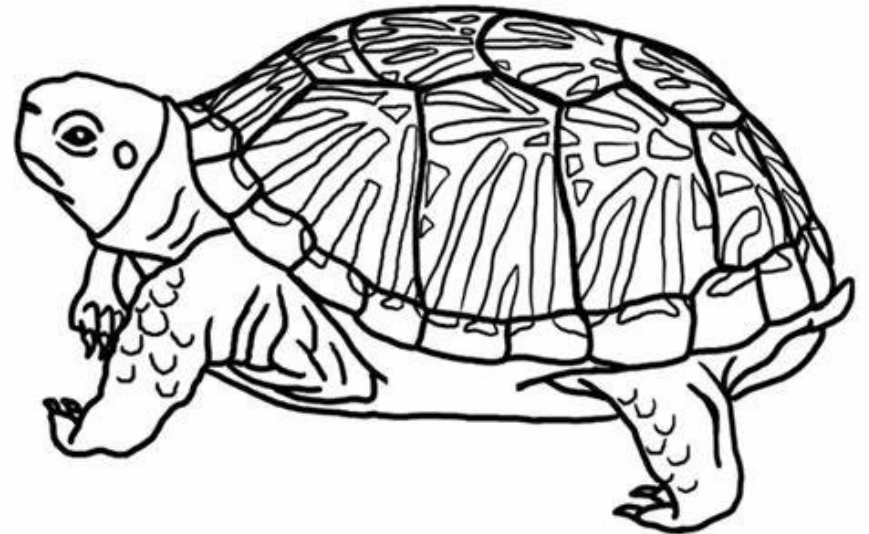


Word Search

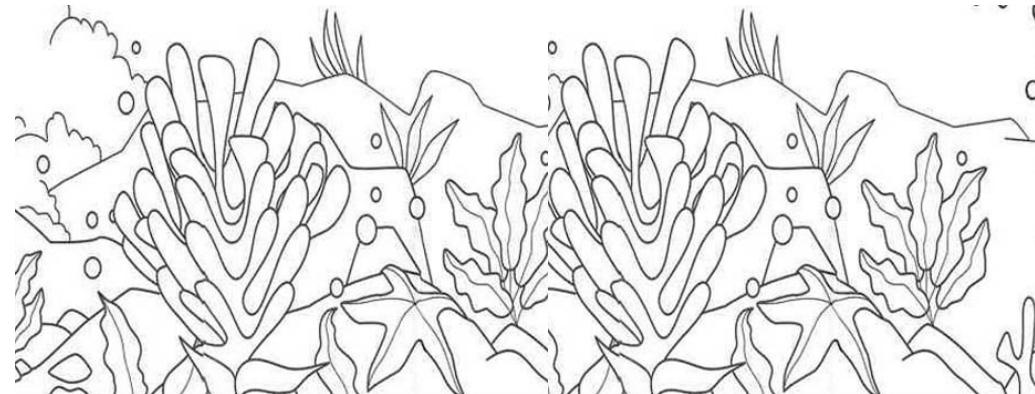
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L R G C N A R C H E L O N F T
C D D S H T S U L I S N S O S
L B V C N E S T S O J V A S H
I O X H V P R E D A T O R S M
M T O A N U E Y F P A W S I A
A I W H T S L N W I U E K L V
T I G S V R X D F T I C Y O W
E N S R T T A L R A O R G Q A
C A Q A A O W B L I U C N N A
H C R D T T D W I A L L H M G
A B A D S A I D S A R G A V E
N A D T F N N O Q A A A U G O
G Y U B E N N F N L C S O F P
E I I T G I X B M Y O X R G S
H N R I D U E D L A T V S E A
B C E A W R M F S I I A H L F

| | | |
|-----------|----------------|----------|
| TURTLE | OCEAN | NEST |
| FOSSIL | MIGRATION | WAVES |
| DINOSAUR | CLIMATE CHANGE | HATCHERY |
| ARCHELON | EGGS | TIDES |
| PREDATORS | SHELL | MATE |

Did you know
that turtles
belong to one of
the oldest reptile
groups in the
world!



