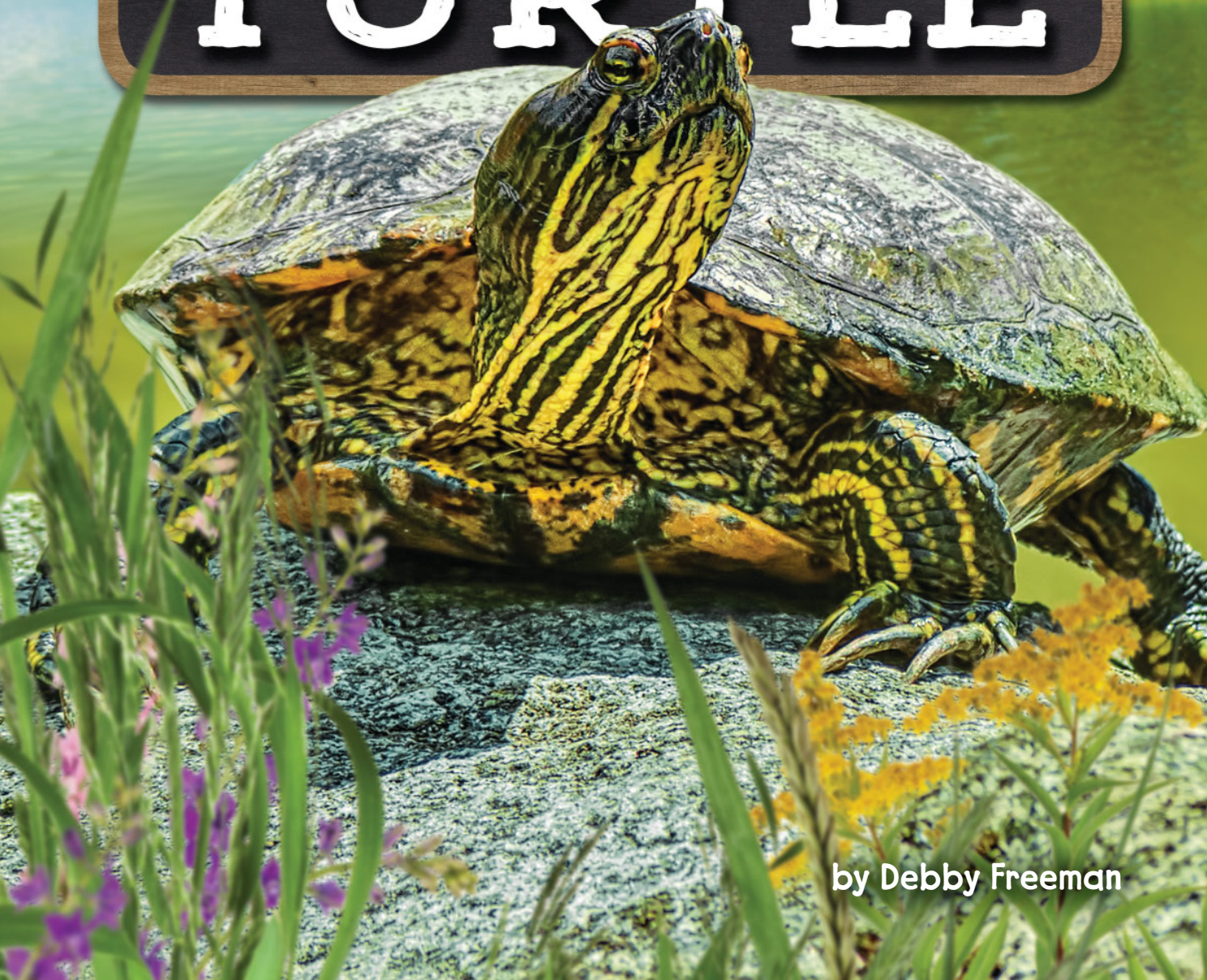


See Them  
**Grow**

# TURTLE



by Debby Freeman

**[Intentionally Left Blank]**



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# Turtle

The sun shines on a pond.

A painted turtle warms  
its body on a rock.

It has a hard, bony shell  
and colorful stripes.





A close-up photograph of a red-eared slider turtle resting on a grey, textured rock. The turtle's head is raised, showing its distinctive black and white striped pattern. Its body is primarily black with vibrant red and orange markings along its sides and underbelly. The background is slightly blurred, showing green lily pads and some brown, seed-like structures. A yellow speech bubble is positioned at the top, and a dark grey text box is at the bottom right.

How did it get that way?

Turtles, like snakes  
and lizards, are  
**reptiles.**



It's springtime.

A male painted turtle waves  
his claws at a female.

He swims up to the female.





Then the turtles dive  
underwater and **mate**.

After mating, eggs grow  
inside the female's body.

Male painted turtles have  
longer claws than females.



**male  
claw**



**female  
claw**