

# Egyptian Naany



## The Egyptian Tortoise

Samy Zalal

By:

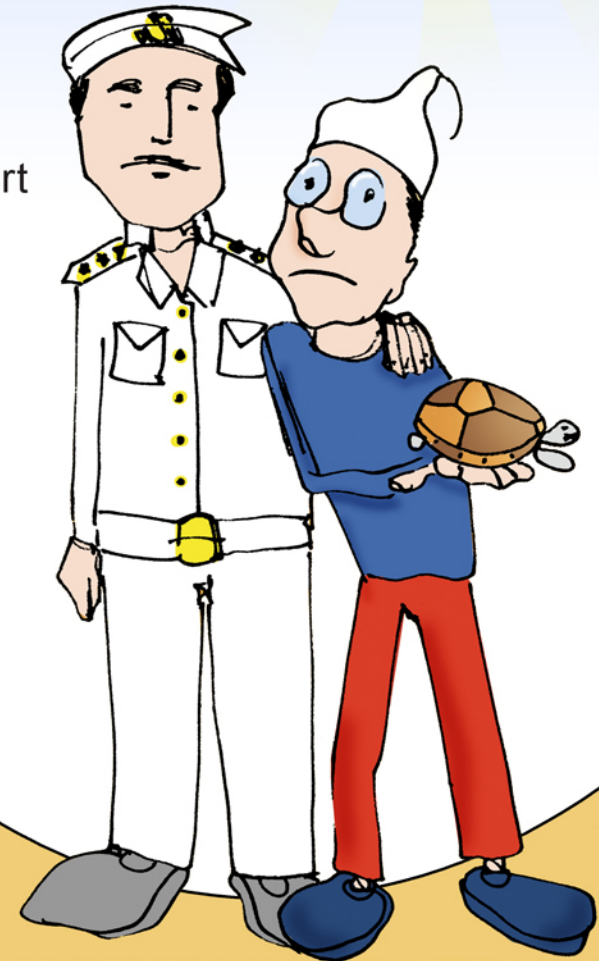
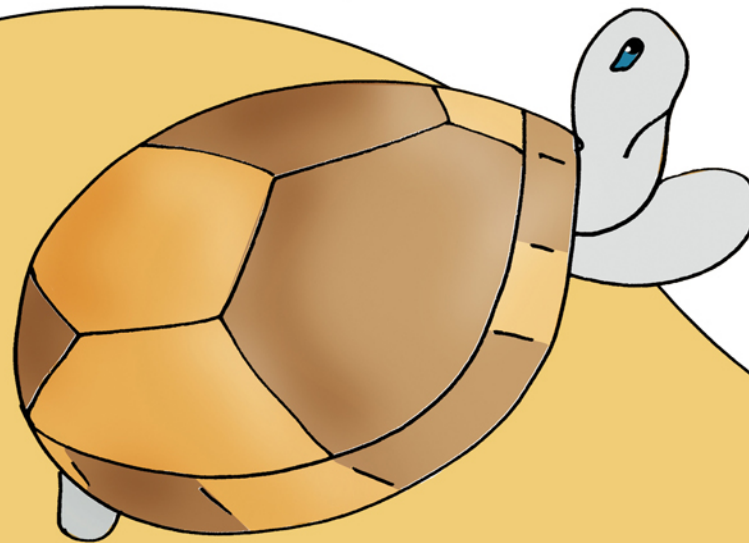
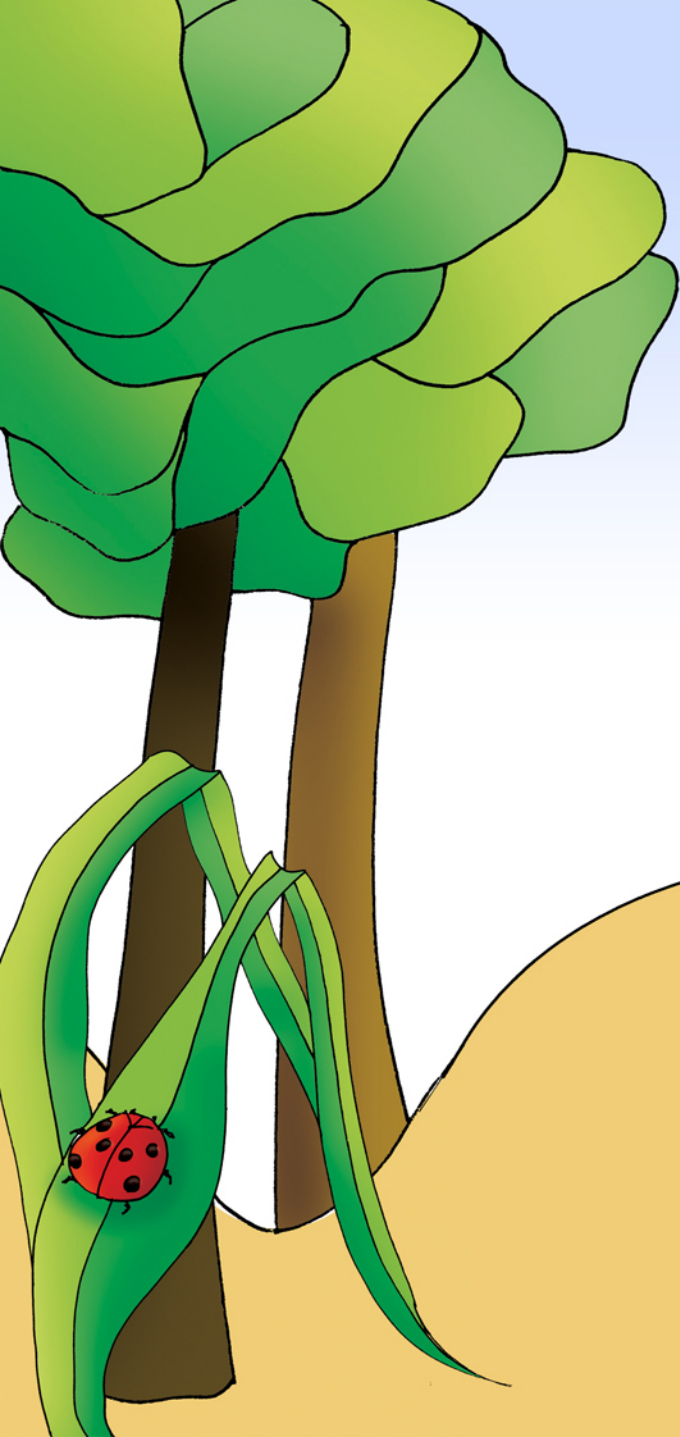
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I am Naany... the Egyptian tortoise.  
I am light yellow in colour.  
My body is small.