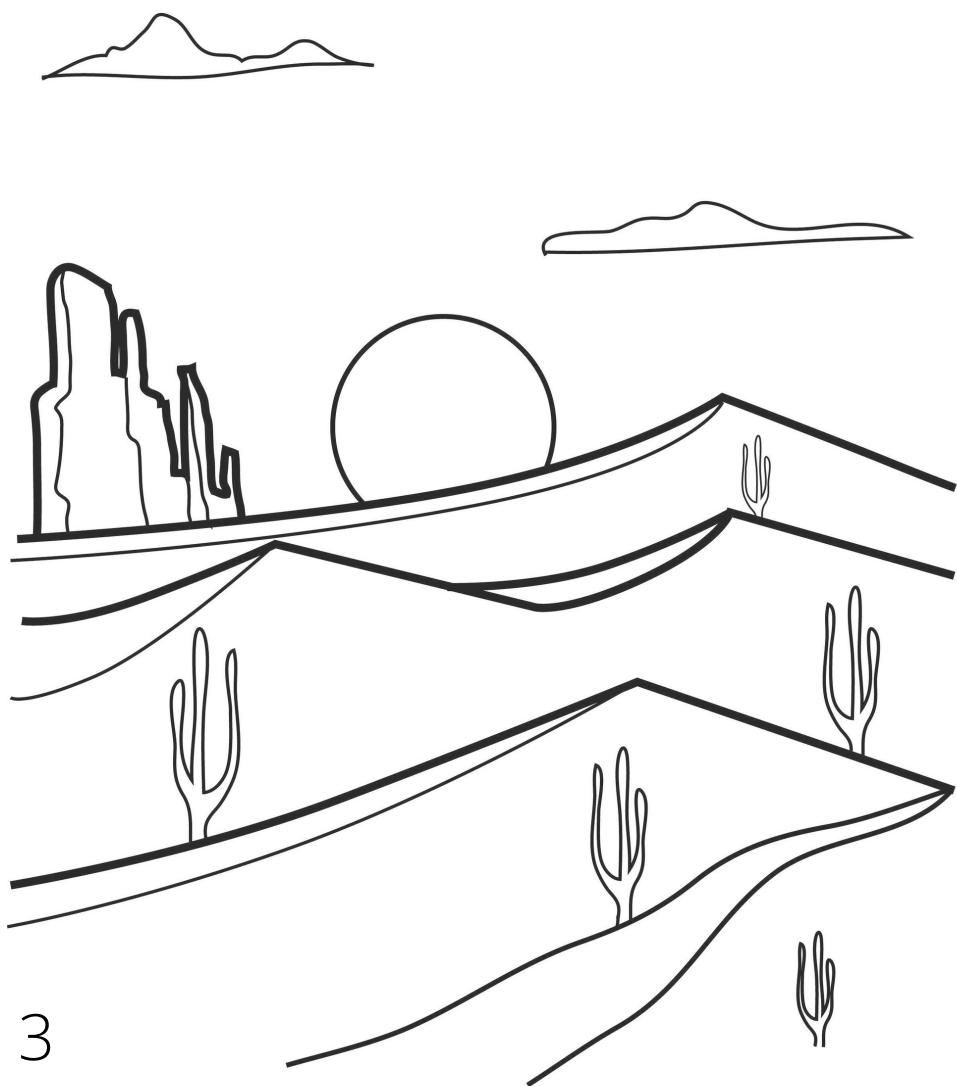
The oldest turtles that lived with the dinosaurs actually did not have shells! The largest of these ancient turtles was called Archelon. Without a hard shell for protection, Archelon's home was in the ocean, where it swam using its large strong flippers. Archelon's strong beak helps it eat large shellfish in the water. Use your stickers to show Archelon swimming and looking for food.



Scientists who study dinosaurs (called paleontologists) also study ancient turtles! They use fossils to understand how turtles and other reptiles have changed over time. Water helps form fossils so that scientists can find them later!

