



Lesson Plan Summary

Magic Tree House #38: *Time of the Turtle King*

“On the Back of a Turtle”

Reading and Writing Activities

EACH STUDENT WILL:	COMMON CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about the many creatures, plants, terrain, and volcanoes of the Galapagos Islands. • Read and discuss historical/scientific facts in #38 <i>Time of the Turtle King</i>. • Read additional books for secondary resources. • View and discuss informational video clips. • Recognize and/or write one-sentence chapter summaries. • Write and share facts about animal life, plants, terrain, and volcanoes of the Galapagos Islands. • Use labels and captions in map diagramming. • Illustrate and label to show understanding of topics. 	<p>READING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS (RI.1.1, RI.2.1, RI.3.1) Ask and answer such questions as <i>who</i>, <i>what</i>, <i>where</i>, <i>when</i>, <i>why</i> and <i>how</i> to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. • CRAFT AND STRUCTURE (RI.2.4, RI.3.4) Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to grade specific topic or subject area. • CRAFT AND STRUCTURE (RI.2.5, RI.3.5) Know and use various text features to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently. <p>WRITING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF WRITING (W.2.5, W.3.5) With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing. Participate in shared research and writing projects.

38-3S0825

Created by: Paula Cirillo, 2009 Magic Tree House Teacher of the Year, Los Angeles, California



Lesson Plan

Magic Tree House #38: *Time of the Turtle King*

Series of Reading and Writing Activities

Using Time of the Turtle King



The King Turtles are a symbol of the Galapagos Islands. They are rare giant tortoises, the largest in the world. Let us celebrate the Turtle King in these lessons.

The whole world rests on the back of a turtle. ~ Chinese Turtle Myth

The following four lesson plans go with the theme:
On the Back of a Turtle...

1. Find the Galapagos Islands – map diagramming
2. My Top Ten Favorite Facts – fact-tracking with different sources
3. Let me tell you a story – one-sentence summary of each chapter
4. Drawings – an artistic impression

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Copies of **#38 Time of the Turtle King**
- Fact Tracker – **Snakes and other Reptiles** (read about the Chinese turtle myths, as well as the chapter on turtles and tortoises)
- Suggested books for additional resources (in Resources) Copy of “Chapter Reading Guide” Answer Key for the teacher
- Suggested video clips for anticipatory lesson openers (in Resources)
- Tortoise templates and corresponding activity sheets for each of the four lessons (in Appendix)
- One file folder for each student to store lesson activities (optional)

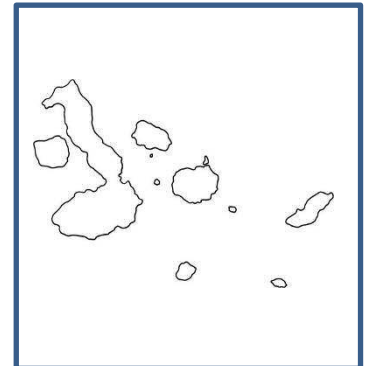
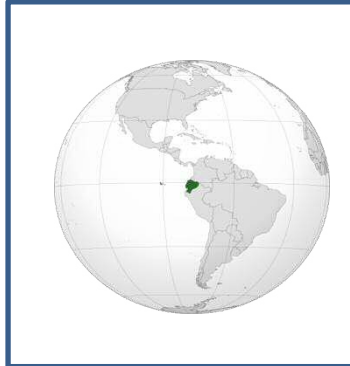
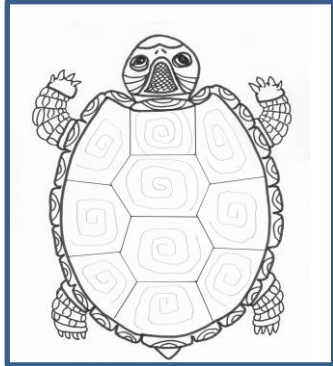
38-3LP0825

Created by: Paula Cirillo, 2009 Magic Tree House Teacher of the Year, Los Angeles, California

Copyright © 2025, Mary Pope Osborne, Classroom Adventures Program, all rights reserved.

LESSON ONE – WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS?

