Create your own turtle carapce design.



TURTLES

Shell Facts

Think of the turtle shell like a highly complicated shield of protection for the turtle inside.

- The bottom shell is called a plastron and the top is called the carapace.
- The pieces connecting the top and bottom are called the bridge.
- A Scute is a bony external plate or scale overlaid with keratin on the turtle shell. (Crocodiles have scutes on there skin. A Sturgeon fish has scutes on it's head and sides.)
- Scutes come together to form the carapace.
- The rings that form on the scutes are symmetrical.
- A turtle cannot leave it's shell, it's an important part of it's skeletal system
- The inner layer of a turtle's shell is made up of 60 bones, including their backbone, breastbone and ribs.



