

## My Name is Albert

My name is Albert and I am a box turtle. I am an exceptional reptile because, as you probably know, turtles do not write stories. I have decided to let people know a little bit more about box turtles.

I move rather slowly at my age. It has not always been that way though. Why, when I was a hatchling, I could speed across my yard in no time. I will admit that I got stuck on an occasional twig or garden hose, but I was certainly not a quitter. My little legs would just keep going until I overcame any obstacle. As I grew, I learned to slow down and enjoy all the interesting sights and sounds my environment provided. I have discovered "bug holes", found the juiciest berries and can tell when my owner is coming to play.

When my owner approaches, I stretch out my long neck to reveal my beautiful coloring and proudly walk up to my owner and scratch at his feet. My owner is much taller than I and usually sits down with me. While my owner is watching, I make a point to walk around him, crawl under his legs and usually go for a swim in my pond. He finds this behavior endearing and proceeds to pick me up and tell me how funny I am. This ritual is frequently completed with a special turtle treat of melons or dog food.

Resting is one of my favorite past times. During the warm summer months, I like to dig a hole in my yard and crawl into it.

months, box turtles, like me,

hot tallest fast  
over ... happy...

My teacher  
gives hard homework.  
my teacher