Map Diagramming

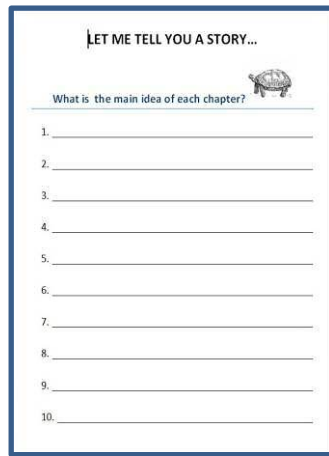


Directions

1. Prepare the Tortoise template and map diagrams ahead of time. Staple the Tortoise template, the map of South America, and the map of the Galapagos Islands together at the top of the pages. (This gives a sense of discovery to the whereabouts of the Galapagos Islands as the student lifts up each page.)
2. As an anticipatory activity, show this engaging video about the Galapagos Islands:
South America with Kids... Born with a Backpack Video by MocomiKids (4:07)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS1o9B4vgzM&pp=ygUmdmlkZW9zIGJ5IG1vY29taWtpZHMgZ2FsYXBhZ29zIGlzbGFuZHM%3D>
3. After reading a chapter or two in *Time of the Turtle King*, begin the Tortoise map activity. Show the students a large world map of the area where Jack and Annie have landed for their adventure.
4. Hand out their pre-assembled map booklet. Guide them through the labeling of the two maps.
5. Add additional information to the maps while reading the book. (Optional)

LESSON TWO – ON THE BACK OF A TURTLE... LET ME TELL YOU A STORY

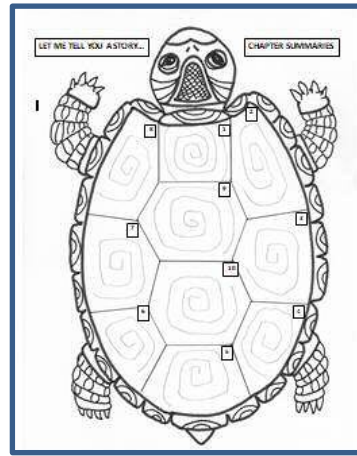
Chapter Summaries



LET ME TELL YOU A STORY...

What is the main idea of each chapter?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



The students will learn how to summarize each chapter into a single sentence. There are a variety of strategies that can be used for this activity depending on the level of your students. You can have them choose keywords from the chapter to use in a sentence. The chapter title may also provide a clue. For the more advanced student, they can make a sentence with two parts – what event happens at the beginning of the chapter combined with what event takes them into the next chapter.

Directions


1. Print out the two worksheets for this lesson ahead of time. (in Appendix)
2. As an anticipatory activity, read the story ***TAKE YOUR TIME...A Tale of Harriet, the Galapagos Tortoise*** by Eva Furrow and Donna Jo Napoli
Reading Out Loud 4 Kids: (5:53)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqbNZRrmCGE>
3. Ask the students if they can tell you in one sentence what the story was about. Next, tell them that they will be practicing how to write a one-sentence summary of every chapter in ***Time of the Turtle King***.

4. As each chapter in ***Time of the Turtle King*** is finished, the students will first write their summary sentences out on the “Let Me Tell You a Story” worksheet. Next, they can transfer it to the corresponding shell on the “Tortoise” template. This allows sentence correction before it is written onto the tortoise template, their final copy.

5. The following directions can guide your teaching:

- **Beginning Level** – Use the “Suggested Sentence Summaries” (in Appendix). After reading a chapter, give the students a couple of chapter summaries to choose from to see if they can recognize the correct summary. Point out how the sentences have keywords from the chapter and the title. Continue this way for each chapter.
Option: You can also use the student summary “cut and paste” sheet instead of having the students write the sentences in the Tortoise template. (in Appendix)
- **Intermediate Level** – Guide the students, as a group, on how to summarize. Put their ideas or keywords from the chapter on the board. Also, add the chapter title on the board. Strategically guide them to a sentence summary. A GOOD SUMMARY SENTENCE SHOULD TELL THE MAIN EVENT OF THE PRESENT CHAPTER COMBINED WITH THE EVENT THAT WILL CARRY THE ACTION TO THE NEXT CHAPTER. Ex: Jack and Annie found Morgan’s message, and the treehouse took them to a port far away.
- The students can pre-write their summaries on the “*EXPERT*” worksheet and use the “Tortoise” template as their final copy.
- **Advanced Level** – those students who can work independently after the directions from the intermediate level are explained.

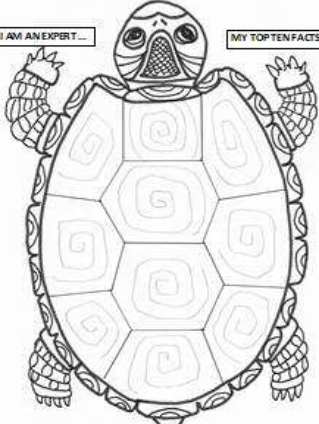
LESSON THREE – *ON THE BACK OF A TURTLE - I'm an EXPERT... my top ten facts*

It's your turn to become the "EXPERT" 

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

I AM AN EXPERT ...