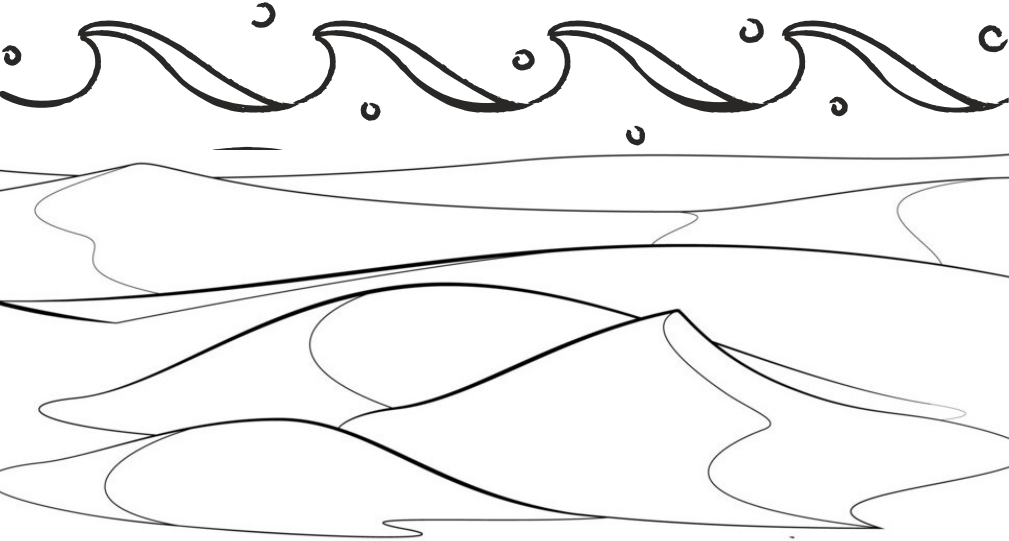
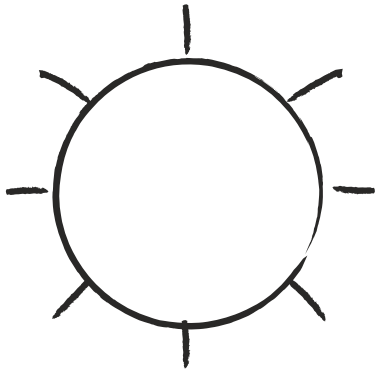
1. After an organism dies, it can sometimes get covered by dirt and mud being carried by water. Water helps bury the organism in sediments. Without water, it is harder for the organism to be buried and protected from wind and bacteria.
2. Over time, the organism is replaced by hard minerals and forms an exact copy of the remains. Water is also necessary for this process because it percolates, or moves slowly, through the ground and removes organic material and brings in hard rock mineral. That is what makes the fossils that paleontologists find today!
3. When paleontologists found fossils of ancient turtles, they were often far away from any ocean or large body of water. This means that there may have been water in very different places during dinosaur ages than we see today!

Land turtles don't live in the water, but they still need it to live. Land turtles and tortoises often need rain to replenish their drinking water. Some tortoises can store water in their bodies for long periods of time! Rain helps them stay hydrated, especially after a dry season. Use your stickers to show a turtle drinking water during a rainstorm.



Climate change is making the world hotter, which makes the oceans bigger! This is called sea-level rise. It also causes bigger storms. When the sea level rises, the water from the ocean and storms floods the beaches. This makes it harder for mother turtles to find a place to lay her eggs. Use your stickers to show ocean waves washing away the beaches.

Someone built a turtle hatchery! Hatcheries are places where the turtle eggs can safely develop until hatching without any threat from the ocean tide or predators. Many people are working hard to help these turtles hatch and grow into healthy adults. Use your stickers to show people helping turtles hatch and grow.



Turtles later evolved shells like we see today. Present-day sea turtles rely on the ocean for migration and finding mates. Sea turtles can travel all over the world, for hundreds of miles, without ever taking a break except to lay eggs. When a mother sea turtle is ready to nest, she goes all the way back to her home beach where she was born, so that her babies can hatch there too. Use your stickers to show a sea turtle starting an ocean migration after laying her eggs.