

Name _____

Date _____

Key
(A) – Adaptation
(F) – Function

(Sample Response Key)

Observations About Adaptations

Turtle Species	Shell	Legs/Feet	Claws	Other
Aquatic (Sea turtles)	<p>(A) Streamlined, hard and thick.</p> <p>(F) Tougher for sharks to get through, easier to swim with.</p>	<p>(A) Webbed toes, forelimbs like paddles.</p> <p>(F) Helps turtle swim through the water.</p>	<p>(A) One or two claws on forelimbs.</p> <p>(F) Helps turtle dig and fight off predators.</p>	<p>(A) Can't retract body into shell.</p> <p>(F) Would hinder turtle's movement in water.</p>
Semiaquatic (Red-eared slider)	<p>(A) Oval and flattened but slightly domed.</p> <p>(F) Helps turtle slide into water.</p>	<p>(A) Webbed toes.</p> <p>(F) Helps turtle swim in ponds.</p>	<p>(A) Four/five strong claws.</p> <p>(F) Helps turtle climb back onto rocks from water.</p>	<p>(A) Fast movers.</p> <p>(F) Helps turtle hunt prey/escape predators.</p>
Terrestrial (Ornate box turtle)	<p>(A) Domed and hinged.</p> <p>(F) Allows turtle to retract and hide from predators.</p>	<p>(A) Clubbed feet; not webbed.</p> <p>(F) Helps turtle walk on rough land.</p>	<p>(A) Prominent.</p> <p>(F) Helps turtle forage for food.</p>	<p>(A) Opportunistic eaters.</p> <p>(F) Reduces risk of starvation in various living environments.</p>

Directions

(A) - Write down at least one adaptation per feature for each turtle.

(F) - Describe the function of that adaptation. In this case, “function” means the purpose or activity of that physical feature.

*Try to find at least one adaptation and function to include for each turtle in the “Other” category.