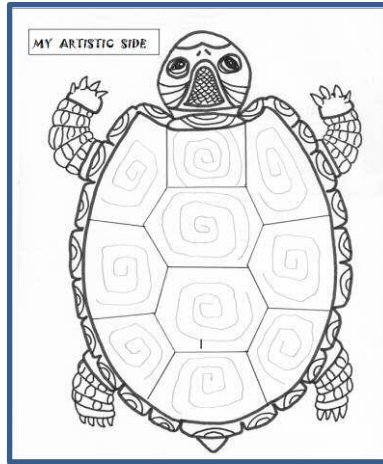
MY TOP TEN FACTS



Directions

1. Print out the two worksheets for this lesson ahead of time. (in Appendix)
2. Keep this lesson in mind as you read the chapter book with your class. Hang charts in the room where you discuss what they learned and add the facts to the charts after reading each chapter, viewing video clips, or reading other related books. (in Resources)
3. Tell the students they will have an opportunity to show what they learned and how they have also become EXPERTS. They will find ten facts from the information learned while reading this book. Depending on the independence of your group, you can gather this information together, assign groups, or let them work independently.
4. The students can pre-write their facts on the "EXPERT" worksheet and use the "TORTOISE" template as their final copy.

LESSON FOUR – *ON THE BACK OF A TURTLE... My Artistic Side*



Drawings with labels or captions

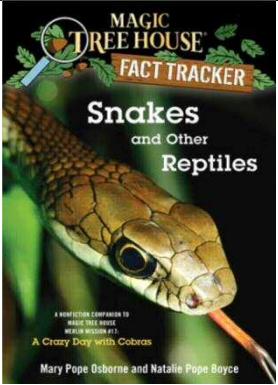
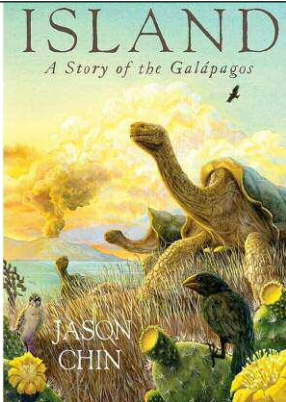
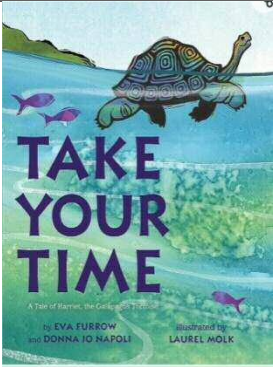
Directions

1. Print out the worksheet for this lesson ahead of time. (in Appendix)
2. Tell the students they will draw different pictures on each section of the turtle's shell. They can combine sections to draw larger pictures. They could even draw one big scene on the entire shell. Instruct them to draw a small space ahead of time to label the picture with a word or caption.
3. Review the video clips from the resource section and do a walk-through of the pictures in the books used in this project. Show them the inside cover of ***ISLAND*** by Jason Chin. He illustrates drawings with labels. (Read-a-Loud book in the Resources section)
4. They will draw pictures and label any favorite animals, plants, or terrain related to the Galapagos Islands.

RESOURCES

PREVIEW THE BOOKS AND VIDEO CLIPS AHEAD OF TIME TO DETERMINE WHEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE THEM

BOOKS:

	<p>MAGIC TREE HOUSE FACT TRACKER: <i>Snakes and other Reptiles</i> by Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce</p> <p>This non-fiction book includes information on reptiles in the Galapagos Islands, a chapter on Turtles and Tortoises, and information on Chinese Turtle Myths</p>
	<p><i>ISLAND A Story of the Galapagos</i> by Jason Chin</p> <p>A non-fiction picture book on the birth of the Galapagos Islands and how they came to be filled with plants and animals that, at one time, could not be found anywhere else on earth. The inside cover of the book has great labeled sketches of the Galapagos creatures.</p> <p>Sunstone Montessori: Read-A-Loud (11:18) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Qh8qAZCKUQ</p>
	<p><i>TAKE YOUR TIME...A Tale of Harriet, the Galapagos Tortoise</i> by Eva Furrow and Donna Jo Napoli Illustrated by Laurel Mole</p> <p>A fictional picture book about a tortoise who learns that every animal has a rhythm that works. Beautiful pictures to refer to for this project.</p> <p>Reading Out Loud 4 Kids: (5:53) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MqbNZRrmCGE</p>

VIDEO CLIPS:

- **The Galapagos Islands** *South America with Kids...Born with a backpack*
Video by MocomiKids (4:07)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS1o9B4vgzM&pp=ygUmdmlkZW9zIGJ5IG1vY29taWtpZHMgZ2FsYXBhZ29zIGlzbGFuZHM%3D>
- **10 things about the Galapagos** / Facts for kids / Hogie the Globehopper
Geography Cartoons for Kids (2:41)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1qaZKsflQg>
- **Galapagos Tortoises**/Kid Reporter Dominique/ Video by What Now (3:15)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAt_ufa53eA
- **Greatest Animals of the Galapagos**/Awesome 8 / Nat Geo Kids (2:40)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dk5_JoPqPFk

Appendix

LESSON ONE – WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS?