I am one of the smallest  
tortoises in the world.



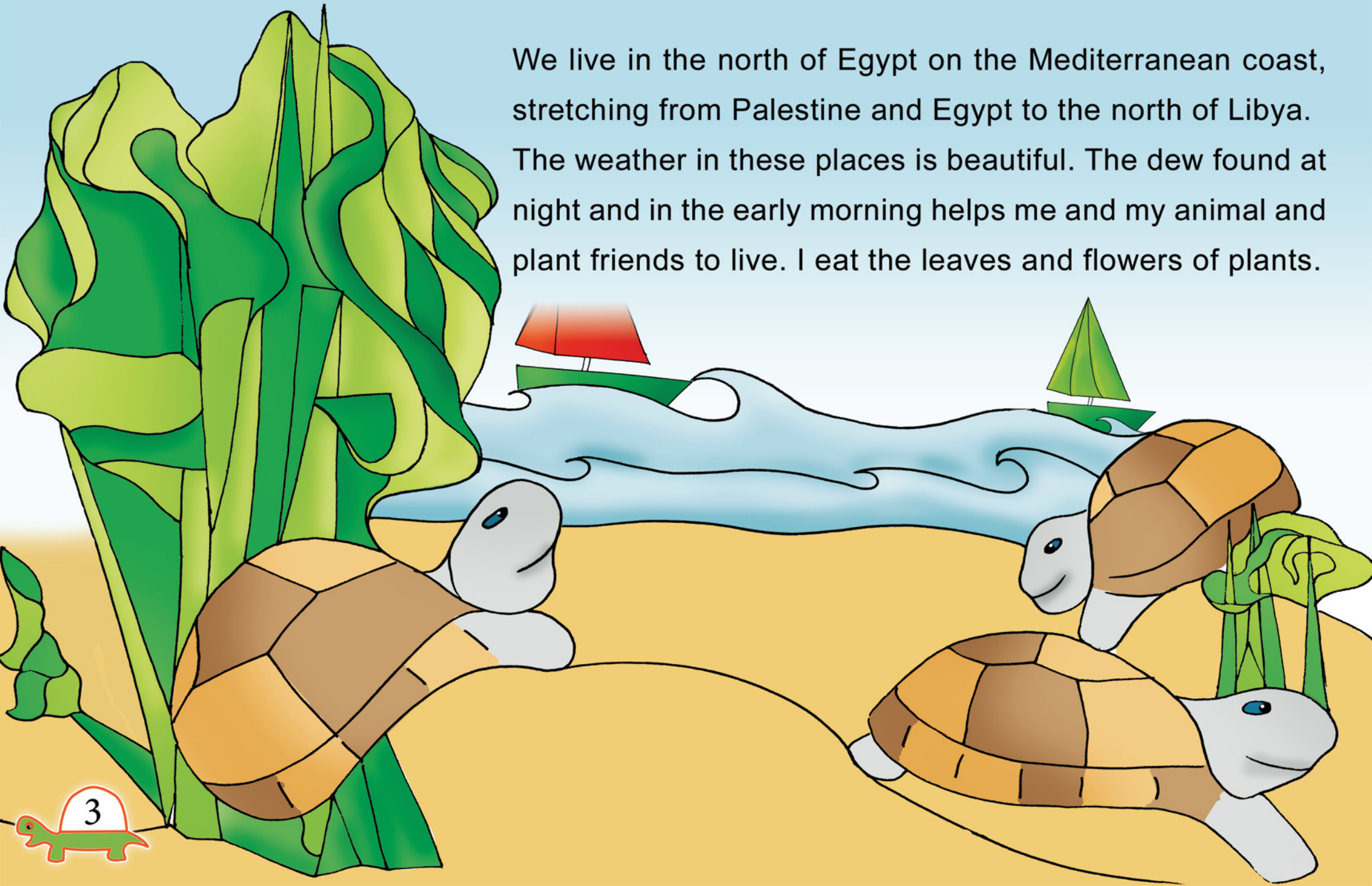


I have 4 other brothers and sisters of my kind: the Greek tortoise, the Russian tortoise, Herrman's tortoise and the Marginated tortoise.

We have different shapes, sizes and colours. We all have a hard shell covering our bodies to protect us from enemies.



