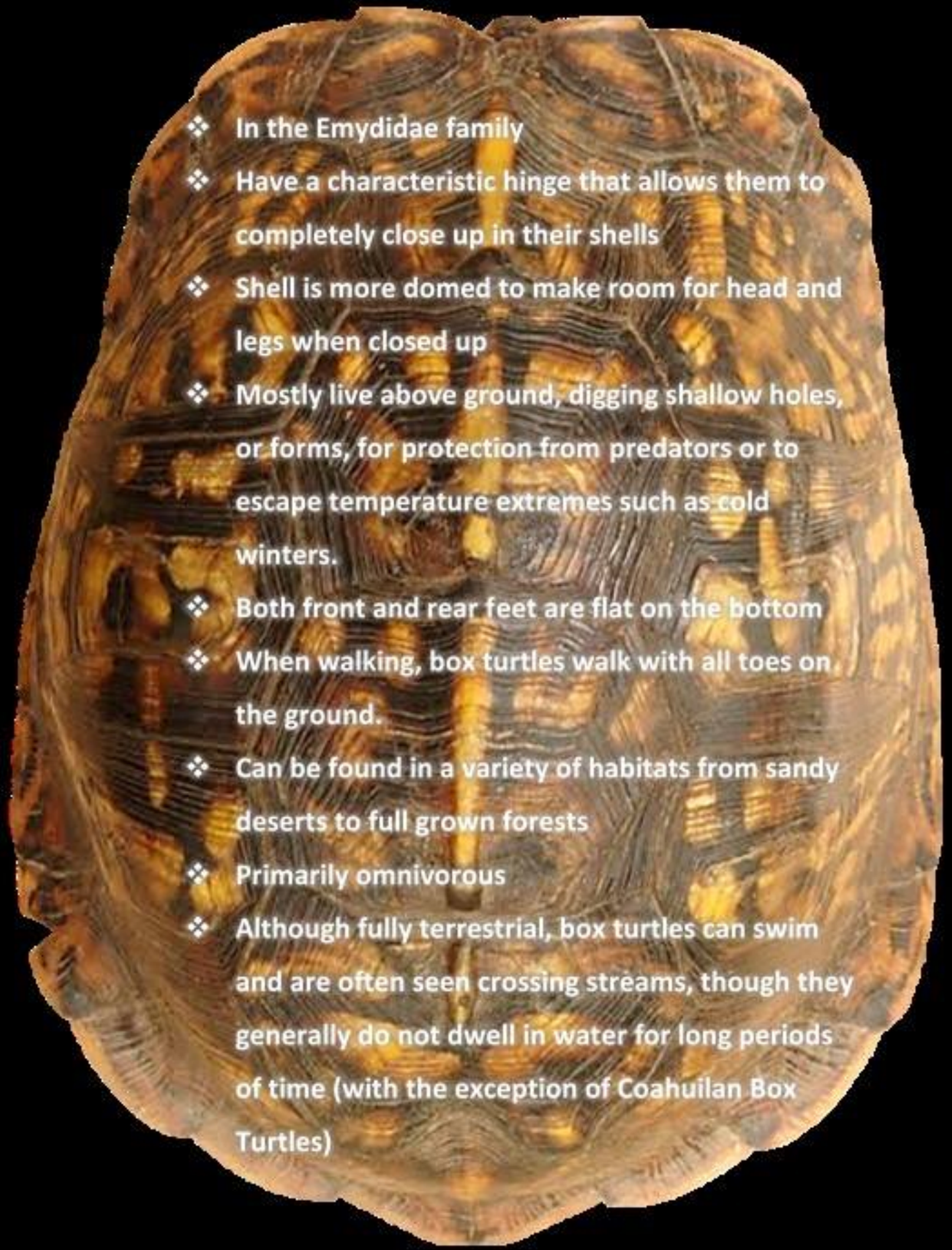
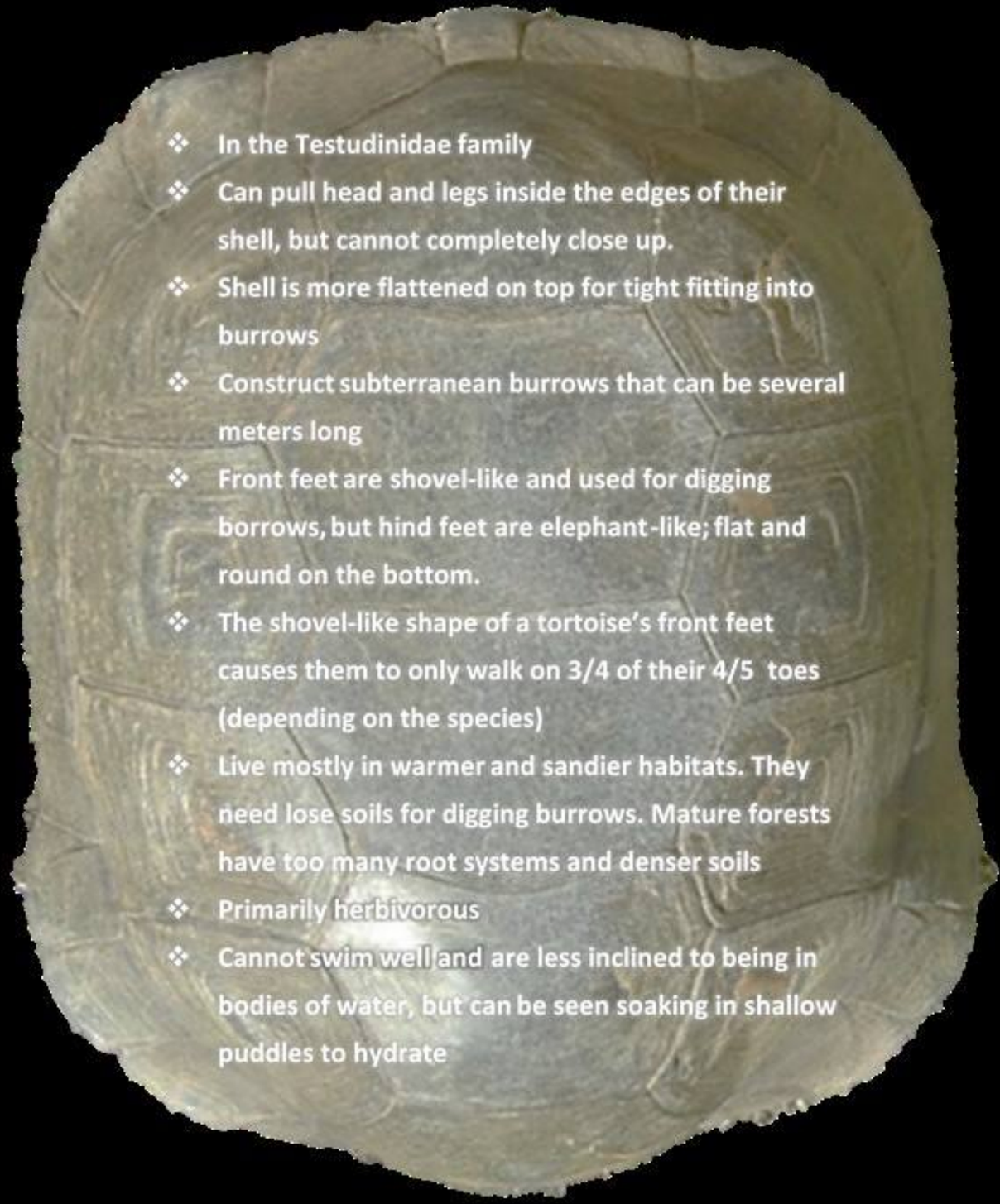
BOX TURTLES