- Tortoise template
- Map of Western Hemisphere
- Map of Galapagos Islands

LESSON TWO – LET ME TELL YOU A STORY...

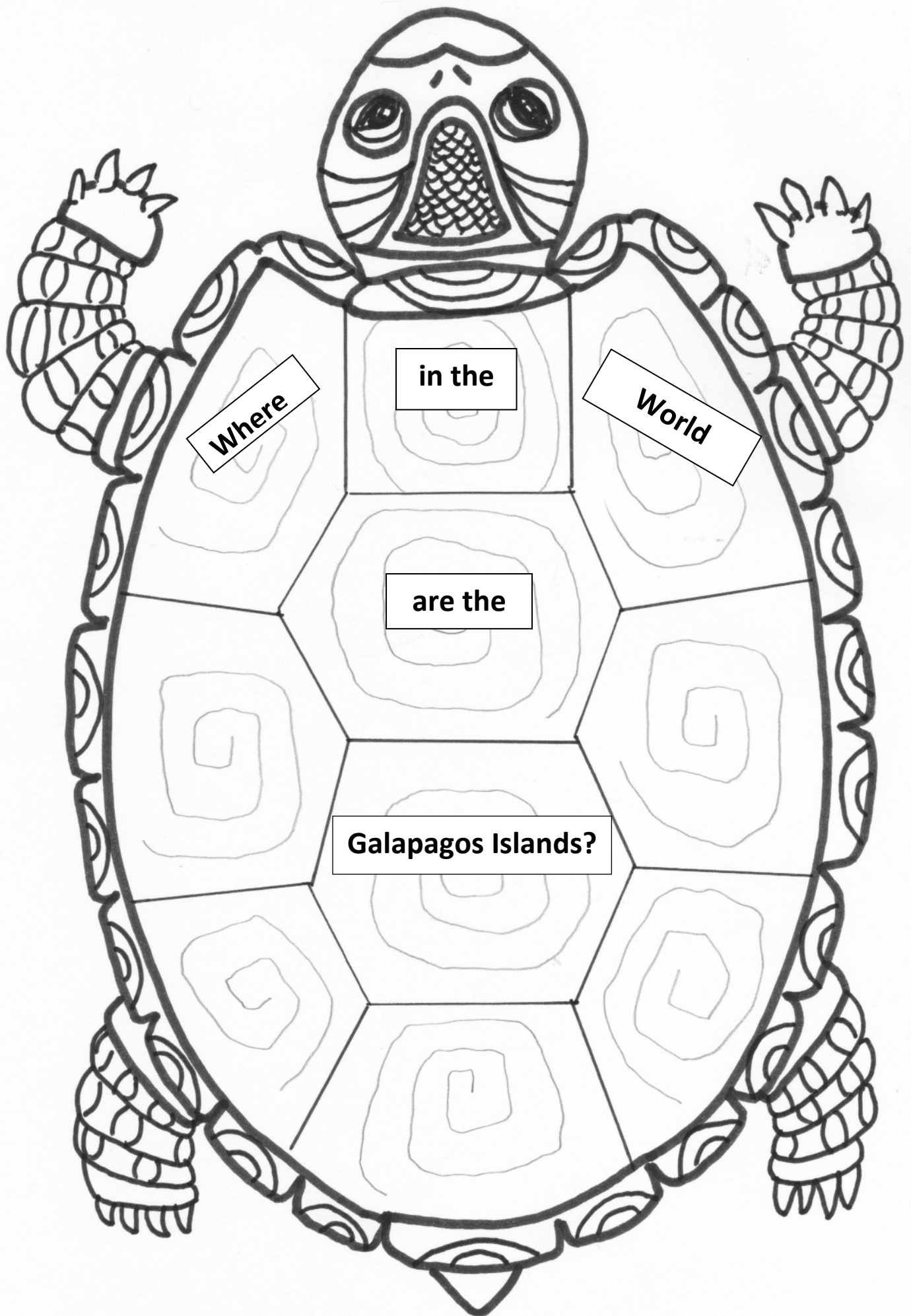
- Tortoise template
- Chapter summary worksheet
- Suggested teacher answer key
- Student “cut & paste” chapter summaries

