**Scute:** (noun) a dermal boney plate, as on a turtle.
   Synonym: scales

**Carapace:** (noun) a bony shield, or shell covering some, or all the dorsal part of a turtle.
   Synonym: shell

**Plastron:** (noun) the front part of the shell of a turtle

**Vertebræ:** (noun) any of the bones composing of the spinal cord
   Synonym: backbone

**Fused:** (verb) to attach
   Synonym: connect

**Acres:** (Noun) a common measurement of an area of land

**Brumation:** (verb) a condition of inactivity exhibited in reptiles during winter or periods of low temperatures

**Regulate:** (verb) to control or direct
   Synonym: manage, rule

**Vulnerable:** (adj.) capable of being hunt or wounded
   Synonym: sensitive, unsafe

**Endangered:** (adj.) generally perceived as threatened with extinction, high risk of extinction
   Synonym: at-risk, in danger

**Fragmented:** (adj.) broken into separate parts, disorganized not connected
   Synonym: fractured, separated, in pieces

**Homing instinct:** (noun) the ability to return home from distance

**Barrier:** (noun) any natural bar or obstacle that restrains access. A limit or boundary of any kind
   Synonym: fence, hurdle, roadblock

**Suitable:** (adj.) appropriate, fitting and becoming
   Synonym: correct, proper, just right, useful

**Disperse:** (verb) to spread widely, to separate and move apart in different directions without order
   Synonym: spread, scatter