



WALKING WITH
MISKWAADESI



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Original drawings, illustrations provided by:

Bernice Gordon

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Writing and editing contributions by:

Eileen "Sam" Conroy (Wahgeh Giizhigo Migizi Kwe)
Andrea Harquail
Bob Johnson
Basil Johnston
Kaitlyn Watson
Kim Wheatley (Shkode Neegan Waawaaskone)
Shirley Ida Williams (Igizi Ow-Kwe)

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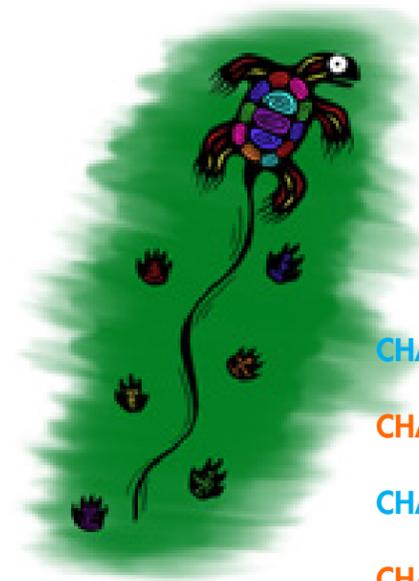
Additional companion publication resources include *Miskwaadesi & A'now:ara Curriculum-based Activities*, *The Ways of Knowing Guide Earth's Teachings*, and Species Identifier guides. These are available online at www.turtleislandconservation.ca or from Turtle Island Conservation at the Toronto Zoo.

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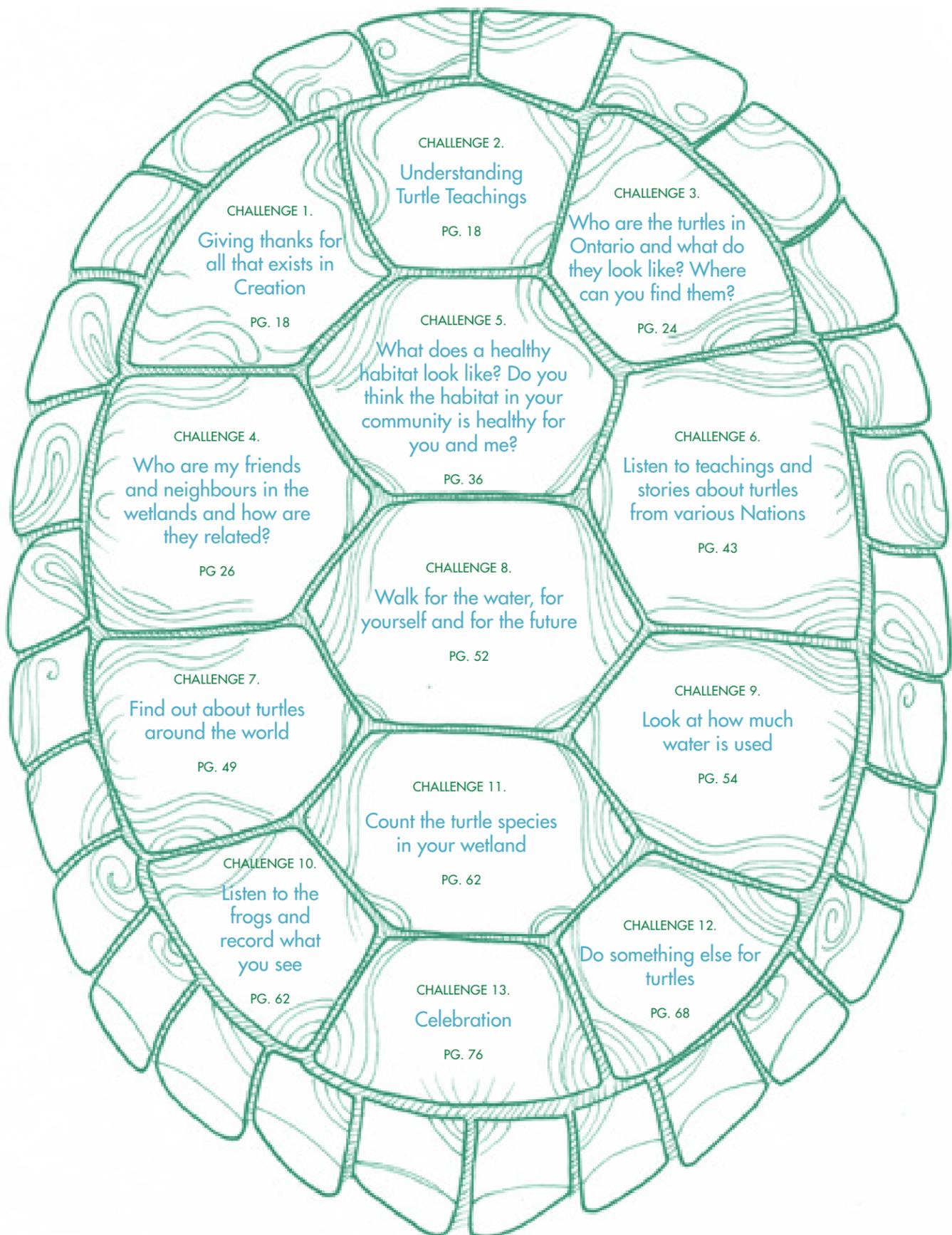
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MISKWAADESI'S THIRTEEN CHALLENGES



