustration of a turtle swimming in the ocean.
2. Answers will vary.
3. The first paragraph is about what type of animal turtles are.
The second paragraph is about how turtles protect themselves.
The third paragraph is about how turtles lay their eggs.
The fourth paragraph is about what turtles eat.
4. All About Turtles
5. Good names for a pet turtle