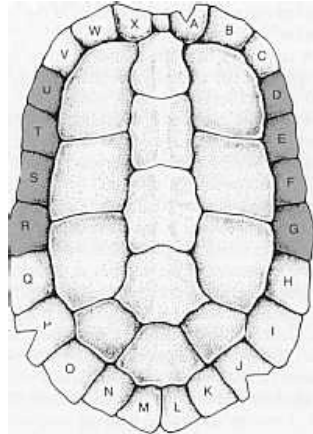
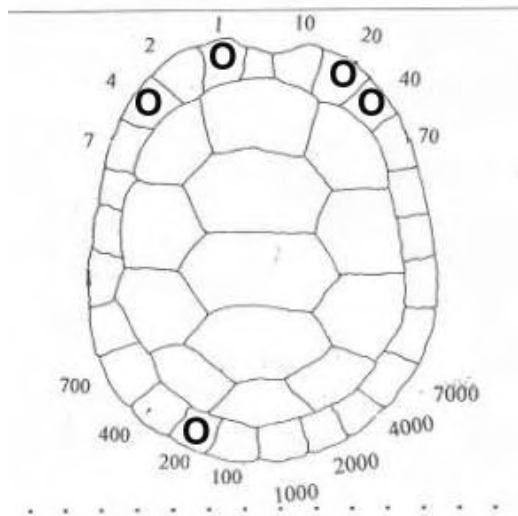


MARKING TURTLES FOR LONG TERM STUDIES IN THE FIELD



CAPTION TEXT: A marking system using letters for slider turtles. The marginal scutes indicated by shading should not be included in the marking scheme for certain species because of their susceptibility to shell damage. The identification code, using a lettering system, for this turtle is AJP. The marks on turtle shells can be made as notches from a knife or file (illustrated here) or as holes drilled through the marginals. Hatchlings can be marked with small scissors or fingernail clippers. Marks on the shells of terrestrial and freshwater turtles do not damage the turtle but are permanent, being identifiable as many as 30 years after initial marking.



CAPTION TEXT: A marking system using numbers for turtles. The 1-2-4-7 system allows for any number between 1 and 9 by marking or drilling (illustrated here). The identification code for this turtle is 265. Up to 9999 different turtles can be identified with this method.

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