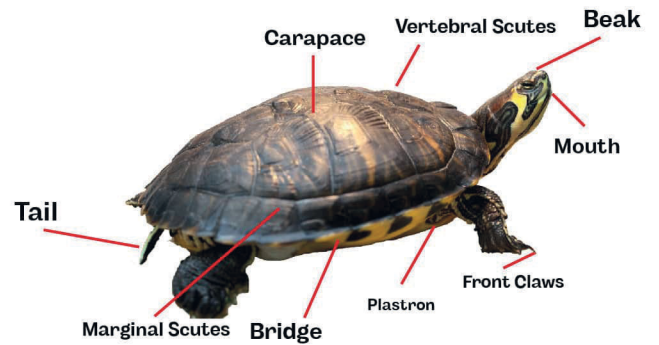


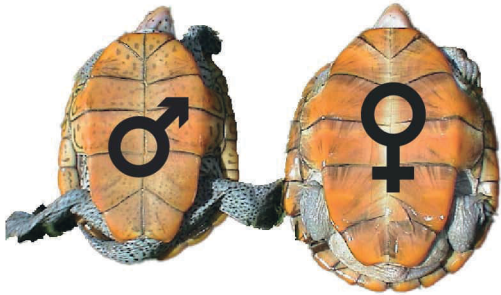
HOW CAN YOU TELL IF A TURTLE IS MALE OR FEMALE?

Here are the things you need to observe for **identifying** a turtle's gender:



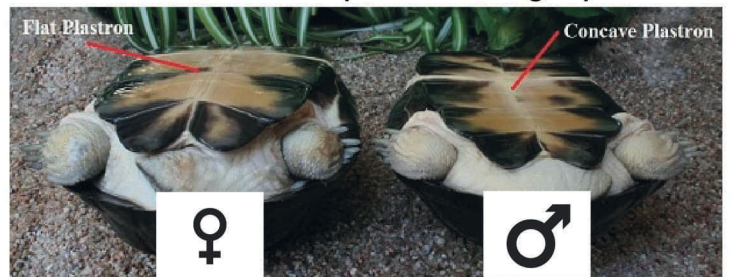
1. Look at the shell:

The shell length of an adult female turtle is slightly longer than the male.



2. Observe the plastron:

In male turtles, the plastron is slightly concave while in females it is flat. Here by concave, I mean the plastron is slightly inwards.



3. See the tail:

In male turtles, there is often a small notch on the back side of the carapace. The notch looks like the letter 'v'. This notch helps to accommodate the tail when the turtles are mating.



4. Species defined features:

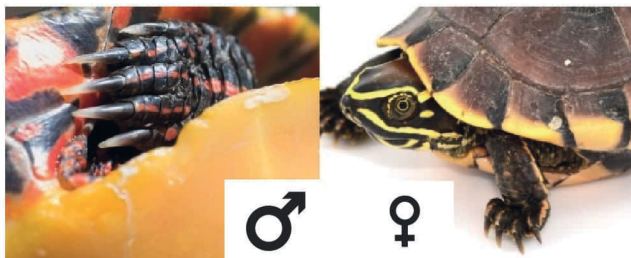
Male American box turtles have orange or red irises and the female ones have yellow or brown ones.

The male sun turtles have a blue shade of color on their underbellies. If the underbelly doesn't have any blue shade, then it is a female.



5. Check the claws:

The claws of the male turtles' front legs are longer than the female turtles. It is because male turtles use their long claws to defend their territory and fight.



7. Look at the tail size:

The tail of the male turtle is much longer and thicker whereas the female turtles have shorter and thinner tail. It is because, the male turtles have their genitalia within the tail, which makes these thicker and longer.



6. Observe the cloaca of the turtle:

The female's cloaca looks much rounder and has the appearance of a star. It is located much closer to the body, at the base of the tail.

In males, the cloaca has a slit-like appearance and much longer. It is more located towards the tip of the tail, much far than the body.