LESSON THREE – I’M AN EXPERT ... MY TOP TEN FAVORITE FACTS

- Tortoise template
- EXPERT facts worksheet

LESSON FOUR – MY ARTISTIC SIDE

- Tortoise template



Where

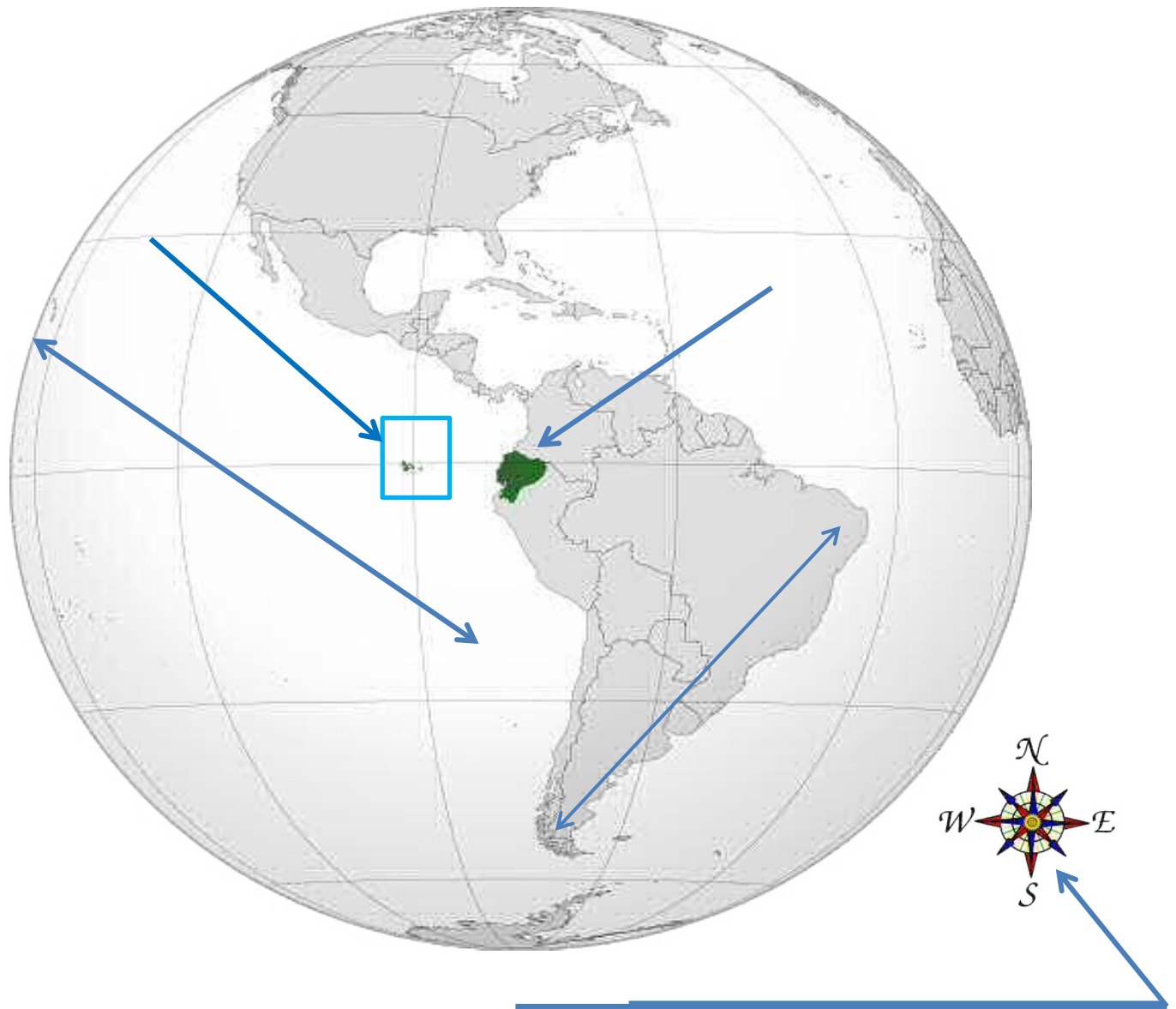
in the

World

are the

Galapagos Islands?

