

National Geographic Kids Reader: Turtles and Tortoises

Notes for parents: reading this book with your child

- Before you share this book, read the title *Turtles and Tortoises*, and ask your children if they know the difference between them.
- Here are some ways you can help your child as they learn to read:
 - Walk through the book first, helping your child to read the turtle and tortoise names, and picking out interesting pictures: *Loggerhead musk*, *Florida cooter*, *Leopard tortoise*, *Black-knobbed sawback*, *Leatherback*, *Baby gopher tortoise*, *Pacific ridley*, *Olive ridley*, *Western Hermann's tortoise*, *Mata mata turtle*, *Galapagos tortoise*, *Alligator snapping turtle*.
 - Read the book together, enjoying finding out about turtles and tortoises and the differences between them.
 - Help children with any unfamiliar words. Encourage them to use phonics, existing word knowledge and the pictures to try to work the word out. Even if they can't sound out the whole word, they may be able to sound out part of it, and this may help them read the word.
 - Encourage your child to look carefully at the pictures and labels and to talk about what they can see.
 - Ask your child to choose their favourite turtle or tortoise from the selection on pages 26–27, or elsewhere. Help them to explain why they have made that choice by asking simple questions.
 - Have fun reading the jokes together.
 - Give them lots of praise and encouragement as they tackle tricky words.
- Discuss how turtles keep safe. Help your child to look back for information and to explain it in their own words.