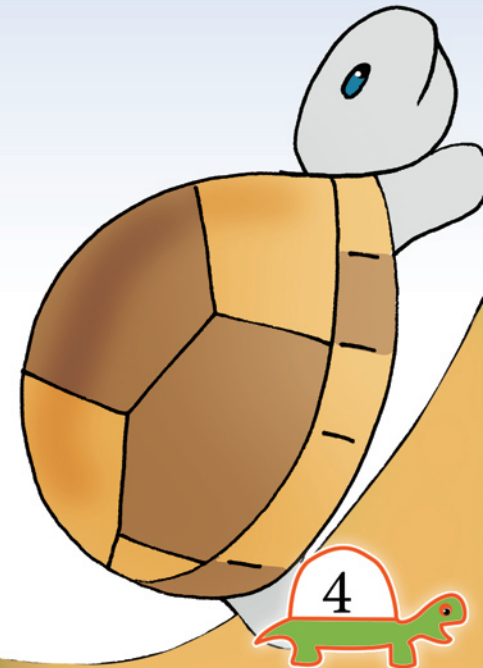
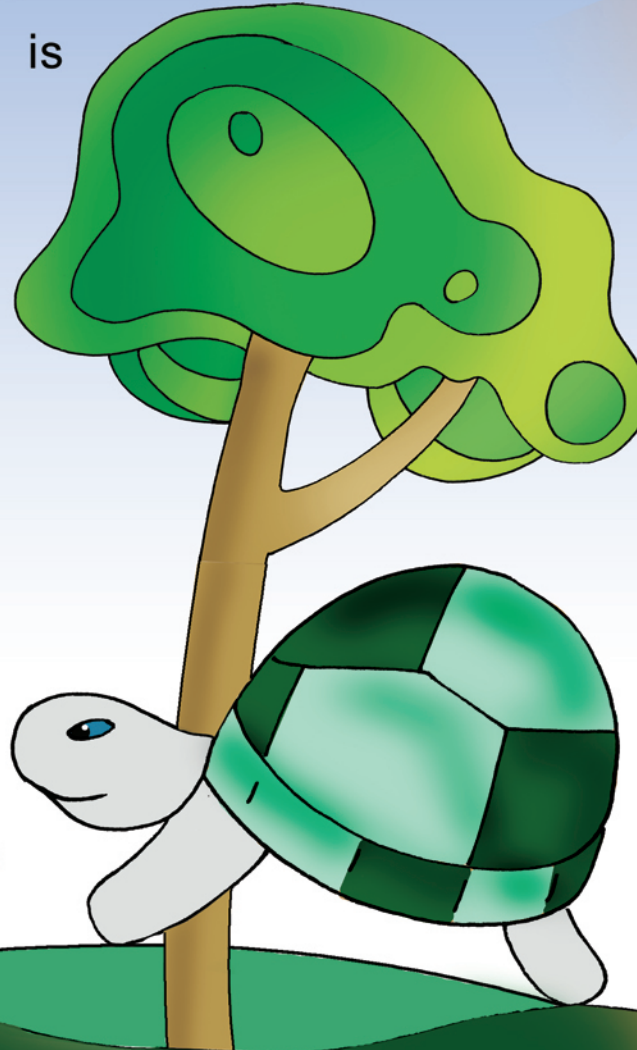
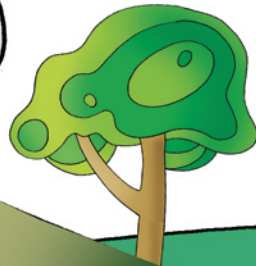
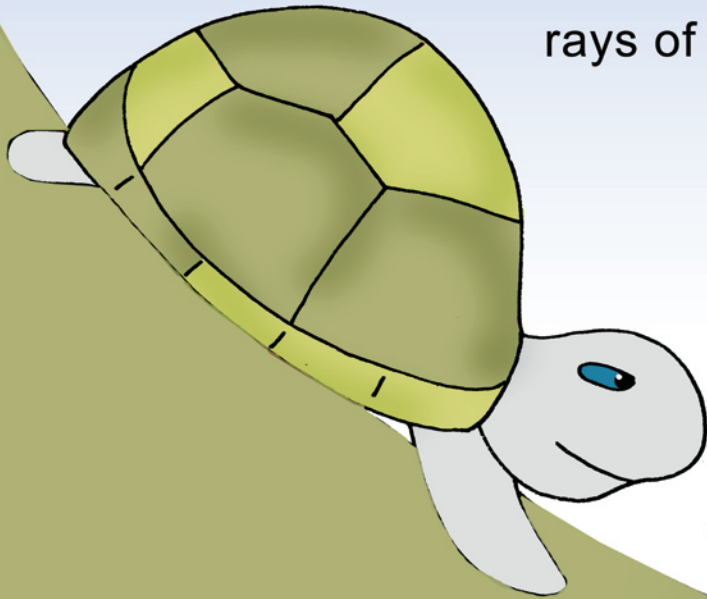
We live in the north of Egypt on the Mediterranean coast, stretching from Palestine and Egypt to the north of Libya. The weather in these places is beautiful. The dew found at night and in the early morning helps me and my animal and plant friends to live. I eat the leaves and flowers of plants.



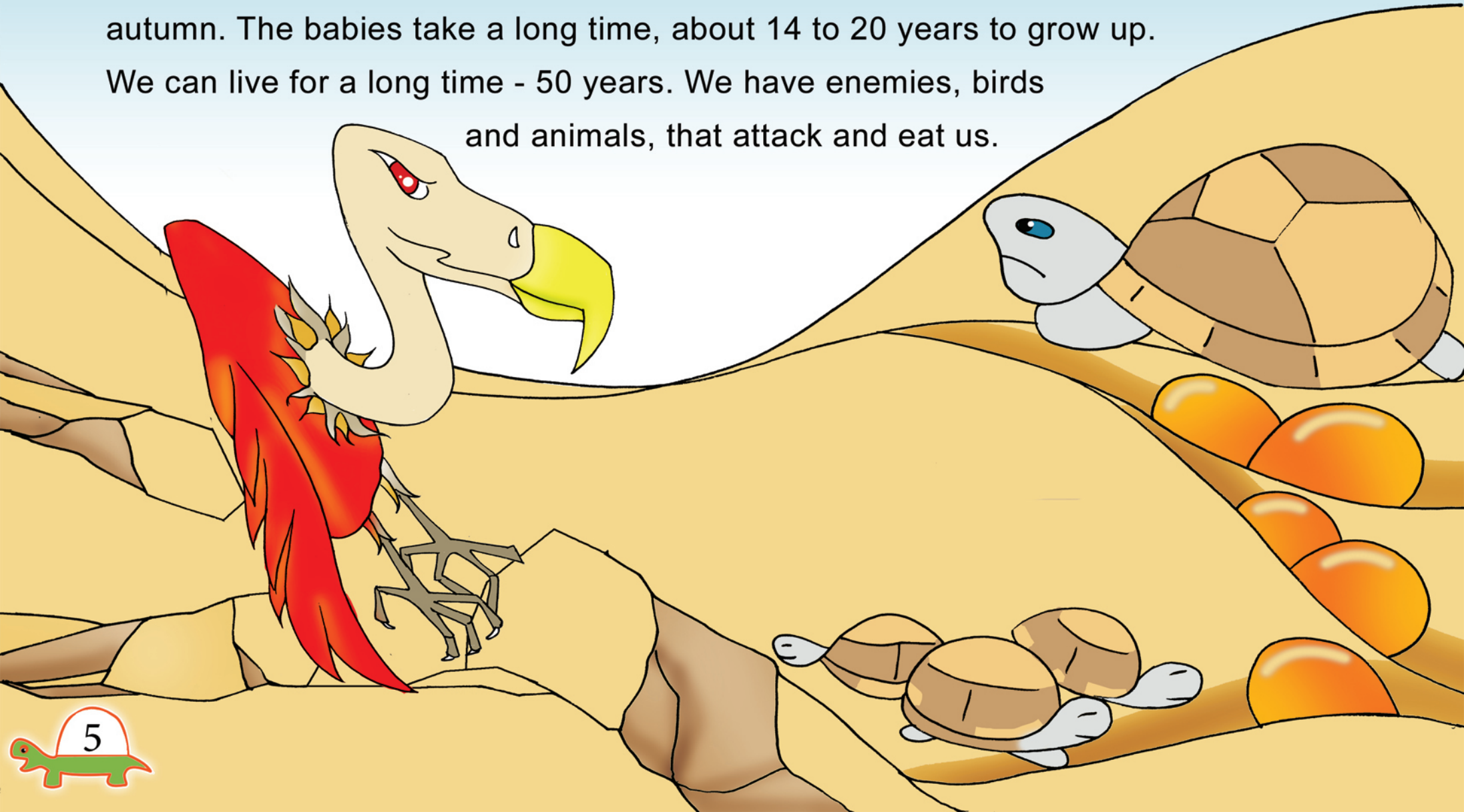
My sister living in Gebal Akhadar in Libya is greenish in colour. My other sister living in Barka in Libya has a light brownish body, because the soil is brown.