Find Your Way



LABEL THE MAP

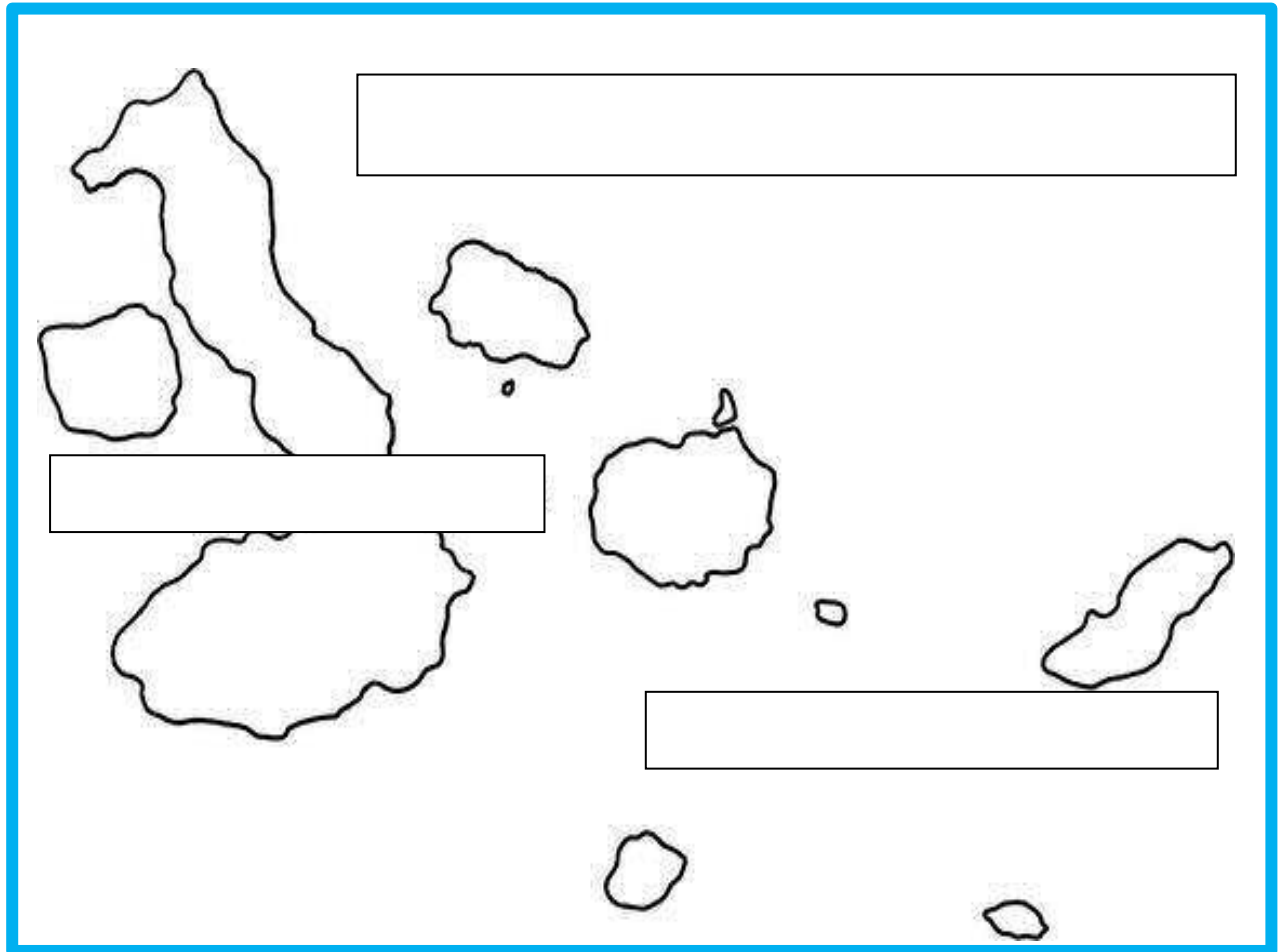
South America	Ecuador	Galapagos Islands
Pacific Ocean	Compass Rose	

LABEL THE MAP

Pacific Ocean

Galapagos Islands

Isabela Island



DRAW A COMPASS ROSE ON THE MAP :

DRAW WAVY LINES TO REPRESENT THE OCEAN

PUT AN X ON BLUE HILL (southwest region on Isabela Island)

