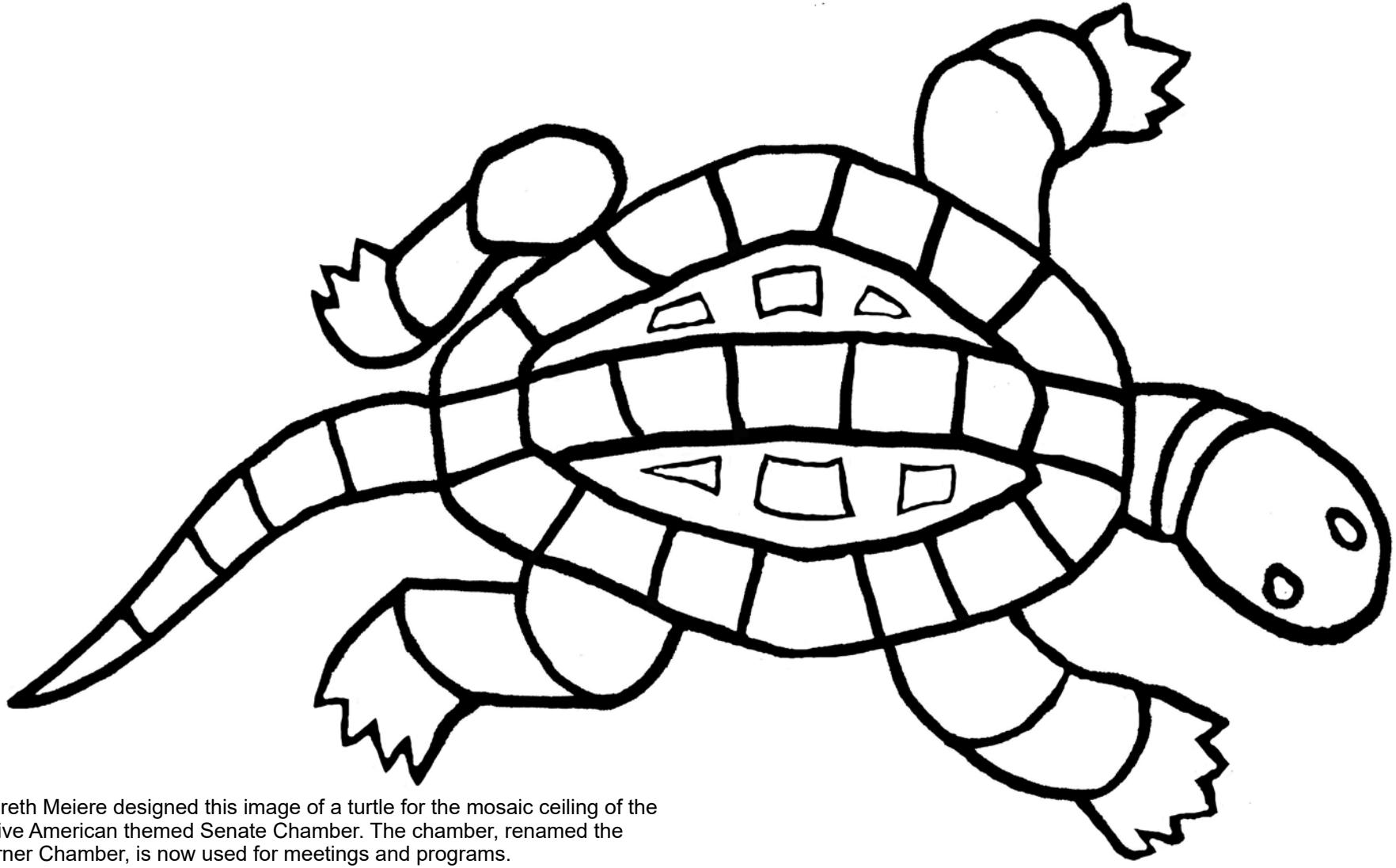
State Reptile -- Ornate Box Turtle

The Ornate Box Turtle was named Nebraska's state reptile by Gubentorial action in 2022. The Ornate Box Turtle (*Terrapene ornata*) is the only terrestrial turtle species native to Nebraska and can be found in short, mixed and tallgrass prairies and are rarely more than 6 inches long. They can live up to 30 years and are critial to the health of Nebraska's ecosystems for their role in insect and rodent control and as a food source for many native predators.

Source: Nebraska Blue Book 2022-23



Hildreth Meiere designed this image of a turtle for the mosaic ceiling of the Native American themed Senate Chamber. The chamber, renamed the Warner Chamber, is now used for meetings and programs.