- In the Emydidae family
- Have a characteristic hinge that allows them to completely close up in their shells
- Shell is more domed to make room for head and legs when closed up
- Mostly live above ground, digging shallow holes, or forms, for protection from predators or to escape temperature extremes such as cold winters.
- Both front and rear feet are flat on the bottom
- When walking, box turtles walk with all toes on the ground.
- Can be found in a variety of habitats from sandy deserts to full grown forests
- Primarily omnivorous
- Although fully terrestrial, box turtles can swim and are often seen crossing streams, though they generally do not dwell in water for long periods of time (with the exception of Coahuilan Box Turtles)

NORTH AMERICAN TORTOISES



- In the Testudinidae family
- Can pull head and legs inside the edges of their shell, but cannot completely close up.
- Shell is more flattened on top for tight fitting into burrows
- Construct subterranean burrows that can be several meters long
- Front feet are shovel-like and used for digging borrows, but hind feet are elephant-like; flat and round on the bottom.
- The shovel-like shape of a tortoise's front feet causes them to only walk on 3/4 of their 4/5 toes (depending on the species)
- Live mostly in warmer and sandier habitats. They need lose soils for digging burrows. Mature forests have too many root systems and denser soils
- Primarily herbivorous
- Cannot swim well and are less inclined to being in bodies of water, but can be seen soaking in shallow puddles to hydrate