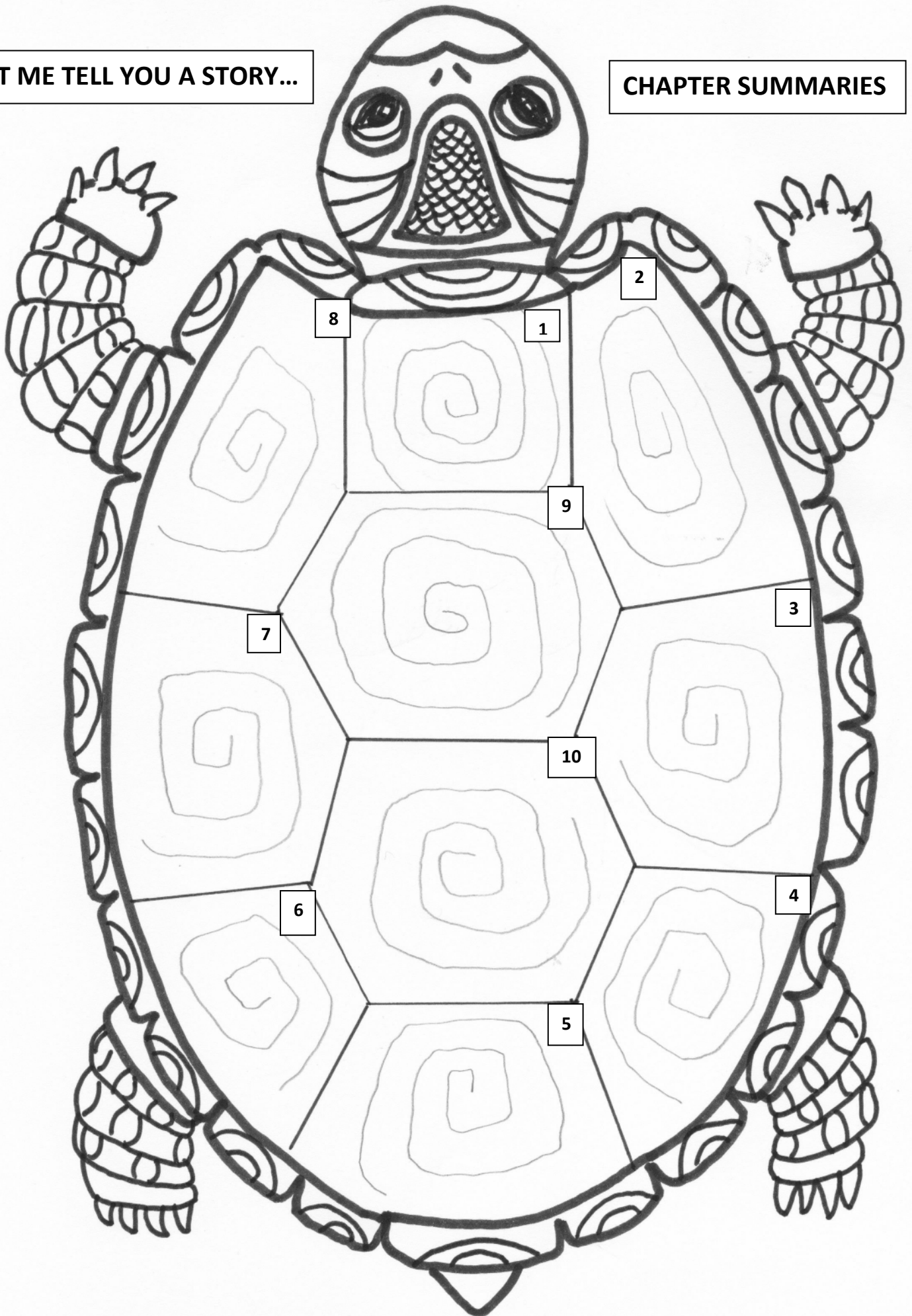
Mark Volcanoes with an ▲

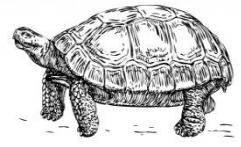
Please help find me.



LET ME TELL YOU A STORY...

CHAPTER SUMMARIES





What is the main idea of each chapter?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

HINTS FOR MAKING A ONE-SENTENCE CHAPTER SUMMARY:

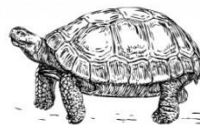
- **The title of the chapter**
- **Keywords in the chapter**
- **Include what happens as the character enters the chapter and an action that takes them into the next chapter, as a general rule.**

Teacher suggested sentences

CHAPTER 1 To A Port Far Away Jack and Annie find a magic badge and travel to a port far away.	CHAPTER 2 Morgan's Magic Jack and Annie land in the Galapagos Islands and become World Turtle Experts when they put on the badge.	CHAPTER 3 Enchanted Islands Jack and Annie explore the enchanted island of friendly, fearless animals while looking for the Tortoise Center.
CHAPTER 4 Flamingo Lagoon Jack and Annie walk through a lagoon filled with all kinds of birds, and then find the Tortoise Center.	CHAPTER 5 Time for Tortoises There is an emergency, so Jack and Annie are left alone to teach tourists about the tortoises.	CHAPTER 6 The Worst News The giant tortoises could die from the volcano, so Jack and Annie rush off on a rescue mission.
CHAPTER 7 Rivers of Fire The rescue team goes to the Blue Hill volcano to look for the giant tortoises near a river of fire.	CHAPTER 8 The Last One Jack tries so hard to get the last giant tortoise out of the cave and he saves it!	CHAPTER 9 The Turtle King The last giant tortoise is taken to safety and treated like a "king".
CHAPTER 10 A Lucky Break It was lucky that Jack lost his badge, because that's when he saw the tortoise in the cave.		

Cut and Paste each of the chapter summary sentences and put them in the correct order on the “Back of the Turtle”.