My little body is light yellow.

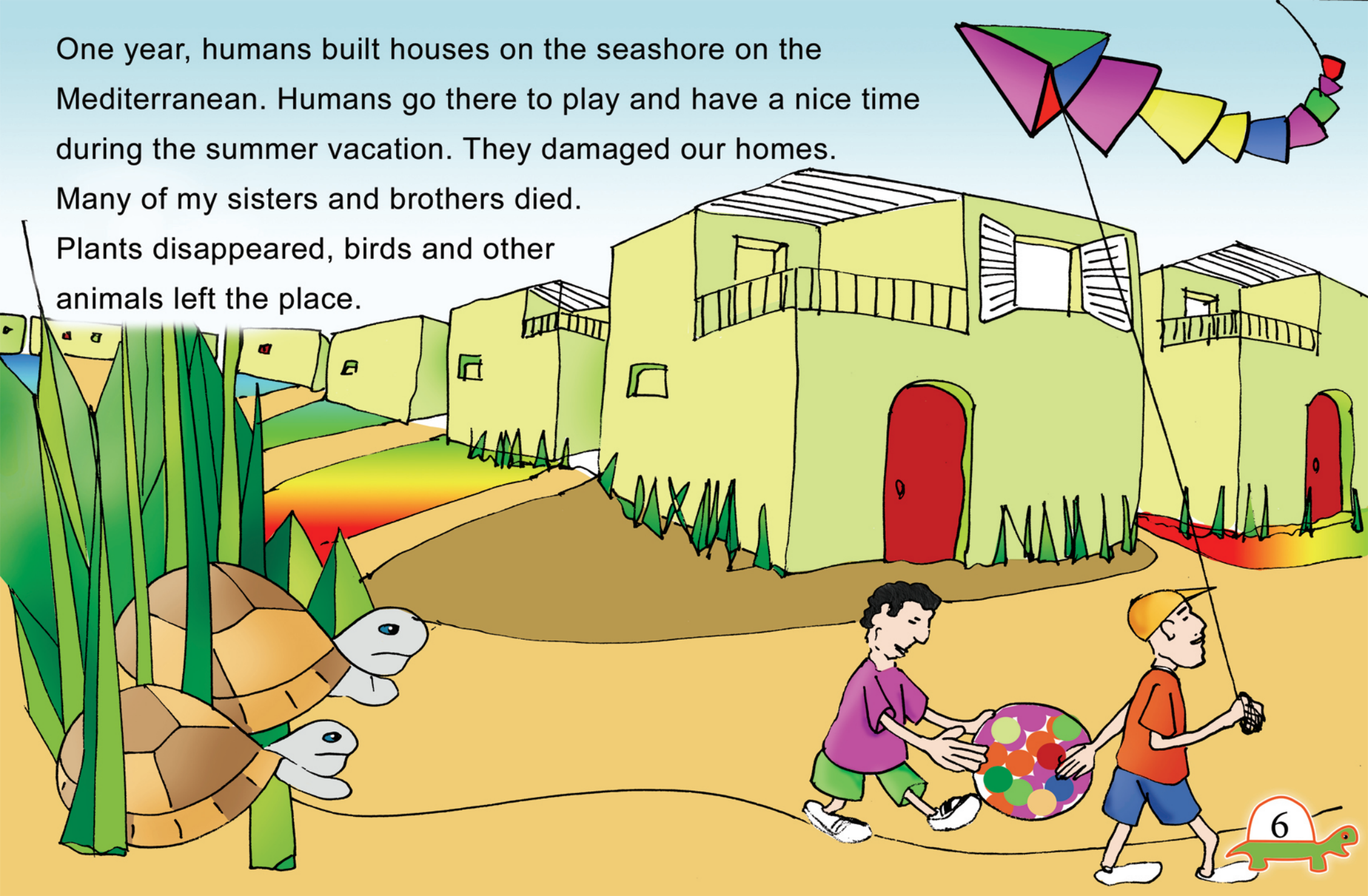
This stops it from absorbing the hot rays of the sun.

