

Table 5.3. Turtle anatomical parts

Directional term	Definition
dorsal	situated on or toward the upper side of the body
ventral	situated on or toward the lower side of the body
anterior	situated on or toward the forward or head-end side of the body
posterior	situated on or toward the rear side of the body, away from the head

Anatomical term	Definition
carapace	hard shell covering the dorsal part of an animal body (Fig. 5.31 A)
plastron	hard shell covering the ventral part of a turtle body (Fig. 5.31 B)
scute	horny plate as part of a larger carapace or plastron (Fig. 5.31 A)
costal scutes	plates on left and right sides of the central carapace (Fig. 5.31 A)
nuchal scute	single plate on the carapace edge closest to the head or neck (Fig. 5.31 A)
prefrontal scales	scales situated between the eyes and nose (Fig. 5.31 D)