

# ZOO FRIENDS *at* HOME: REPTILES

There are more than **8,000 species of reptiles** on the planet, and they include lizards, turtles, tortoises, crocodiles and snakes! Reptiles breathe air, and are covered in scales, or a bony external plate, such as a shell.

Unlike birds and mammals, reptiles are unable to maintain a consistent body temperature. They lack insulation, like feathers or fur, and can't sweat or pant to cool down on a hot day. This is why you'll find reptiles warming themselves up in the sun on a cool day, and sheltering in the shade on a hot one!



## CAN YOU SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO REPTILE SCENES?



### Did You Know?

Reptiles are found on every continent except Antarctica!



### Six Continents

Australia is the only continent in the world that has more venomous snakes than non-venomous ones.



### Scaly Similarity

The scales of snakes are made of the same protein as our hair and fingernails.



### Which Era?

The first reptiles are believed to have appeared over 300 million years ago. In comparison, humans have only been around for 200 thousand years!



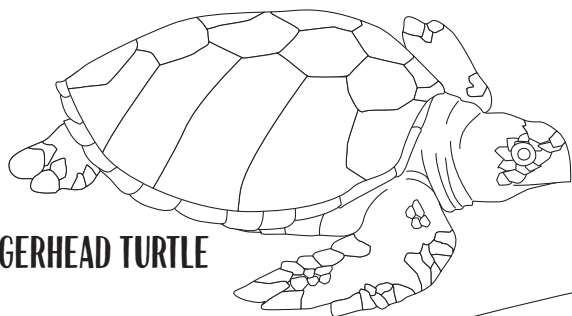
### Salty Size

The saltwater crocodile is the world's largest living reptile. They can grow up to 6m long, and weigh over 1,000kg!