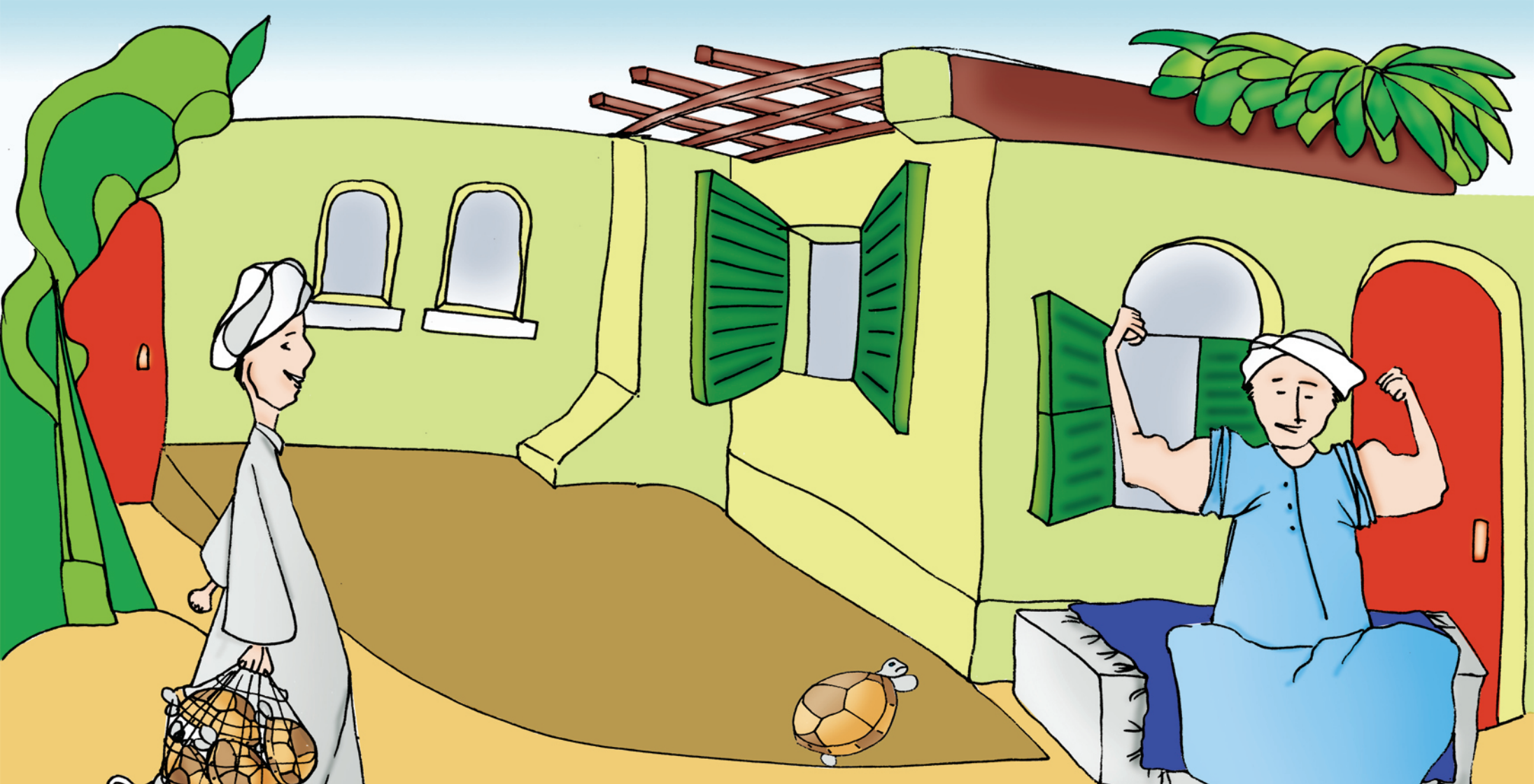


A female lays between 1 and 5 eggs. She puts them in the sand under bushes or in special holes. Little tortoises come out of the eggs by the end of summer or early autumn. The babies take a long time, about 14 to 20 years to grow up. We can live for a long time - 50 years. We have enemies, birds and animals, that attack and eat us.



One year, humans built houses on the seashore on the Mediterranean. Humans go there to play and have a nice time during the summer vacation. They damaged our homes. Many of my sisters and brothers died. Plants disappeared, birds and other animals left the place.





Someone kidnapped some of my sisters. He killed them and mixed them with herbs to make a medicine. Humans think it gives them power.