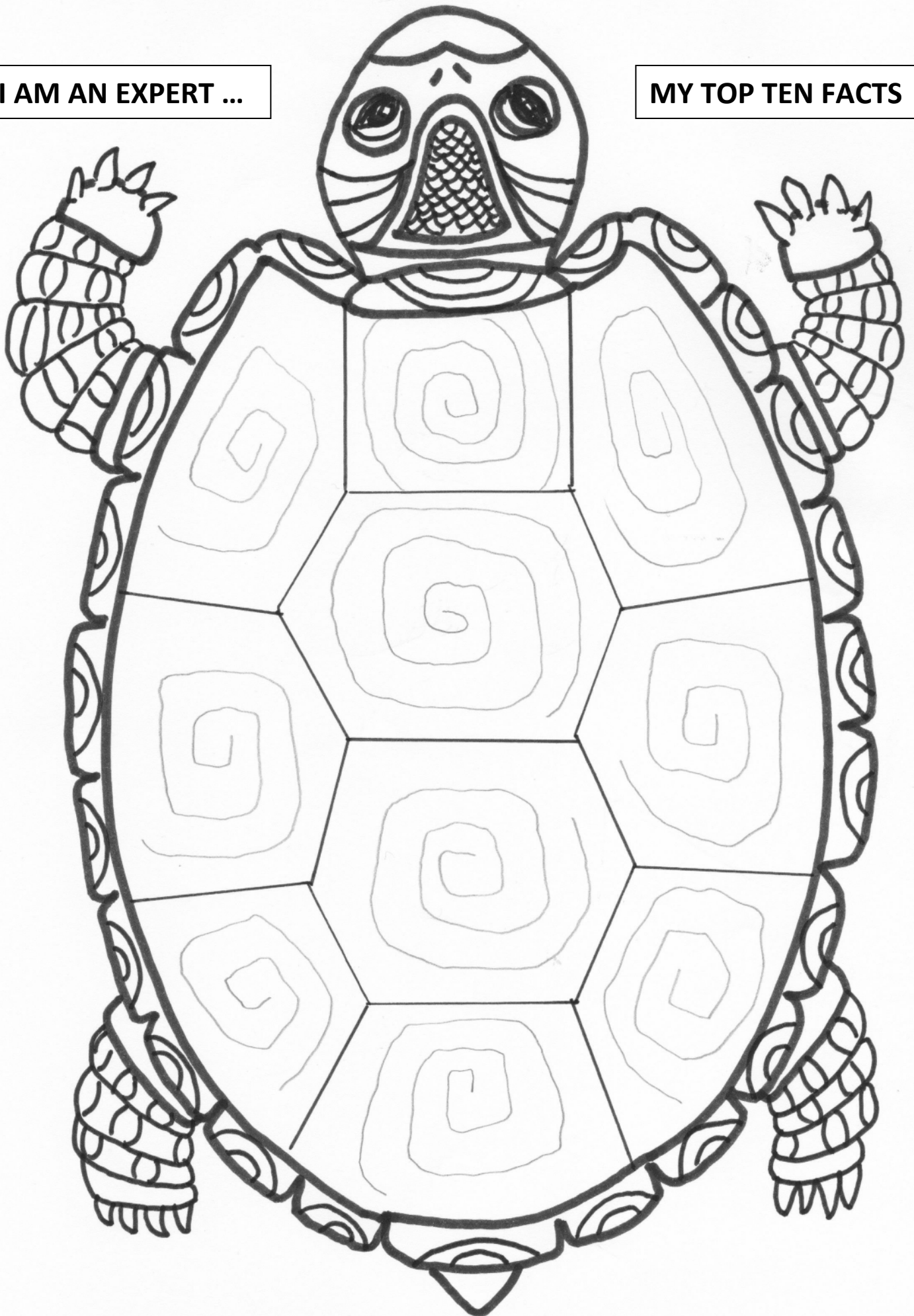
There is an emergency, so Jack and Annie are left alone to teach tourists about the tortoises.	The rescue team goes to the Blue Hill volcano to look for the giant tortoises near a river of fire.	Jack and Annie find a magic badge and travel to a port far away.	The giant tortoises could die from the volcano, so Jack and Annie rush off on a rescue mission.
Jack and Annie land in the Galapagos Islands and become World Turtle Experts when they put on the badge.	It was lucky that Jack lost his badge because that’s when he saw the tortoise in the cave.	Jack tries so hard to get the last giant tortoise out of the cave, and he saves it!	The last giant tortoise is taken to safety and treated like a “king.”
The giant tortoises could die from the volcano, so Jack and Annie go on the rescue mission.			Jack and Annie explore the enchanted island of friendly, fearless animals while looking for the Tortoise Center.



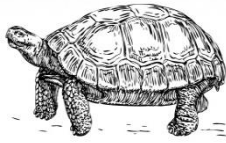
Thank you for saving me

I AM AN EXPERT ...

MY TOP TEN FACTS



It's my turn to be an EXPERT ... my top ten facts



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

MY ARTISTIC SIDE