"Challenges are met with great honour especially when we know it is for a deep purpose – the betterment of all, especially our Mother Earth. We are guided by vision and dreams, but most of all we are guided by our Spirit and Spirit Helpers."

Josephine Mandamin's Journal – Mother Earth Water Walkers

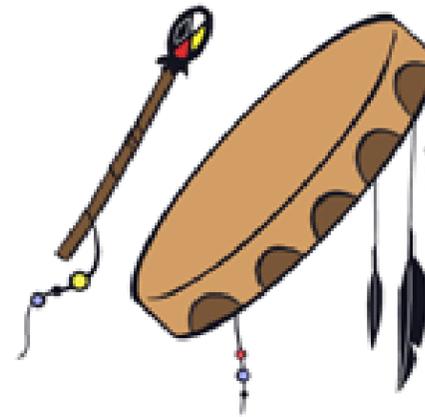
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The sacred Turtle Teachings this project is based upon have existed since the beginning of time and are shared to foster and guide generations to come. It is with good hearts and minds we honour these original teachings, so that each one of us can walk the good red road our ancestors planned for us. The Toronto Zoo's Turtle Island Conservation (TIC) programme respectfully acknowledges with infinite gratitude those who have contributed including all First Nation Elders; First Nation community members; Traditional Knowledge Keepers; First Nation TIC Advisory Group members; funding partners; First Nation authors; former TIC programme coordinators Benny Michaud, Candace Maracle, and Barbara Filion; TIC assistants Marilyn Desani, Skye Vandenburg, Randy Pittawanakwat, and Jocelyn Pelltier; and the countless children and youth who continue to inspire us for generations to come.

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INTRODUCTION

Boozhoo, Aanii, and Welcome to *Walking with Miskwaadesi*! This story is designed to invite readers into the world of Species at Risk, particularly turtles in Ontario, through the eyes of *Miskwaadesi*—a Painted turtle. This is a journey which enlists the Traditional Knowledge of the Anishinaabe People whose traditional lands surround the Great Lakes. The wisdom and knowledge contained in this book includes the authentic voices of recognized Traditional Knowledge Keepers located in the upper Great Lakes region of Ontario, Canada.

The Toronto Zoo's Turtle Island Conservation programme hopes that as you take this journey with *Miskwaadesi*, you will gain an insight into the distinct ways of knowing the *Anishinaabeg* and effectively contribute to the preservation of wetlands and the creatures that inhabit them for generations to come.

All my relations,
Misheeken n'dodem, Shkode Neegan Wawaskone,
Shawanaga n'doonji Anishinaabe Kwe n'dow.

Turtle Clan, Kim Wheatley, Head of the Fire Flower, Shawanaga First Nation, Anishinaabe Woman

Baamaampii Gwaabmiin!