PET SHOP

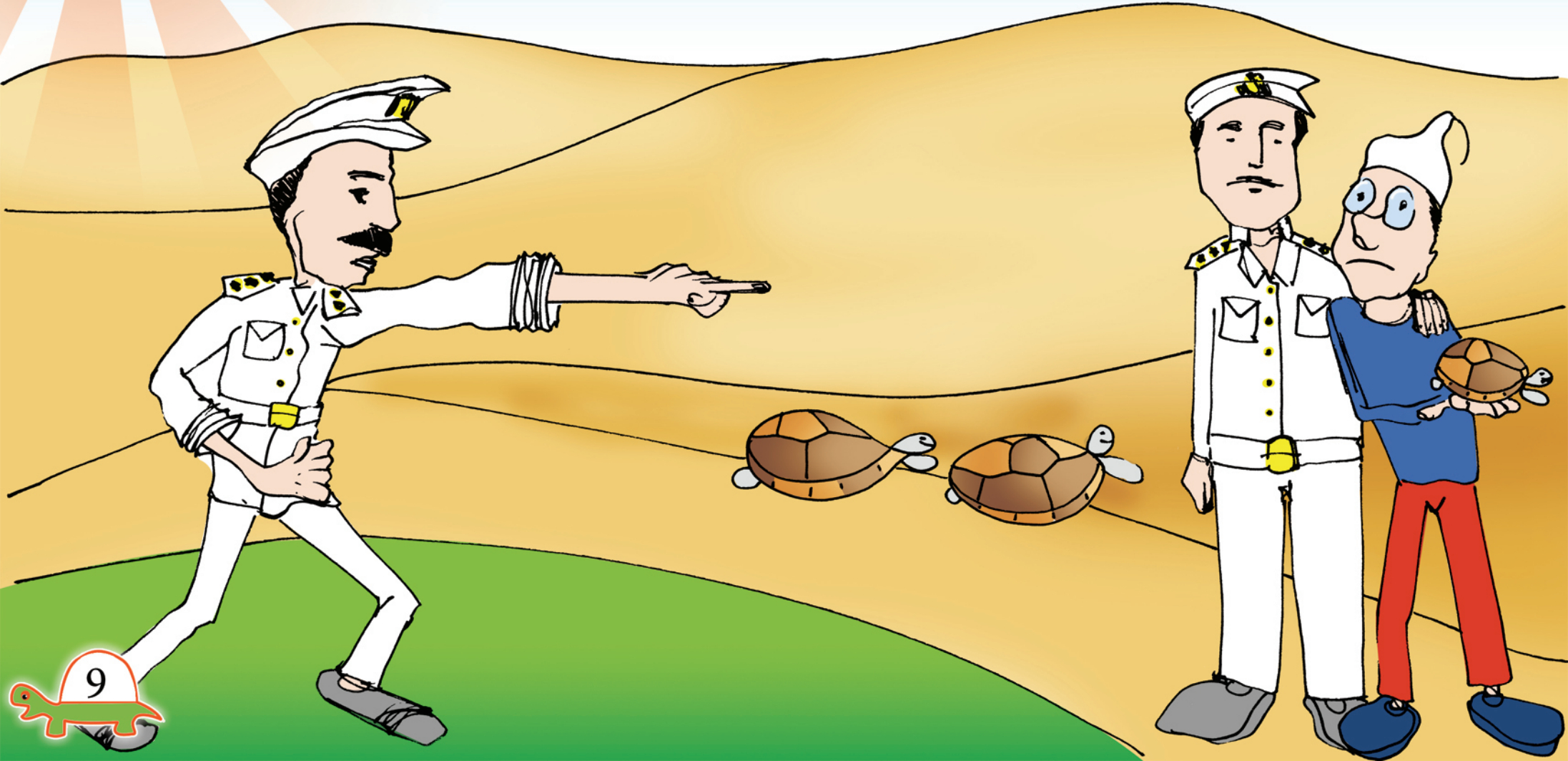
One day, I was playing in the evening with my tortoise friends near my house on the northern coast. Suddenly, someone came and took us, putting us in a cloth bag.

He sold us in a market with other animals. People like to buy us and keep us as pets, like cats and dogs.

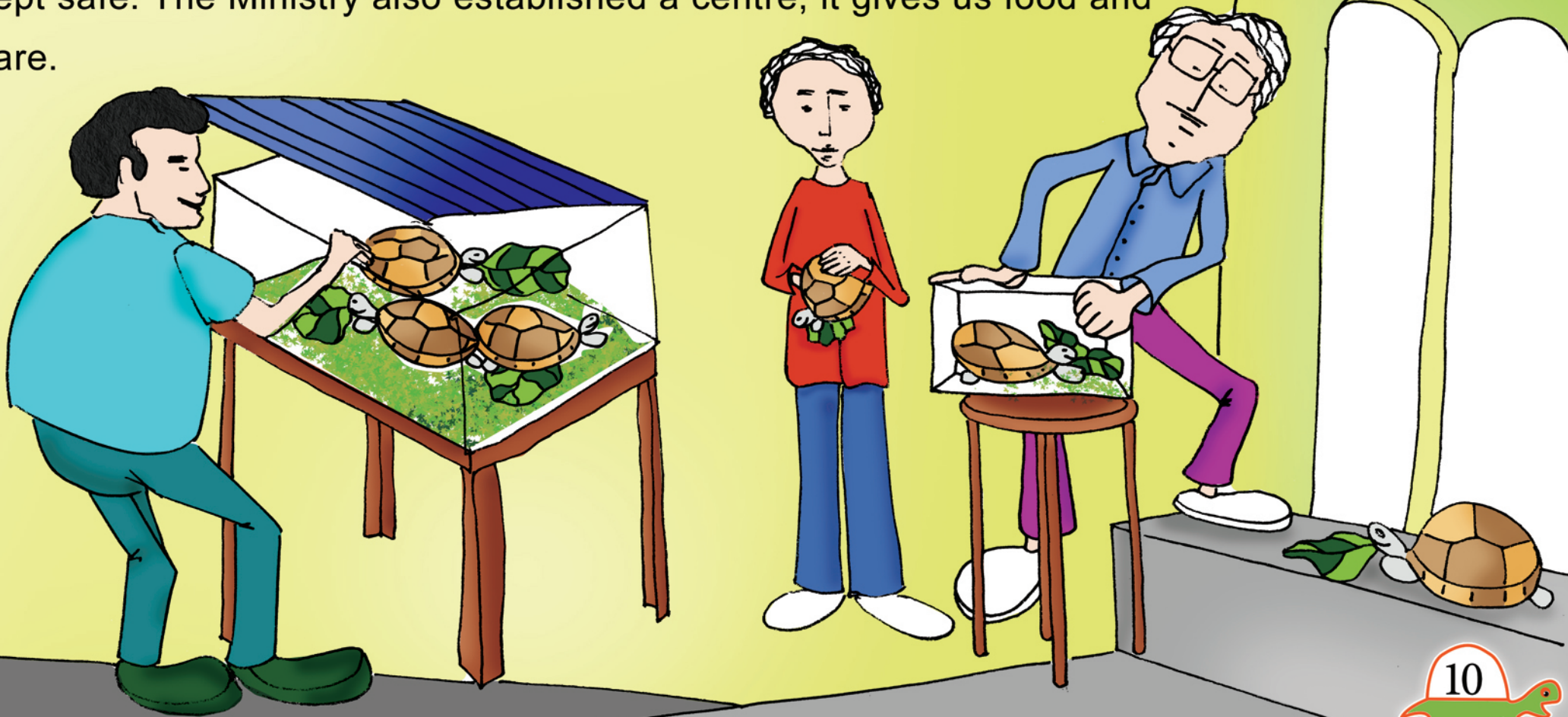




I was very happy when the police caught the kidnappers. International agreements and Egyptian laws are supposed to prevent our hunting. We are very few, and we could disappear from Earth.



