Ornate Box Turtle

Turtle Shells to Wear

One brown paper grocery bag is needed for each turtle shell. Cut a hole in the bottom of the bag for the child to put his/her head through. Cut holes in each of the narrow sides for arm holes. Let students paint their turtle shells with the yellow strip markings of the Ornate Box Turtle. Children can wear their "shells" as they pretend to be turtles.

Turtle Races

Copy the turtle pattern from the following page onto cardstock, enlarging it 129%, or trace it onto thin cardboard. Cut out the turtle, including the hole in the center. Make at least two turtles. Have students color the yellow markings on each turtle to make it an Ornate Box Turtle. For each turtle tie a four to five foot piece of string to something that sits firmly on the floor, such as a table leg. Have each child thread the loose end of one string through the hole in one cardboard turtle. At the word "GO" each child should begin tugging at the end of the string. The turtles will "race" from the end being held by the child to the tied end.
Turtle Pattern for Turtle Races (see previous page)