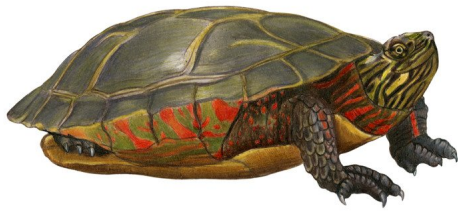


The Shell Game

Many residents in habitats throughout the Aquarium have a hard, outer covering to help protect them from predators. This covering is called a shell, exoskeleton, or carapace and can be found on a wide variety of animals, including turtles, crustaceans, and mollusks.

On your journey through the Aquarium, find the habitat where each animal below lives.



Painted Turtle

Most turtle shells are covered with hard scutes for added protection. They are made of keratin, the same material as your fingernails



Spiny Softshell Turtle

To compensate for having a flexible shell, this turtle hides from predators in the mud and uses its long nose like a snorkel.



Painted Terrapin

This turtle grows a bright red stripe his head during mating season.



Loggerhead Sea Turtle

An adult's shell is so thick that most sharks are unable to bite through it.



Lobster

As it grows bigger, this animal molts its hard exoskeleton and reforms a new one.



Whelk

This sea snail's shell grows with its body just like our skeletons grow with our bodies.



Hermit Crab

This thief wears a shell that used to belong to another animal like a whelk or moon snail.

