

Name: _____

Snapping Turtles

Directions: Read the text below and then complete the worksheets that follow.



The snapping turtle is an aggressive reptile that can be found in freshwater ponds, lakes, and streams. It spends most of its time in the water. Snapping turtles are mostly active during the night. Snapping turtles tend to be fearless and are known to attack people. Snapping turtles live to be about 30-40 years.

The snapping turtle has very powerful jaws, a sharp beak, and no teeth. Since it spends most of its time in the water, it has webbed feet and a long tail to help it swim. Snapping turtles have a hard upper shell. Snapping turtles can only make hissing and grunting sounds because they do not have vocal cords.

The snapping turtle eats plants and other animals, which makes it an omnivore. It eats plants, fish, frogs, snakes, and insects.

The female snapping turtle lays eggs on land. She digs as deep as she can, and lays 10-30 eggs.

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Desert Tortoise

Directions: Read the text below and then complete the worksheets that follow.



The desert tortoise is a reptile that lives in sandy deserts. It spends all of its time on land, and is most active during the day. It spends a lot of time underground to stay cool. The desert tortoise is a shy animal and does not approach people. It can live from 50 to 80 years.

The desert tortoise has a hard upper shell. It has flattened front legs for digging in the sand. It also has a short tail since it does not need one for swimming.

The desert tortoise is an herbivore. This means it does not eat other animals. It feeds on grasses, herbs and other plants.

The desert tortoise lays eggs. The female tortoise lays her eggs in a shallow pit that she digs with her hind legs.

Name: _____

Snapping Turtles and Desert Tortoises



List three ways that snapping turtles and desert tortoises are alike.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

List three ways that snapping turtles and desert tortoises are different.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

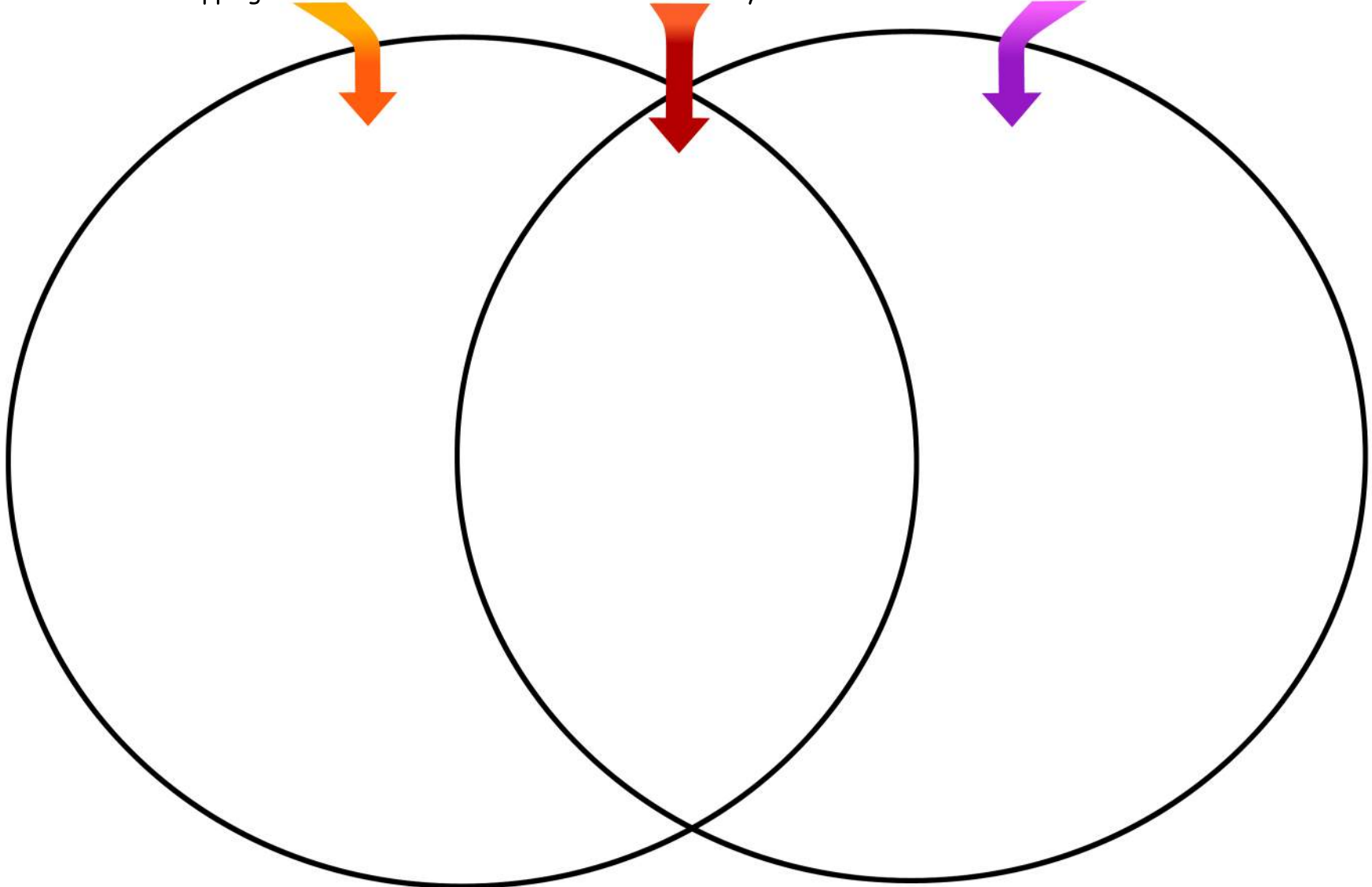
Name _____

Directions: Cut the characteristics of the snapping turtle and the desert tortoise (on the next page) and past them in the right places on the Venn diagram below.

Characteristics of Snapping Turtle

Characteristics They Share

Characteristics of Desert Tortoise



| shy |

| lives in water |

| hard shell |

| lays eggs |

| aggressive |

| flattened front legs |

| webbed feet |

| lives on land |

| reptile |