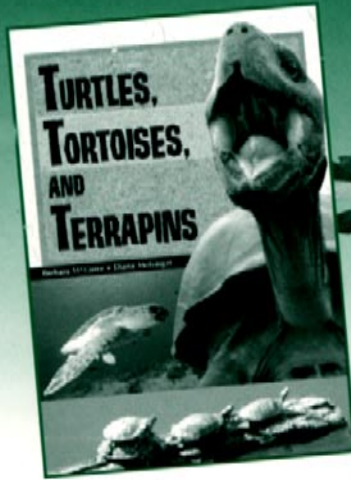




Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins



OVERVIEW

Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins contains a traditional tale and a non-fiction account of the fascinating life of turtles. The non-fiction section of the text explores the facts about turtles, tortoises, and terrapins. It includes a glossary and bibliography. The traditional tale is the story of a turtle who is too clever for his own good, and is brought down to earth in more ways than one!

LEARNING OUTCOMES

During this unit, the students will:

- formulate and record questions and assumptions about turtles and research the answers
- demonstrate an understanding of the way an index is composed
- evaluate the actions of a fictional character



WORDS TO WATCH FOR

applause	brilliant	crooned
drooling	headdress	instinctively
persuaded	predators	scaly
shields	streamlined	sugar-coated
tremendous	troublesome	warble

INTRODUCING THE BOOK

- Read the title to the students and allow some time for them to look through the text, pictures, and illustrations.
- Discuss some of the features of the non-fiction text, including the glossary and contents page. Pay particular attention to the bibliography.
- Discuss the features of a story, and how it differs from a non-fiction text.

BEFORE READING

- Discuss the features of non-fiction texts that support readers, and how they do so. Encourage the students to point out the features that they find most helpful.
- Read through the non-fiction entries on the contents page. Highlight the fact that this book does not include an index. Discuss how contents pages and indexes are different and fulfil different functions.
- Discuss common features of folk tales, such as birds and animals speaking, a moral at the end of the story, and similar themes among different cultures.

READING THE TEXT: COMPREHENSION

Read with any students needing help.

ALL OF YOU

Pages 4–13

- Read the title and the author's byline with the students. Ask, *What does the term retold tell you about this story?* Discuss other examples of traditional tales that the students may be familiar with, reminding them that they usually include a moral or message.
- Read to the middle of page 6 with the students. Talk about the action to date and the introduction of the Tortoise character. Ask, *What have we read that might make you think there will be a problem?*
- Ask the students to read independently to the end of page 7. Say, *Find out how Tortoise convinced the birds to take him with them.* Closely monitor any students who may need further support.
- Discuss how Tortoise managed to use his gift of speech to join the birds. Ask, *Why do you think Tortoise asked the birds to choose party names? Do you think this was just for fun, or was there some other reason? What might that be?*
- Ask the students to read individually. Say, *Find out what Tortoise chose for his own name and think about why he chose that name.*

- Discuss Tortoise's choice of name, then say, *Read to the end of page 11. Find out how Tortoise used his special name.*
- Ask the students to discuss how the birds might have been feeling, and how they might react to Tortoise. Say, *The birds decided to take revenge. Read to the end of page 13 and find out what happened to Tortoise.* When the students have finished, challenge them to discuss the moral of the story.

TURTLES, TORTOISES, AND TERRAPINS

Pages 14–27

- Read pages 14 and 15, ensuring that the students understand that all these differently named animals are turtles.
- Look through the rest of this non-fiction section with the students, highlighting the Hornbill icon and the accompanying questions. Point out that the questions are answered on pages 28 and 29. Also highlight the glossary (page 30) and encourage the students to refer to it where necessary. Set guide questions and discuss these with the students before asking them to read independently to the end of page 21. You could ask questions such as:
 - What senses do turtles use most frequently?
 - How do turtles regulate their temperatures?
 - What is different about the movement of land and sea turtles?
- Continue in a similar way to the end of page 27, using guide questions such as:
 - What is an *egg tooth* and how does it help hatchling turtles?
 - Why do turtles migrate?
 - Why are turtles considered to be great survivors?

Pages 28–29

- Ask the students to read the text and compare their answers to Hornbill's questions with those in *Hornbill's Answers*.

AFTER READING

- Review the *Learning Outcomes* and the purposes for reading. Discuss anything the students need to have consolidated.
- Encourage the students to discuss the sections of text they most enjoyed, or that gave them the most new information.
- Ask, *What words from the text would be useful to include in an index for Turtles, Tortoises, and Terrapins?* List these words, which could include: *shell, tortoise, hatchlings, eggs, and survivors.*
- Discuss why these particular words are appropriate to this specific text.
- Discuss the character of the tortoise in the folk tale. Topics could include his:
 - use of language
 - cunning
 - intelligence
 - greed and selfishness
- Discuss the students' experiences with report cards: how they felt immediately before receiving one; how they felt afterwards.
- Ask the students which fictional character they would choose as the subject of a report card.
- Photocopy and enlarge the **copy master** at the end of these notes. Choose a fictional character and demonstrate how to generate a list of categories that would be appropriate to assess that character. Show the students how to complete writing the report card.

INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES

The students could try these activities.

- Complete the **copy master** by writing a report card for Tortoise, based on the discussion in *After Reading*.
- Write an argument about why turtles would or would not make good pets. They could then present their arguments to the rest of the group.
- Make an index, in alphabetical order and including page references.
- Use their word lists, and other words from the contents page, to compose a word search or crossword puzzle. These could then be exchanged and completed.



Tortoise's Characteristics

Think about whether the words below correctly describe Tortoise's behaviour in "All of You". Then, next to each word, explain why, or why not.

Honesty _____

Cunning _____

Generosity _____

Greed _____

Friendliness _____

Selfishness _____