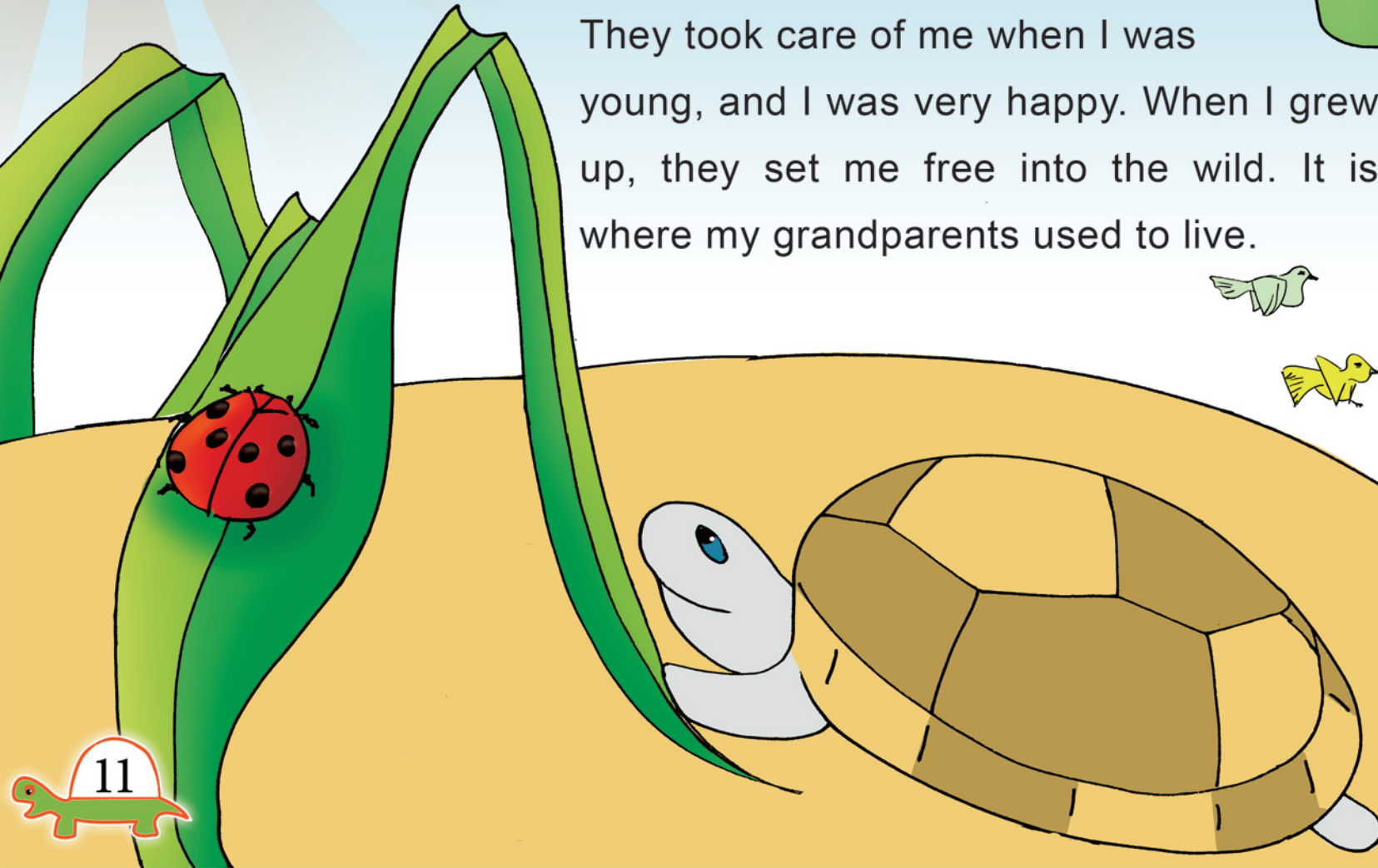
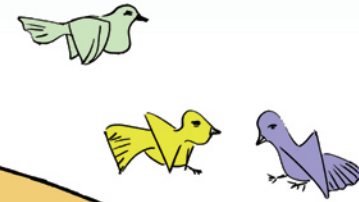
The police took us to a beautiful place called "The Omayed Protected Area". It was established by the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs in 1986. It is on the Mediterranean. The Protected Area is a place where wild rare animals and plants are kept safe. The Ministry also established a centre; it gives us food and care.