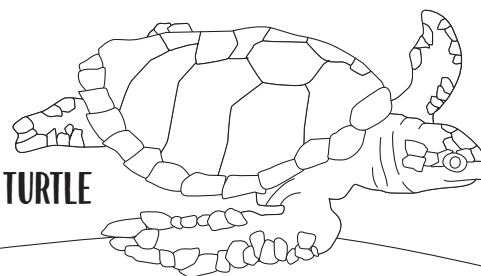


**TARONGA**  
*Zoo Friends*

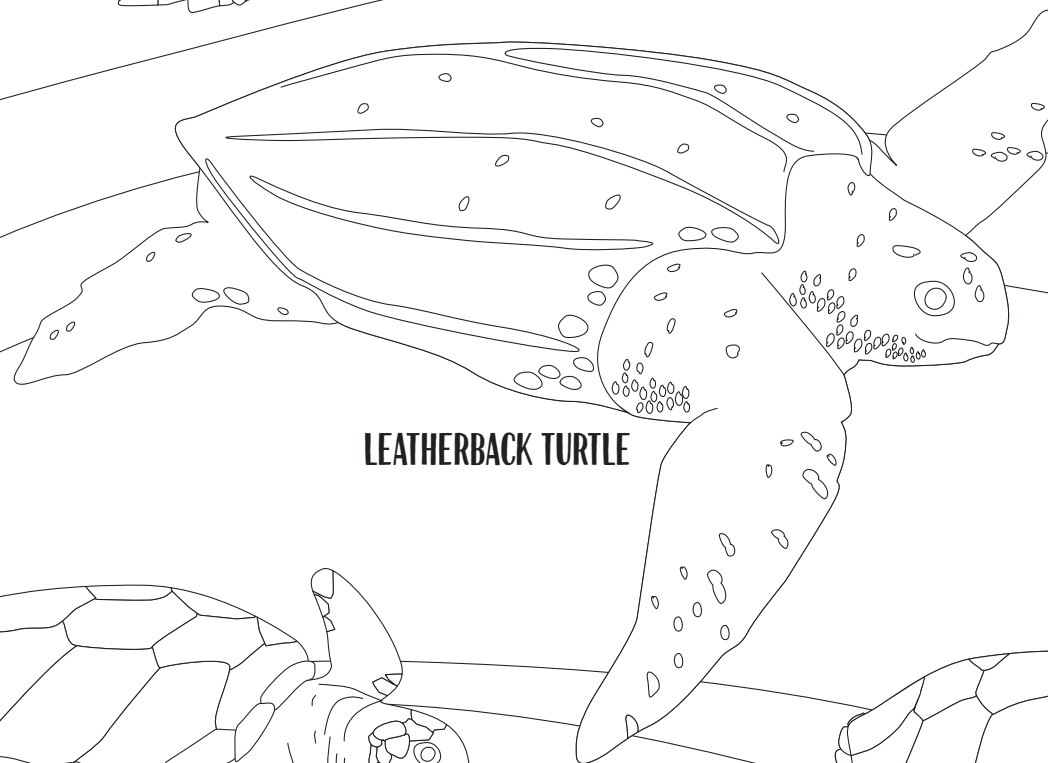
**LOGGERHEAD TURTLE**



**HAWKSBILL TURTLE**



**LEATHERBACK TURTLE**

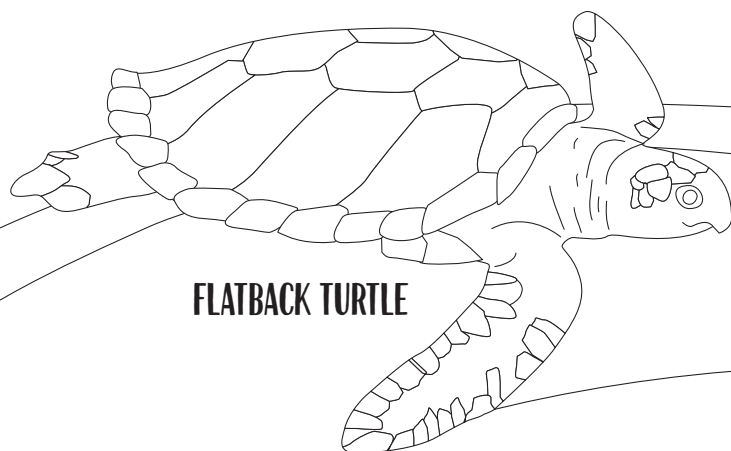


**Turtles have been around for over 200 million years, and some can even live to be over 100 but they need our help!**

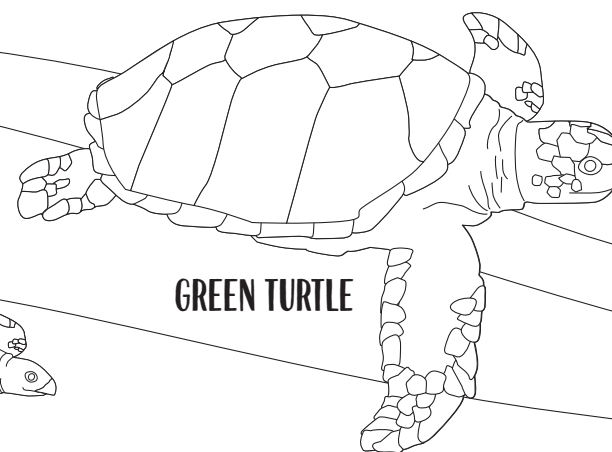
Increasing amounts of plastic waste are a problem for turtles. A floating plastic bag looks just like a jellyfish to a turtle, and when they eat rubbish they get very sick.

Taronga's Wildlife Hospital helps sick and injured turtles and releases them back into the ocean.

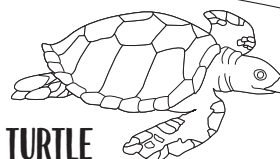
**FLATBACK TURTLE**



**GREEN TURTLE**



**OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE**



**Be an Ocean Defender**

You can help by choosing re-usable shopping bags to keep our oceans safe for turtles.