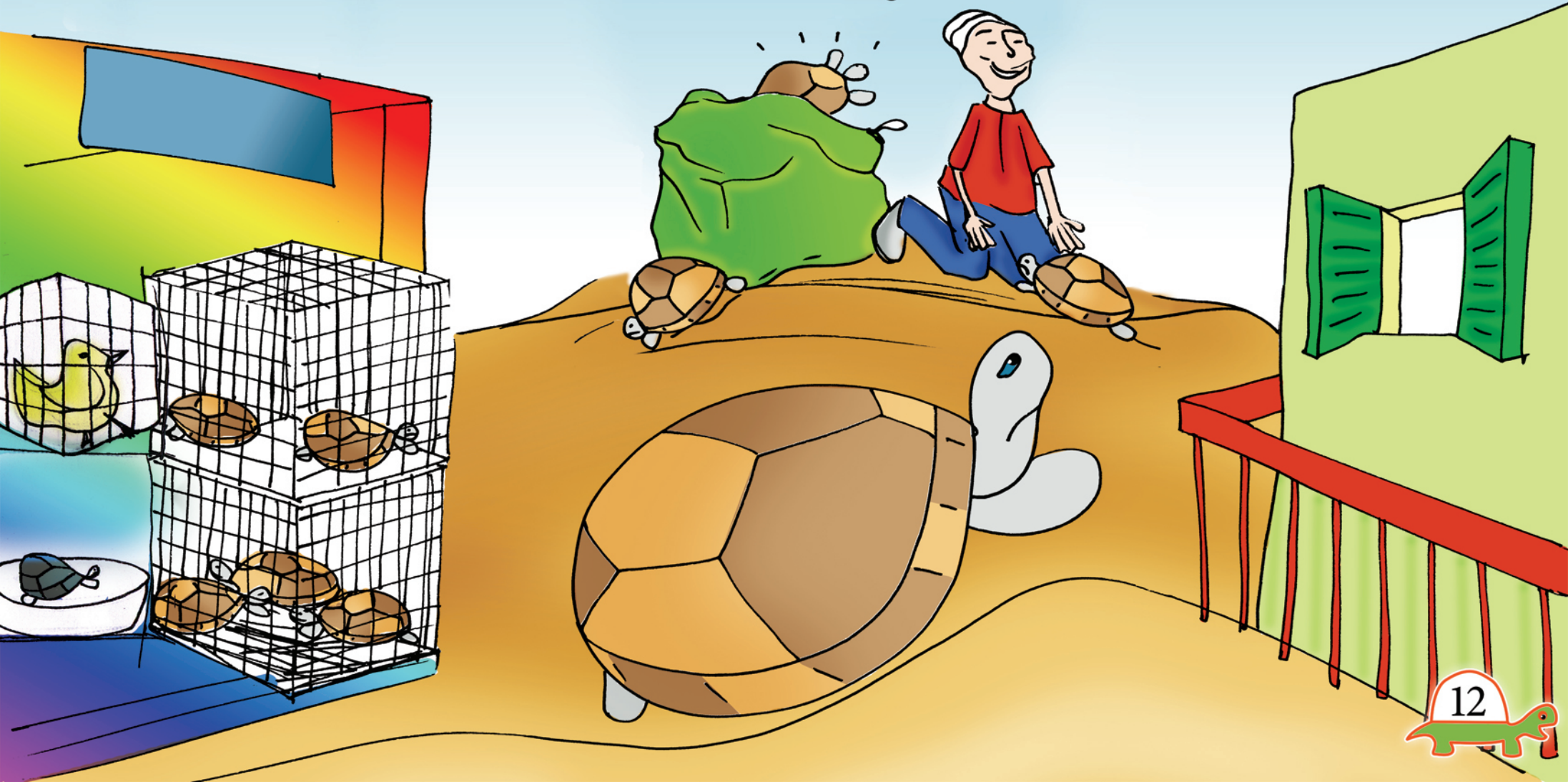
The Rangers set us free in the Protected Area which looks just like the home that we are used to. We can't grow in closed places; we love to live in open areas.

They took care of me when I was young, and I was very happy. When I grew up, they set me free into the wild. It is where my grandparents used to live.



My friends, please, don't buy me from markets. You should tell the police about anyone who sells or collects us, because this is against the law.

If people keep collecting us, we will soon disappear from Earth forever. And you will not see me again.



## Extra Information

- The Egyptian tortoise is one of the smallest tortoises in the world.
- A male reaches 8 to 10 cm long, while females are about 10 to 12 cm.
- The tortoise occurs on the Mediterranean coastal range.
- The average lifespan of a tortoise is 50 years.
- It is very slow. It is active during the night, and hides in the sand in the morning.
- It feeds on weeds, desert plants and fruits.
- A tortoise becomes adult between the ages of 14 and 20.
- A female lays about 5 eggs in a hole in the sand under a bush or a burrow. Eggs hatch to give little tortoises.
- It is about to become extinct in Egypt.

## The aim of the story:

- Trade in wild animals is a reason behind the loss of tortoises.
- Most captive tortoises are illegally sold in pet shops;
- A huge number of animals die even before reaching the pet shops; the loss may reach 90%.
- Selling tortoises and keeping them as pets is against International and Egyptian law.

## What can I do?

1. Don't buy any that are offered to you, or keep them indoors.
2. If you own one, you should hand it to the Omayed Protected Area rangers in Matrouh. There it will receive the best care, and it will be released back to its natural habitat.  
Mobile: 0129598882      Tel.: 046830701  
Contact person: Mohamed Essawi.  
Or Tel.: 025265887 (BioMAP project).
3. In case you find it on sale, inform the Protectorate management situated in the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs, leaving the address and name of the locality selling it. Contact the central management for Wild Life Protection.  
Address: 30 Misr Helwan road, Al Maadi, EEAA building.  
P.o.: 112728 Maadi. Tel.: 025248792 – 025271391



The Egyptian tortoise is one of the world's most endangered species. Trade in these tortoises (whether buying or selling) is against International and Egyptian law.

## Questions:

After you have read the story of the Egyptian tortoise, lets think and find out the answers to these questions:

1. What is the colour of Naany?
2. How many brothers and sisters does Naany has?
3. How many eggs does a female lay at a time?
4. What is the name of the Protected Area where Naany lives?
5. Are you for keeping Naany indoors?



SHADE THE WORDS ,  
TO FIND OUT THE SECRET WORD

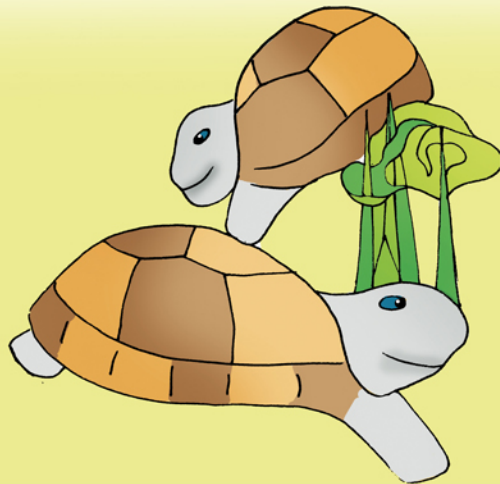
PET - YELLOW - SAND - WARM - SEA  
SUN - DEW - EGYPT - SHELL - PROTECT

Y	E	L	L	O	W	P
T	R	A	D	E	S	R
S	W	A	R	M	A	O
H	D	S	E	A	N	T
E	E	S	U	N	D	E
L	W		P	E	T	C
L	E	G	Y	P	T	T





# Save The Tortoises



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